

# Bangladesh lost \$700m in aid as USAID halted most projects

## Affected dev professionals tell press conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fifty-five out of 59 USAID-funded projects in Bangladesh were shut down following a “stop work” order issued by the Trump administration in January this year, said a platform of development professionals, who lost their jobs as a result of the order.

Over 50,000 professionals involved in these projects and linked organisations lost their jobs, and Bangladesh lost development assistance worth \$700 million. These projects were linked to education, health, food security, climate change, good governance, and skills development, said Zinat Ara Afroze, convener of the Association of Unemployed Development Professionals (AUDP), at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

The platform also placed a six-point demand, including formal recognition of the unemployment crisis caused by the USAID cuts and acknowledgement of the contributions of development professionals.

It also urged the government to carry out a national survey to accurately determine the number of laid-off development workers, promptly publish the findings, and hold dialogue with them to explore solutions.

Until April 2025, a total of 59 USAID projects were underway in Bangladesh. However, excluding a few projects in the emergency food and humanitarian assistance sectors, 55 of these projects were shut down, said Afroze.

Due to this, along with the withdrawal of support from some other donor agencies, many large and small international and local NGOs faced a severe financial crisis, she added.

According to an assessment by AUDP, the total number of development workers who lost their jobs could be over 50,000.

“Despite the loss of so many jobs, there was no official statement from the government. Yet, we spent years of

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Residents of the capital's Khilgaon staged a protest yesterday, demanding the restoration of the 47-year-old Khilgaon Taltola playground in Chowdhurypara from the possession of Ansar and VDP. The field has remained off-limits to the public since 2007, leaving children in the area with no open space to play.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Prioritise menstrual hygiene

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Nargis Akter, national programme officer (WASH and environment) at WHO Bangladesh, said menstrual hygiene should be recognised primarily as a health issue, not just a hygiene concern, as it involves physical, psychological, and social dimensions.

While progress has been made, she noted that many psychological barriers remain.

She stressed the need for accurate information, environmentally safe menstrual products, and

empathetic support from families. Infrastructure in schools, healthcare facilities, and workplaces must be gender-sensitive and regularly monitored. A comprehensive, multisectoral approach is essential to address all aspects of menstrual health and well-being, she added.

Dr Md Monjur Hossain of the Directorate General of Health Services said infrastructure design must be guided by user needs, with accessible facilities for people with disabilities.

Chief guest Prof Dr AQM Shafiul Azam, director of planning and development at

the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education, concluded the event by emphasising the need for intersectoral collaboration to turn the government's good intentions and strategy into action.

“Taboos must give way to respect,” he said, calling for strengthened resources and evidence-based planning.

Dr Jesmin Zaman, head of marketing at Square Toiletries Limited, and Shehrin Shaila Mahmood, associate scientist (health systems and population studies division) at icddr,b, also spoke at the event.

## PRAYER TIMING

MAY 28

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-05	12-45	5-00	6-40	8-00
JAMAAT 4-40	1-15	5-15	6-45	8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## Ending violence against women

FROM PAGE 3

organisations have now evolved into self-reliant and influential institutions,” she added.

She noted that MJF's structural support to at least 17 women-led organisations has played a unique role in organising the country's NGO sector.

“The government alone cannot reach every corner of the country. Small organisations working at the grassroots are the real partners of the state. Now is the time to break the mistrust between the government and the non-governmental sector and build a meaningful partnership,” the adviser also said.

The event also highlighted the need to support organisations

working in coastal regions, plainland indigenous communities, and other marginalised areas.

Ajit Singh, high commissioner of Canada to Bangladesh, said empowering women and girls is both a moral and economic necessity.

He noted that Canada has partnered with over 3,000 women's rights organisations globally, including in Bangladesh, to promote gender equality.

“Through the Women's Voice and Leadership programme, we've helped build financial and leadership capacity among women's groups. Canada is now contributing \$9.7 million to expand this work in Bangladesh,” he said.

He added that Canada is proud to support these efforts and stands with them in building a more

just and inclusive society.

In her opening remarks, Shaheen Anam, executive director of MJF, expressed gratitude towards Global Affairs Canada for renewing support for the Women's Voice and Leadership in Bangladesh initiative.

She emphasised that gender equality is not just a women's issue but a matter of human rights, justice, and inclusive development. Achieving it, she said, requires cooperation and solidarity among all stakeholders.

The event was attended by representatives from over 50 organisations, including women's rights groups, women's networks, and marginalised minority communities.

## Asfar Khair appointed Cambodia's honorary consul in Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Asfar Khair, vice chairman of Bengal Group, has been appointed the first honorary consul of the Kingdom of Cambodia in Bangladesh.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs formally handed over the letter of appointment at a ceremony held at the State Guest House Meghna yesterday.

At the event, Asfar Khair expressed a strong commitment to strengthening bilateral relations and mutual understanding between the two nations.

He said his goal is to actively promote cooperation in trade, investment, agriculture, the pharmaceutical industry, food security, manpower, tourism, and air connectivity between the two countries.

Asfar Khair also emphasised fostering cultural exchange and building a long-term, trustworthy, and friendly relationship between Bangladesh and Cambodia — one that reflects shared interests and promotes regional development and cooperation.



## Services remain

FROM PAGE 3

of a petition on May 22.

However, Ishraque filed a new petition on May 25, seeking an order to be sworn in.

Additionally, a leave-to-appeal petition was filed by a citizen challenging the HC verdict that upheld a Dhaka tribunal's

decision and the Election Commission's declaration of Ishraque Hossain as the elected mayor. It has now been forwarded to a full bench of the Supreme Court.

Meanwhile, the full bench of the SC is scheduled to hear the appeal today.

### রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

জনসংযোগ দপ্তর

#### দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় জনসংযোগ দপ্তর একটি ডেপুটি কমিশনার সরকারের অন্য পূর্ণ অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন সরকারকর্তা/এজেন্ট প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট থেকে শীপসেবকৃত দরপত্র আদান করা যাচ্ছে। কমিশনারের বিরুদ্ধে সিভিল অফিস সময়ে মধ্যে জনসংযোগ দপ্তর থেকে পাওয়া যাবে। সিভিল অফিস মূল্য বাক ৫০০ টাকা (অফিসের মধ্যে) অফিস বাক সিভিল, রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় শাখায় রাবি অবর্তক তত্বিল, হিসাব নিকাশ ০২০০০০২২৮০৯৮৫-এ জমা দিয়ে রাবি সিভিল অফিসে জমা দেওয়া যাবে। (প্রতিষ্ঠানের লেটারহেডে) সাথে সনাক্ত করতে হবে।

দরপত্র সিভিল অফিসে জমা দেওয়ার সময় প্রিন্সিপাল, টিআইএন ও জাট প্রেসিডেন্সিয়াল সনদ এবং আমদানি বাক প্রিন্সিপাল, রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় বারংরে ৫,০০০ টাকার (সেভেনথাসেন্ড) গে-অফার সনাক্ত করতে হবে।

সিভিল অফিসে মূল্য তালিকা ১৫.০৬.২০২৫ বেল ১টা। দরপত্র আদানী ১৬.০৬.২০২৫ তারিখ বেল ১১:০০ মিনিটের মধ্যে কোম্পানি, রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের অফিস নির্ধারিত ব্যাংক জমা দিতে হবে। দরপত্রসমূহ ৫ দিনই বেল ১২টা দরপত্রাদানের উপস্থিতিতে (ফল কেট থাকবে) খোলা হবে। ডাকযোগে দরপত্র দাখিল করা যেতে পারে, তবে তা নির্ধারিত তারিখ ও সময়ে মধ্যে অংশগ্রহণ শেহাজতে হবে। দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ কোনো অনিবার্য কারণে অফিস বাক থাকলে পরবর্তী কালদিনে জমা দেওয়া যাবে। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোনো কারণ না বর্ণিত হলে দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা সনাক্ত দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।

কার্যসম্পন্ন প্রতিষ্ঠানের সরকারি অফিস প্রদানের ৭ কালদিনের মধ্যে কমিশনারের জনসংযোগ দপ্তরে নিজ হাতিবে শেহাজতে ও পরিষেবের জন্য রাজ্য ভাটসিটিকৃত সুই কপি ফিল জমা দিতে হবে। সরকারি বিধি অনুযায়ী প্রয়োজ্য সনাক্ত ও বাক ফিল থেকে কর্তন করা হবে।

*১৭.০৬.২০২৫*  
এশশশ, জনসংযোগ দপ্তর  
রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

GD-1292

## Request for Quotation (RFQ)

International Labour Organization (ILO) Dhaka is inviting interested & Bonafide ICT firms to submit quotations for **supply, installation, fitting & fixing of ICT items under 3 lots for LAWC cluster.**

The RFQ documents along with detail specification can be downloaded from the **United Nations Global Market Place (UNGM)** at **<https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/267911>**

The deadline for submission of proposal is **Thursday, June 19, 2025, by 04:30 PM (BST time).**

### PLOT SALE

A plot is for sale in Baridhara Diplomatic Zone. Only interested and genuine buyers should Contact: 01973456904

### Land sales

160.50 Decimal high land latest tax paid, Elec. Line, water pump with boundary for factory/residential plot. Contact: 01682812300 email ah930807@gmail.com. D-31

## NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY

Center of Excellence in Higher Education

### RE - TENDER NOTICE

**Tender No. NSU/24-25-T12**

North South University is inviting sealed offer from bona fide/ reputed organization/ Authorized Importer for Supplying 01 nos. Brand-New built-in Ambulance.

Interested bidders may collect a schedule of tender within banking hours from Southeast Bank Ltd. Bashundhara Branch, on all working days until **June 16, 2025** by paying non-refundable amount of Taka 1,000.00 (One Thousand) in cash for each schedule.

The bidders must submit **earnest money @ 2.5%** of the quoted price in the form of Pay Order issued from any scheduled bank drawn in favor of North South University along with their offer. The sealed offer must be submitted on **June 17, 2025** by 2:15 p.m. at the office of the undersigned. **The offers will be opened at 2:30 p.m. on the same day.** Representatives of the participating bidders may remain present at the time of opening the bids. NSU authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without showing any reason.

**Director, Internal Affairs**  
**NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY**  
Bashundhara, Dhaka-1229  
Phone : +88-02-55668200, Ext. 1204, Fax: +88-02-55668202  
E-mail to: [procurement@northsouth.edu](mailto:procurement@northsouth.edu), [www.northsouth.edu](http://www.northsouth.edu)

### BIRDEM GENERAL HOSPITAL

(An Enterprise of Diabetic Association of Bangladesh)  
122 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.  
☎ : 41060501-24, Fax: 41060476  
Website: [www.birdembd.org](http://www.birdembd.org), [www.dab-bd.org](http://www.dab-bd.org)

#### INVITATION FOR TENDER

1.	Division /Entity	Diabetic Association of Bangladesh
2.	Procuring Entity	BIRDEM General Hospital, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000.
3.	Source Of Fund	Revenue & Govt. Grant, BIRDEM General Hospital
4.	Reference No	BIRDEM/Purchase/LTM/Equipment/2025/4,Dated: 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
5.	Details of Work	Drawing, Design, Supply, Installation, testing and commissioning of Variable Refrigerant Flow (VRF) type Air Cooler for OPD open space and corridor of BIRDEM General Hospital, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000.
6.	Procurement Method	Limited Tender Method (LTM)
7.	Name, designation & address of official inviting tender	Director (Hospital Administration), BIRDEM General Hospital, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000, On behalf of Director General, BIRDEM General Hospital
8.	Name & address of the office selling tender documents	Procurement Section, Room: 230, 1 <sup>st</sup> floor of OPD Building, BIRDEM General Hospital, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000.
9.	Date of selling of tender documents	Tender documents will be available from 29 <sup>th</sup> May 2025 to 23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2025 on all working days (09.00 am to 01.00 pm).
10.	Tender closing date & Time	25 <sup>th</sup> June 2025 (From 08.00 AM to 12.00 PM).
11.	Tender opening date & Time	25 <sup>th</sup> June 2025 at 12.30 Noon (In presence of the tenderers or their authorized agent, if anybody available).
12.	Price of tender document	Tk. 5000/ (five thousand) only. (Non-Refundable)
13.	Tender Security	3% of the quoted amounts have to be deposited in the form of Demand Draft or Pay-order from any local commercial bank in favour of Director General BIRDEM General Hospital.
14.	Pre bid Meeting	A pre bid meeting will be held on 18 <sup>th</sup> June 2025 in the room no: 246 at 12.00 PM.
15.	General terms & conditions for the Tenderers:	
	a.	The tenderers should be the manufacturer or their authorized supplier/distributor or dealer of the items.
	b.	Detail specifications, terms & conditions, warranty & after sales service shall be enumerated in the tender schedule.
	c.	The tenderers shall have valid trade license, TIN, VAT, Income Tax Certificate & All other related documents as per Tender Schedule.
	d.	Detail terms & conditions are mentioned in the Tender documents.
16.	BIRDEM authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.	
17.	In case of holiday or any unavoidable circumstances last date of dropping & opening will be the next working day.	

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Prof. Md. Shahtab Uddin  
Secretary, NCTB  
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Email: [secretary@nctb.gov.bd](mailto:secretary@nctb.gov.bd)

Brig Gen Dr. Md. Nasir Uddin Akamed (Retd.)  
Director (Hospital Administration)  
BIRDEM General Hospital, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000.

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