

Bamboo bridge only means for 10,000 people

S DILIP ROY

For more than three years, over 10,000 residents of eight villages in Phulbari upazila of Kurigram have been risking their lives daily by crossing the Nilkomol River on a single bamboo bridge.

The bridge connects Balatari and Chandrakhana villages under Phulbari Sadar union. Once, a wooden bridge stood there, but after it collapsed, no permanent structure has been built.

For 60-year-old farmer Ehsan Ali, the bamboo bridge is a reminder of heartbreak. His son Atikur Rahman, 36, fell from the bridge a year ago, was severely injured, and died after nearly a month of treatment.

"I myself have fallen twice and been hurt," Ehsan said. "All we get are promises. Nobody can say when a real bridge will be built."

Local college student Faruk Hossain, 19, also fell just a week ago. "I was injured, and my mobile phone was ruined. Accidents happen here almost every week. When the wooden bridge was here, it was safe."

Farmer Aktar Ali, 58, said, "For the past three years, we've been



building this bridge ourselves. Every year I provide around 50 bamboos, and others give labour. Even though I cross daily, it feels like I could fall any moment."

The bamboo bridge is the only route for people from Balatari, Chandrakhana, Jelepura, Kumarpara, Bamanatari, Abashon, Bairagipara, and Dashiar Chhara villages.

Contacted, Mamunur Rahman, Phulbari upazila engineer of the Local Government Engineering Department, said, "I visited the

site and have already submitted a proposal to build a 120-metre bridge over the river. I am pursuing approval from the higher authorities."

Phulbari UNO Rehenuma Tarannum said, "For the villagers' temporary movement, allocation has been made to build a bamboo-and wood bridge. Work will start very soon."

She said at the same time, LGED has been requested to build a permanent concrete bridge. The project proposal is awaiting approval and funding.

Brent

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former ambassador Peter Haas resigned in mid-June last year. He served here about three years.

Since then, Helen LaFavre, deputy head of the US mission, and then Megan Bouldin, also deputy chief of the mission, had held the post of Chargé d'Affaires.

Tracey Ann Jacobson has been CDA at the US embassy in Dhaka since January 11 this year.

M e a n w h i l e , Ambassador Tareq Md Ariful Islam, who served as the permanent representative of Bangladesh to the UN Offices in Geneva, has been appointed the next ambassador to the US.

The post has remained vacant for months since Ambassador Asad Alam Siam was appointed foreign secretary in June.

A senior official at the foreign ministry told UNB yesterday that Tareq has moved out of Geneva to Washington DC.

Tareq served as Bangladesh envoy to Sri Lanka before his appointment as Bangladesh envoy to the UN offices in Geneva in June 2024.

Disinformation threatens

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"Promote truth as a strategic asset of national power," he said. "The next war may not start with missiles. It may start with a manipulated video on your phone."

Lt Gen SM Kamrul Hassan, principal staff officer of the Armed Forces Division, said, "Misinformation and disinformation are no longer just social issues.

They are being weaponised to erode public trust, demoralise members of the armed forces, and interfere with democratic processes."

Prof SM Shameem Reza of Dhaka University said social media propaganda was eroding trust, fuelling instability and division, and risking democratic values. He warned that false content and deepfakes were

increasingly normalising violence and polarisation.

Prof Md Abu Yousuf, vice chancellor of Gazipur Digital University, Brig Gen Sufi Mohammad Moinuddin of the National Defence College, and Prof Md Mahbubur Rahman of the CSE department of MIST also spoke.

The seminar opened with a welcome address by Maj Gen Md Nasim Parvez, commandant of MIST.

Country sliding backward

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is becoming increasingly difficult due to the absence of democracy and an elected government in Bangladesh.

He highlighted the growing gap between the interim government and the people, pointing out that there is no bridge between the two.

"We are witnessing a collapse in law and order, lack of security, and a business environment that's simply not viable. Factories are not receiving new investments because no one is willing to invest their time, money, or resources in this uncertainty," he said.

Despite hosting international summits and discussions, he pointed out that the country has failed to attract real investment.

Khosru said political parties must stop claiming credit for the mass uprising as a tool for their future politics.

"If we continue to fight over credit for the movement, Bangladesh has no future. The credit belongs to the people, to those who made sacrifices for the country, not to individuals," he said.

Khosru mentioned that true freedom fighters returned to their lives and work after the Liberation War.

Govt must focus on urgent reforms

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government's progress in promoting and protecting rights and democratic values in its first year in office.

During the visit, the delegation met the chief adviser, several advisers, and a cross-section of people, including students and rights activists.

"There is a sense of uncertainty and insecurity among many in Bangladesh," SAHR Co-chairperson Roshmi Goswami told the press conference.

"It is a unique moment in the history of Bangladesh. The uprising

was transformative, with a lot of aspirations and hopes for immediate change and a better future for all," she said.

Reading out a statement, SAHR Executive Director Deekshya Illangasinghe applauded the courage and energy of the youth who led the uprising against an authoritarian regime.

She also commended the interim government's swift formation of reform and consensus commissions.

However, she stressed the need for caution during this period of transitional justice, warning of possible residual influence from the

past.

She said the establishment of a truly egalitarian society will ensure that the vulnerable groups are protected.

She also said both the National Human Rights Commission and the Information Commission of Bangladesh remain "dormant" and must be urgently made functional to protect rights during the democratic transition.

Regretting reports of killings, arbitrary arrests, and intimidation of journalists over the past year, Deekshya said the right to information is a

cornerstone of democracy and cannot be curtailed.

She also expressed concern over the interim government's use of draconian laws enacted by the previous regime.

"The Cyber Security Act has been replaced with the Cyber Protection Ordinance, which still carries concerning provisions. In ushering in transformative change, the first responsibility of the interim government should have been to stop using these draconian laws," she said.

SAHR member Saroop Ijaz also spoke.

বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়

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উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১.	প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম	:	বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়।
২.	অর্থের উৎস	:	জিওবি।
৩.	দরপত্র আহবানের বিজ্ঞপ্তি নম্বর ও তারিখ	:	নথি নং-১১.০০.০০০০.৬০৭.০৭.৮৭৮.২৫.১২৪৮ তারিখঃ ০২-০৯-২০২৫।
৪.	দরপত্রের ধরণ	:	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র।
৫.	প্যাকেজ নম্বর	:	নিরাপত্তা সামগ্রী ক্রয়।
৬.	কাজের সংক্ষিপ্ত বিবরণ	:	বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদের নিরাপত্তা কাজে ব্যবহারের জন্য Binocular ও Under Vehicle Inspection Mirror ক্রয় সংক্রান্ত।
৭.	দরপত্রের সংখ্যা	:	০১টি।
৮.	সরবরাহের সময়	:	চুক্তি অনুযায়ী।
৯.	দরপত্রাদাতার যোগ্যতা	:	দরপত্র ভক্ষসিলের সাথে নিম্নবর্ণিত কাগজপত্র দাখিল করতে হবেঃ (১) দরপত্র ক্রয়ের মূল রশিদ; (২) ২০২৫-২০২৬ অর্থ বছরের ট্রেড লাইসেন্স (সত্যায়িত); (৩) ২০২৪-২০২৫ কর বছরের আয়কর পরিশোধের সনদপত্র (কোম্পানীর ক্ষেত্রে তার সর্বশেষ আর্থিক বছরের পরিশোধিত আয়কর সনদ) (সত্যায়িত); (৪) বিন সার্টিফিকেট (সত্যায়িত); (৫) ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সার্টিফিকেট (বিজ্ঞাপন প্রকাশের তারিখ হতে দাখিলের সময়ের মধ্যে) (অরজিনাল); (৬) সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজের ক্ষেত্রে কমপক্ষে ০৫ (পাঁচ) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র (সত্যায়িত); (৭) এনআইডি-র ফটোকপি (সত্যায়িত); (৮) প্রোপাইটার এর ০২ (দুই) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি; (৯) দরপত্র ভক্ষসিলের মূলকপি ও ডুপ্লিকেট কপি দাখিল করতে হবে; (১০) টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্টের মূলকপি ও ডুপ্লিকেট কপি পৃথকভাবে বাঁধাই করে আলাদা খামে জমা দিতে হবে; এবং (১১) দরপত্র ভক্ষসিলে উল্লিখিত অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী এক্ষেত্রে প্রযোজ্য হবে।
১০.	দরপত্র ভক্ষসিলের মূল্য	:	২,০০০/- (দুই হাজার) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য)।
১১.	দরপত্র জামানত	:	দরপত্রের সাথে সহকারী সচিব, কমন সার্ভিস, বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয় এর অনুকূলে ২২,০০০/- (বাইশ হাজার) টাকার পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/ব্যাংক গ্যারান্টি (ফেরতযোগ্য) দাখিল করতে হবে।
১২.	টেন্ডার ভ্যালিডিটি	:	দরপত্র দাখিলের দিন থেকে ১২০ (একশত বিশ) দিন।
১৩.	দরপত্র ভক্ষসিল বিক্রয়ের স্থান ও ঠিকানা	:	সহকারী সচিব (অর্থ-১), (দক্ষিণ-পশ্চিম ব্লক, লেভেল-৫, কক্ষ নম্বর-৫২৩) বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা।
১৪.	প্রি-টেন্ডার মিটিং এর স্থান ও ঠিকানা, তারিখ ও সময়	:	সহকারী সচিব, কমন সার্ভিস, (দক্ষিণ-পশ্চিম ব্লক, লেভেল-৯, কক্ষ নং-৯২৪) বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা এবং ২১-০৯-২০২৫ তারিখ সকাল ১১.০০ ঘটিকা।
১৫.	দরপত্র ভক্ষসিল বিক্রয়ের তারিখ ও সময়	:	০৯ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৫ তারিখ সকাল ১০-০০ ঘটিকা হতে ২৯ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৫ তারিখ অপরাহ্ন ৫-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত (অফিস চলাকালীন)।
১৬.	দরপত্র দাখিল এবং খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	:	দাখিল : ৩০ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৫ তারিখ, রোজ মঙ্গলবার, সকাল ০৯-০০ ঘটিকা দুপুর ১২-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত। খোলা : ৩০ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৫ তারিখ, রোজ মঙ্গলবার, দুপুর ১২-১৫ ঘটিকা। স্থান : উপসচিব (প্রশাসন-১) এর কার্যালয়, কক্ষ নম্বর-৭৪১, ব্লক-পূর্ব, লেভেল-৭ এবং জাতীয় সংসদ ভবনের মেইন অভ্যর্থনা কক্ষে রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বক্স।
১৭.	বিশেষ নির্দেশনা	:	কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন/সকল দরপত্র বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।
১৮.	টেন্ডার আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম, পদবি, ঠিকানা ও ফোন নম্বর	:	মোঃ আলী হাসান, সহকারী সচিব (কমন সার্ভিস), বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়, শেরেবাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭, ফোন নম্বরঃ ৫৫০২৮৯৮৮।

২। দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়ের www.parliament.gov.bd ওয়েবসাইটে পাওয়া যাবে।

জিডি-১৯২২

মোঃ আলী হাসান
সহকারী সচিব
ফোনঃ ৫৫০২৮৯৮৮

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Project Director

Accelerating and Strengthening Skills for Economic Transformation (ASSET) Project

Directorate of Technical Education

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www.asset-dte.gov.bd

Memo no.: 57.03.0000.051.07.880.254-2894

Date: September 02, 2025

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

(CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)

Bangladesh: Accelerating and Strengthening Skills for Economic Transformation (ASSET) Project Credit No.: 6874-BD

Assignment Title: Selection of consulting firm for Fiduciary Review of the ASSET Project (Time based). Reference No.: S88

The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Accelerating and Strengthening Skills for Economic Transformation (ASSET) Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services ("the Services") include conducting Fiduciary Review of the ASSET Project. The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found at the following website: www.asset-dte.gov.bd or can be obtained at the address given below.

The Accelerating and Strengthening Skills for Economic Transformation (ASSET) Project now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are:

- General Experience of the Firm (core business and years in business, details of business registration certificates, corporate documents).
- Experience in similar assignments of compatible size, complexity and technical specialty in the required area: Experience in Fiduciary review.
- Working experience in the development partner-funded projects will be an added advantage
- Corporate Capacity of the Consultant's organization.
- Key Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage.

Consultants are requested to submit, but not limited to, the following supporting documents in support of the above-mentioned criteria:

- (i) Registration paper of the firm(s); (ii) Firm's brochures; and (iii) description of relevant assignments including nature, total cost, total input in terms of man month, employer, location of service etc.);

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.15, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" July 2016 [Revised February 2020] ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub-consultancy. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected.

The experience of sub-consultants will not be taken into consideration in the EOI stage. Please don't consider any sub-consultants at this stage. Each short-listed firm must show the rationale of association with the sub-consultant at the time of proposal submission and must be fully justified for due-diligence purpose.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Fixed Budget Based Selection (FBS) method set out in the Procurement Regulations. Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours ie. 09:00 to 17:00 hours (GMT+06:00).

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by fax, or by e-mail) by September 18, 2025; 14:00 hours (GMT+ 06:00).

Mir Zahid Hasan

Project Director (Additional Secretary)

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