



PHOTO: STAR

RAILWAY WEST ZONE

58 out of 162 stations remain closed

AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenaidah

Fifty-eight of the 162 railway stations in the West Zone remain closed, causing immense hardship for commuters across Jashore, Jhenidah, Kushtia, Meherpur and Chuadanga.

According to the Divisional Transportation Office, only 104 stations are currently operational. The closures, attributed to severe manpower shortages, began with Yeasinpur station in Ishwardi on March 25, 1993, and the most recent shutdown was Mirpur station in Khulna on March 11, 2025.

Residents of remote areas say the suspension of train stops has cut off their only reliable mode of transport. With poor or non-existent road connectivity, trains had long served as the lifeline for both travel and transportation of agricultural produce.

Local farmers said they are now

forced to sell their crops in nearby markets at lower prices. One farmer said that if trains stopped at their local stations, they could carry produce to distant markets and earn a fair price.



Raihan Master of Sundarpur village told The Daily Star that people from Sundarpur, Chandba, Aktarpur, Khatalia and Kalukhali are incurring heavy losses.

He said the nearest bus road is 10 kilometres away from the Kaliganj upazila headquarters, making travel

costly and time-consuming.

Fazlur Rahman, headteacher of Churamonkati-Satiantala Secondary School, said reopening Meherullah Nagar station would greatly benefit university students and ease travel for locals.

Hazrat Ali, a Dhaka University student from Sundarpur, said he faces difficulties travelling home. "I have to get down at Kaliganj town and find other transport because the Sundarpur station is closed, and the journey would be much easier if it were operating," he added.

Contacted, Divisional Transportation Officer Hasina Khatun said all the closed stations suffer from acute manpower shortages.

"Operations would resume if the government provides the required staff," she said.

Railway Director General Md Shamsuzzaman could not be reached for comment despite multiple attempts.

Tejgaon College student dies four days after attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Tejgaon College student died yesterday, four days after he sustained injuries in an attack at a dormitory.

Sakibul Hasan Rana, 18, a class XII student, passed away around noon in the ICU of a Moghbazar hospital in Dhaka.

Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Monirul Islam told The Daily Star, "His family took the body to Gazipur... without informing us. We asked them to bring it back for an autopsy."

No case had been filed yet, he added. Morshed Alam Torun, convener of the college unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, said he heard a scuffle broke out when Rana and other residents protested as several outsiders were taking drugs inside the dormitory on December 6.

When Rana and other residents protested, a scuffle broke out. The outsiders then left. About half an hour later, they returned and attacked the students, including Rana, Torun said.

Rana's classmate Abu Bakar said he was attacked for protesting drug abuse. He claimed that members of both groups were associated with Chhatra Dal leaders.

147 school buildings in Jashore declared risky

MOHSIN MILON, Benapole

Following the recent earthquakes, at least 147 of the total 1,285 government primary schools in Jashore have been declared risky.

Thousands of children have to attend classes in unsafe buildings.

The Jashore District Primary Education Office prepared the list after the earthquakes and has submitted it to the Directorate of Primary Education, said District Primary Education Officer Ashrafur Alam.

Of the risky buildings, 41 are in Sharsha, 29 in Manirampur, 25 in Jhikargachha, 15 in Bagharpara, 12 in Chaugachha, 18 in Jashore Sadar, four in Keshabpur and three in Abhaynagar upazilas.

At Ghop Seba Sangha Govt Primary School in Jashore town, cracks run through the walls and plaster continues to fall.

"We have no alternative classrooms, so we are compelled to

continue classes in this building," said Headteacher Saeeda Yasmin. "The upazila office has declared it risky, and we have applied for a new structure."

Conditions are even worse at Nalia Govt Primary School in Fatehpur under Sadar upazila.

Large sections of plaster have eroded, the tin roof is broken, and classrooms flood even in light rain. Bamboo poles now hold up parts of the roof.

Nearly all the school buildings marked unsafe across the district are in a similar condition, with severe cracks, leaking roofs, poor ventilation and lighting, and unhygienic sanitation.

Officials say all the schools require urgent repair or reconstruction. "We submitted Jashore's list after receiving instructions to identify structurally vulnerable buildings... We are now awaiting further directives from the Directorate of Primary Education," said Ashrafur.



Invitation for ENLISTMENT

Ref No: BCB/Admin/T&PC/2025/914

Date: 11th December, 2025

Bangladesh Cricket Board

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) hereby invites sealed applications from eligible and bonafide Suppliers, Manufacturers, Sole Agents, Distributors, Wholesalers, Contractors, Event Management Companies, and Service Providers operating within Bangladesh for enlistment in the following Groups for a period of 03 (Three) years:

Sl No.	Group	Category of Products / Services
1	A	Grounds Equipment & Accessories Suppliers
2	B	Suppliers of Coir Mat and Boundary Rope
3	C	Pitch Clay
4	D	Soil
5	E	Civil, Sanitary & Electrical Works
6	F	Furniture & Interior Decoration
7	G	A/C Repair & Maintenance Service
8	H	Decorator Service
9	I	IT Equipment & Accessories Supplier and Repair & Maintenance Service
10	J	Security Equipments
11	K	Event Management
12	L	Branding & Advertising
13	M	Catering Service
14	N	General Hospitality (Hotel & Accommodation)
15	O	Travel Agent (Domestic & International)
16	P	Transport Service
17	Q	Automobile Maintenance
18	R	Automobile Accessories
19	S	Automobile Parts & Accessories Suppliers.
20	T	Printing & Artwork
21	U	Courier Service (Domestic & International)
22	V	Advertising Firm (Print, Electronic & Web)
23	W	Home & Office Appliances (Electrical)
24	X	Cleaning Service
25	Y	Security Service
26	Z	Insurance Service
27	AA	Pharmaceuticals, Medical Equipment & Accessories Suppliers
28	AB	General Suppliers
29	AC	C&F Agents / Freight Forwarder
30	AD	Sports Goods & Attires
31	AE	Trophies, Mementos, Souvenirs and Other Gift Items
32	AF	Tailors (Formal Attire)

Non-Eligibility :

i) Companies related to Tobacco, Alcohol (Surrogated & Non-Surrogated), Betting, Online Betting shall not be eligible to participate in the invitation process.

ii) Any person(s) or entities / companies having any Conflict of interest and/or with an existing unresolved dispute (i.e. Financial, Disciplinary and any other issues) with the BCB on a point of law or fact shall also be ineligible to participate in the invitation process.

The following documents must be submitted along with the application :

a) Updated Trade License, Business Identification Number (BIN), TIN Certificate, Proof of Submission of Income Tax Return (PSR) and Income Tax return acknowledgement copy.

b) Company Profile and Individual Directors' / Owners' Profile.

c) Experience/Performance Certificate along with a list and contact details of existing clients.

d) Sole Agency / Dealership / Distributorship Certificate and price list (if applicable) of products.

e) Name of the Proprietor / Partner / Managing Director / CEO and the Key Person with Business Address, Telephone / Mobile / E-mail.

f) Bank Solvency Certificate along with Bank Statement (Minimum 06 (Six) months).

g) Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association along with Certificate of Incorporation, Schedule-X and Schedule-XII.

h) Notarized Consortium Agreement (In case of consortium).

i) Recent Audited Financial Statements (In case of consortium each members audited financial statements needs to be submitted individually).

j) Applicants are requested to meet the qualification criteria for each group as specified in the enlistment schedule.

Other Information :

Enlistment Schedule documents may be purchased from the BCB Finance & Accounts Department upon payment of a non-refundable fee of BDT 5,000/- (Taka Five Thousand only). The documents will be available at the BCB Management Office (2nd Floor), Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Mirpur, Dhaka, from Saturday to Thursday between 10:30 AM and 2:00 PM, up to and including 23 December 2025.

Entities intending to apply for enlistment are required to deposit refundable Earnest Money of BDT 20,000/- (Taka Twenty Thousand only) for each Group along with their application, through a Pay Order made in favour of the Bangladesh Cricket Board.

Duly completed application forms, together with supporting documents and the Earnest Money (i.e., BDT 20,000/- each Group), must be submitted in the designated drop box located at the BCB Reception (1st Floor, Management Office, SBNCs, Mirpur, Dhaka) no later than 4:00 PM on 31 December 2025.

Pay Orders submitted by applicants who are not qualified for enlistment will be returned upon completion of the enlistment process.

Note: Each entity is permitted to be enlisted in a maximum of 02 (Two) Groups.

The BCB reserves the right to cancel or make any changes in the terms to the entire process at any stage and to accept or reject any application for enlistment at its sole discretion, without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Chief Executive Officer
Bangladesh Cricket Board
Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Mirpur-2, Dhaka 1216

FRANCO-GERMAN Sumaiya Islam wins human rights award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Human rights defender and Executive Director of Bangladesh Nari Sramik Kendra (BNSK), Sumaiya Islam, has been awarded the 2025 Franco-German Award for Human Rights and the Rule of Law.



Ambassadors of France and Germany to Bangladesh, Jean-Marc Séré-Charlet and Dr Rüdiger Lotz, presented the award to Sumaiya at a special ceremony yesterday at the Franco-German Embassy in Dhaka, on the occasion of International Human Rights Day, said a statement.

Sumaiya received the award for her long-standing dedication to advancing the rights of women -- particularly migrant workers, sex workers, transgender persons, and others who are socially and economically marginalized. She also served as a member of the Women's Affairs Reform Commission of the interim government.

"It is a great honour, and I am truly grateful and deeply happy to receive this Franco-German Human Rights Prize," said Sumaiya.

"This recognition will help amplify my work and that of BNSK, enabling us to leverage this honour to further strengthen our initiatives to protect and advance the rights of women migrant workers globally," she added.

PRAYER TIMING

DECEMBER 11

Fazr

Zohr

Asr

Maghrib

Esha

AZAN 5-15 12-45 3-45 5-19 7-00

JAMAAT 5-50 1-15 4-00 5-22 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)

PKSF Bhaban-1, E-4/B, Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207

Phone: 88-02-222218331-33, 02-222218335-39; Website: <https://www.pksf.org.bd>

Memo No: 53.23.0000.043.03.017.25.6956

Date: 11 December 2025

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRM SELECTION)

Country: The People's Republic of Bangladesh

Name of the project: Sustainable Microenterprise and Resilient Transformation (SMART)

Credit No.: IDA-7300

Assignment Title: Selection of Firm for IOT-based Environmental Parameter Traceability

Reference No. PKSF/SMART/S-05(R)

1. The Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Sustainable Microenterprise and Resilient Transformation (SMART) and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

2. The consulting services ("the Services") include (*but not limited to*) Design, deployment and maintenance of IoT sensors in the selected clusters to monitor environmental parameters, Design and develop a centralized dashboard (web-based and mobile) for real-time visualization with interactive charts, mapping, and threshold alerts for optimized decision-making, Implement automated control systems, such as sprinklers, exhaust fans, automatic lights, fogger control, and aerator control, based on sensor data to minimize manual intervention, save resources, and enhance efficiency across various subsectors etc.

The assignment will require an *estimated of 42 professional staff-months* of the key experts as per the assignment requirement mentioned in the Terms of Reference (TOR). The assignment is expected to be continued for 30 (thirty) months. The assignment is expected to be started from May 2026.

3. The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be obtained from the PKSF website (www.pksf.org.bd/tender).

4. The Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) 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 (years in business), Having Ready-to-use IoT traceability platform online, Experience in relevant IOT-based assignments, Experience in implementing different digital solutions packages, and Experience in implementing IoT-based Environmental Parameters monitoring assignment.

Consultants are requested to submit the following supporting documents in support of the above-mentioned criteria:

a. Up-to-date relevant registration papers of the firm(s);

b. JV agreement/ letter of intent along with the proposed JV agreement (if applicable);

c. Firm's brochure including staffing;

d. Record of all the relevant experiences (including name of the assignment, scope, contract amount, name of the client, total input in terms of man-month, period of contract (date of contract signing to date of completion), location of the services, name of the development partner etc.)

e. *All the necessary documents (as required in section-9 of the TOR) to substantiate satisfaction of the shortlisting criteria listed above;*

Notably, Key personnel will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage;

5. The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" September 2023 setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

6. 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 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. In case of an association, all members of such "association" must have real and well-defined inputs to the assignment and in such "association" it is preferable to limit the total number of firms including the associates to a maximum of 03 (three). Notably, the qualifications of sub-consultants will not be considered in the EOI evaluation and shortlisting process.

7. A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the **Consultants Qualifications-based Selection (CQS)** method (National market approach) set out in the World Bank Procurement Regulations.

8. Further information can be obtained at the address below either by e-mail or in person during office hours: 10:00 to 16:00 hours.

9. Expression of Interest (EOI) must be delivered in a written form (Hard copy along with a soft copy through flash-drive) to the address of the undersigned (in person, or by courier mail) **by 30 December 2025 on or before 13:00 hours** Bangladesh Standard Time (BST).

10. The Procuring Entity (PE) reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOIs without assigning any reason whatsoever.

(Md. Mashiar Rahman)

Deputy Managing Director

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)

PKSF Bhaban-1, Plot: E-4/B, Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207

Tel: 88-02-222218331-33; E-mail: smartprocure.pksf@gmail.com