

## Hands tied, abdomen Bar council

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people between 2010 and 2013.

In a separate case, a senior BTRC official testified that internet services were fully shut down from 9:00pm on July 18 to the afternoon of July 23, 2024, following a directive from then state minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak.

The witness said Palak, in a meeting with International Internet Gateway operators and media representatives, instructed that platforms such as Facebook, YouTube and TikTok remain blocked while limited connectivity be maintained at key installations.

The official, whose identity was withheld for security reasons, told the tribunal that services were fully restored on July 31,

2024, following another directive from Palak conveyed through the BTRC chairman.

Meanwhile, at ICT-2, Dhaka University student Maruf Al Hasan testified to attacks during the July uprising, naming several political figures.

He alleged that Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader instructed Chhatra League leaders to resist the movement, and that multiple students were injured in attacks led by then BCL president Saddam Hussain and general secretary Sheikh Wali Asif Enan.

Maruf also alleged that several leaders of the AL and its affiliated organisations made provocative remarks and displayed weapons during escalating tensions.

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amount, the matter would be fully settled," he said.

"However, due to an erroneous judgement (by the Customs Excise & VAT Appeal Tribunal), I have filed an appeal before the High Court, which is currently pending..." he also said.

Masder Hossain began his judicial career in 1983 and is widely known as the petitioner in the landmark "Masdar Hossain case" in 1999, seeking judicial independence, which led to the separation of the judiciary from the executive branch in 2007 following the verdict.

After retirement, he practised as an HC lawyer and recently served on the Judiciary Reform Commission during the interim government's tenure.

## Hospital itself is like

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more hospital beds in their constituencies.

Health Minister Sardar Md Sakhawat Husain responded by saying the 300 bed General Hospital near Siddhirganj is already being upgraded to 500 beds, and Victoria General Hospital is also nearby.

He assured that the government may consider new hospitals in the future if necessary.

Following this, Mannan expressed his intent to withdraw the proposal. That was later withdrawn via voice vote with the speaker's permission.

Earlier, Rajshahi-4 MP Abdul Bari Sarder said in his constituency, there is only one health complex serving around 400,000 people. It was upgraded to a 50-bed hospital in 2014.

He said he personally witnessed three doctors sharing a single room to provide healthcare services.

He added that the upazila health complex has one ambulance, but no driver. Consequently, when critically ill patients need to be taken to the district headquarters hospital -- 50 kilometres away -- they suffer greatly, and in many

cases die before reaching the hospital.

Bagerhat-2 MP Shaikh Monzurul Haque said his district has a population of two million.

Each upazila health complex is in a dilapidated condition, so people flock to the Bagerhat Sadar Hospital for treatment, he added.

"I wish to describe the condition of the Sadar hospital to draw the attention of the health minister," Monzurul said.

He said the hospital was upgraded to 250 beds in 2021. New posts were created for the upgraded facility in 2022. "There is a severe shortage of manpower. Of 10 senior consultant posts, eight are vacant. Of 16 junior consultant posts, 11 are vacant. Out of 57 doctor posts, 42 remain vacant."

"A 10-bed ICU was established here, but from the very day of its inauguration, it has remained closed and unused. It serves no purpose. I therefore call upon the health minister to urgently address this crisis and provide relief from this situation," the Bagerhat-2 MP said.

## NCP looks to expand footprint

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sought AL nominations in 2018 and 2020 but was unsuccessful.

In the 2024 parliamentary election, he contested as an independent candidate from Chattogram-10 but boycotted the polls on election day.

An NCP leader, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the party is prioritising candidates with grassroots support and public acceptability.

"For Chattogram, our first choice is Monjur Alam. We are already in talks with him," the leader said, adding that BNP could face a challenge if he contests, given his personal vote bank through charity work and past support from AL voters.

Other names under discussion for Chattogram include NCP Joint Chief Organiser Jobairul Arif and Joint Member Secretary Bushra Mishma.

In Khulna, Joint Member Secretary Faridul Huq is likely to be nominated, while central leader Asad Bin Roni is under consideration for Barishal.

For Gazipur, the party is leaning towards lawyer Ali Naser Khan, who previously contested from Gazipur-2 under a Jamaat-led alliance.

NCP district coordinator Shawkat Ali is likely to receive the nomination in Narayanganj, while central committee member Ashikin Alam is being considered for Mymensingh City Corporation.

Another NCP leader,

speaking anonymously, said the party is focusing on public image, organisational capacity, and local acceptability.

"The goal is to nominate candidates who can carry the party's message beyond its core support base," the leader said.

On March 29, the NCP announced candidates for five city corporations.

It nominated spokesperson Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuyain for Dhaka South, Senior Joint Convener Ariful Islam Adeb for Dhaka North, Jubo Shakti Convener Tarikul Islam for Cumilla, Rajshahi metropolitan Convener Mobassher Ali for Rajshahi, and Sylhet metropolitan Convener Abdur Rahman Afzal for Sylhet.

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

## Ministry of Planning

## Planning Division

## Improvement of Public Investment Management System (IPIMS) Project

Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207

Website: plandiv.gov.bd

Ref No.- 20.00.0000.404.014.01.25(part 1).71

Date: 16 April 2026

## Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI)

## For

## Financial Management Specialist (Individual Consultant) (National Assignment) under Improvement of Public Investment Management System (IPIMS) project [Contract Package No.: IPIMS/S-5]

1. The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (GOB) has received financing from the World Bank for implementing "Improvement of Public Investment Management System (IPIMS)" project under IDA credit of Strengthening Institutions for Transparency and Accountability (SITA). Planning Division of Ministry of Planning has been implementing the project and it intends to apply a part of the proceeds of this credit for the services of an individual Consultant (National Assignment) as Financial Management Specialist.

2. The broad scope of consulting services includes hands on support to IPIMS project and executing/implementing agencies to facilitate efficient and transparent fund management in IDA financed projects. This includes, but not limited to, design and implement transaction recording, reporting and controlling systems for financing conforming GOB and IDA requirements, maintain books and accounts, identify logistics, information flow, and financial requirements of the system as part of the project activities, ensure smooth funds flow considering disbursement and reimbursement of the project activities, establishment of a transparent accounting system, etc. The consultant will also provide technical assistance on all aspects of financial management activities at each stage of the project implementation so that provisions of GOB and World Bank procedures and guidelines are complied. S/he will assist the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) in ensuring compliance of all financial management activities.

3. The expected date for commencement of the services is 15 May 2026 and the tentative duration of the entire assignment is about 48 (Forty-eight) man-months. Detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) and other information will be available upon request from the address provided below either through email or in person.

4. Planning Division now invites eligible individuals to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested individual should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. In support of qualifications and experiences, the applicant must submit documentary evidences.

## 5. Qualification and Experience Requirements:

- M. Com/ MBA in Accounting/ Finance and related subjects.
- Professional accounting qualifications (i.e., FCA or FCMA) accredited by the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) will be an added advantage. Membership /professional qualification through reciprocity agreements like Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) (without appearing examination) shall not be considered educational qualification.
- At least Twelve (12) years of work experience in financial management in government/semi-government institutions, or with international donors, implementing development projects, of which at least 5 years working experience in Multilateral Development Bank (MDB) finance projects is a must.
- Extensive knowledge of Government budgeting, fund release and reporting requirements.
- Extensive knowledge of IDA's financial management and disbursement procedures.
- Excellent computer skills in Microsoft Office tools (Word, Excel, and PowerPoint) and Internet use including database use
- Experience of using ERP & Tally software will get advantage;
- Excellent written and oral communication skills in English, to deliver technical financial documents, and reports.

6. During the term of the contract the consultant shall not be associated with any other Government agency, consulting firm or private business entities. Individuals who are currently working as consultants on another World Bank-financed project may also compete in this selection process, but if they are selected they will be required before signing the proposed contract to provide documentary evidence of having satisfactorily complied with their existing contract's requirements with respect to early termination of the contract by the consultant, including advance notice period, to avoid disruption in implementation of that project.

7. The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to the Section III, Para 3.14,3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, February 2025 (6th edition) setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

8. A consultant will be selected following the Open Competitive Selection of Individual Consultant method set out in the World Bank Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, February 2025 (6th edition).

9. Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours (09:00 AM to 04:00 PM Bangladesh Standard Time).

10. REOI (e-GP ID No. 1260191) is invited in the National e-GP system Portal (eprocure.gov.bd) for the position of Financial Management Specialist. This is an online EOI, only electronic submission of EOI will be accepted in the e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. The interested applicant may visit the website to get the details of the assignment. To submit EOI, registration in the National e-GP system Portal (eprocure.gov.bd) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd). Interested consultants are invited to submit their EOI along with updated Curriculum Vitae (CV) demonstrating their qualifications and experience relevant to the assignment through e-GP portal (eprocure.gov.bd) by 05:00 PM (Bangladesh Standard Time), 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

## Project Director

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## Former DGFI chief

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an under-investigation crimes against humanity case over enforced disappearance and allowed the ICT's investigation agency to interrogate him for two days in safe custody.

Ilias Ali, former organising secretary of BNP's Sylhet division, was allegedly abducted from a road in Banani around midnight on April 17, 2012.

Aminul said two Sylhet-based student leaders -- Iftekhar Ahmed Dinar and another identified as Junaed -- were abducted days before Ilias's disappearance, and the incidents are linked.

He said investigators have collected call detail records of eight phone numbers connected to the case.

"We found unusual conversations in those records. Those who used those numbers followed Ilias Ali. We have proof of this," he said.

The prosecution is conducting what Aminul described as a "strong and constructive investigation" and hopes to submit a comprehensive report upon completion.

"More information is coming in, but for the sake of the investigation, we cannot disclose everything at this stage," he added.

## Over 40 lakh cases

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Through the Bangladesh Judicial Service Commission, recommendations have been made to appoint 708 staff members -- including stenographers, typists, office assistants and drivers -- to fill vacancies in subordinate courts. Recruitment of a further 553 employees is also in progress.

Responding to opposition MP Shahjahan Chowdhury, he alleged that under the previous Awami League government, judicial transfers and postings were influenced by party loyalty, with compliant judges placed in key positions and

independent-minded judges transferred to remote areas.

He said the current administration has decided not to follow that approach, instead prioritising integrity, competence and judicial conduct in appointments, adding that final decisions rest with the Supreme Court rather than the government alone.

Replying to a question posed by Magura-1 MP Monowar Hossain, the minister said the government has taken effective steps to withdraw politically motivated harassment cases filed during the tenure of the AL government.

## BNP to begin

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of nomination papers is April 21. Scrutiny will be held on April 22 and 23, followed by filing of appeals on April 26, and disposal of appeals on April 27-28. The last date for withdrawal of candidature is April 29. Election symbols will be allotted on April 30, and voting will be held on May 12.

Party sources said that, alongside women leaders from the BNP central executive committee and the Jatiyatabadi Mohila Dal, young women leaders with links to the former Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal

are also in the race for nominations.

Many are trying to reach out with their profiles to key party policymakers, senior leaders and other influential figures, highlighting their roles in past movements, party loyalty and organisational experience.

Party insiders said alongside experienced leaders, relatively young, educated and politically active women, especially those who rose through student politics, as well as some others from different professions, may get the opportunity.

## Infant abandoned

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baby girl is safe, and efforts are underway to locate her family," he said, adding that the child would be handed over to Bauphal police after the return trip.

"Currently, one of the female passengers is looking after the child and we are monitoring the situation," he added.

Bauphal Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md Sirajul Islam said they had

not yet received detailed information but were looking into the matter.

Bauphal Upazila Social Services Officer Md Mushfiqur Rahman said he learned of the incident through social media. "Once the child is handed over to the police, we will be able to take necessary steps. At this moment, we are trying to trace the whereabouts of the alleged father," he said.

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## Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI)

## For

## Procurement Specialist (Individual Consultant) (National Assignment) under Improvement of Public Investment Management System (IPIMS) project [Contract Package No.: IPIMS/S-6]

1. The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (GOB) has received financing from the World Bank for implementing "Improvement of Public Investment Management System (IPIMS)" project under IDA credit of Strengthening Institutions for Transparency and Accountability (SITA). Planning Division of Ministry of Planning has been implementing the project and it intends to apply a part of the proceeds of this credit for the services of an individual Consultant (National Assignment) as Procurement Specialist.

2. The broad scope of consulting services includes hands on support to IPIMS project and executing agencies to facilitate efficient and transparent procurement in IDA financed projects. This includes, but not limited to, processing of procurement of goods, works and services such as preparation and examination of bidding documents, preparation of IFB, evaluation of Bids/EOI, etc. leading to timely awarding of contracts. The consultant will also provide guidance and consultation on procurement and project management in accordance with the applicable GOB and IDA rules, regulations, policies and guidelines, loan/financing agreement, contract agreement, procurement plan and other relevant legal/procurement documents. The consultant will also provide technical assistance to project executing agencies on all aspects of procurement activities at each stage of procurement process so that provisions of GOB and World Bank procurement regulations, PPR 2025 and e-GP guidelines are complied.

3. The expected date for commencement of the services is 15 May 2026 and the tentative duration of the entire assignment is about 36 (Thirty-six) man-months. Detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) and other information will be available upon request from the address provided below either through email or in person.

4. Planning Division now invites eligible individuals to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested individual should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. In support of qualifications and experiences, the applicant must submit documentary evidences.

5. Qualification and Experience Requirements: The consultant is preferred to have a Master's degree in procurement, project management, and engineering or in any other relevant discipline with 10 years' work experience in project/procurement management and 7 years of experience in managing procurement in development partner-financed project(s), particularly World Bank. Professional certifications/degree in Procurement from any recognized institution will be given preference. The consultant should have experienced with World Bank procurement Policies and procurement regulations, including recent updates in World Bank's procurement policy and its implication for the project, standard procedures and bidding documents for procurement and selection of consultants; experiences on using government's Public Procurement Act, and Public Procurement Rules will be required. The consultant has hands-on experience in managing all steps in the procurement process. The consultant is preferred to have practical knowledge on electronic government procurement system of Bangladesh which includes conducting e-procurement training, preparing e-Master bidding document, reviewing bidding documents and bids.

6. During the term of the contract the consultant shall not be associated with any other Government agency, consulting firm or private business entities. Individuals who are currently working as procurement consultants on another World Bank-financed project may also compete in this selection process, but if they are selected they will be required before signing the proposed contract to provide documentary evidence of having satisfactorily complied with their existing contract's requirements with respect to early termination of the contract by the consultant, including advance notice period, to avoid disruption in implementation of that project.

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