



PHOTO: MONIR UDDIN ANIK

Workers put the finishing touches on a boat in Bhola's Banker Hat area yesterday. With the two-month fishing ban lifted a week ago, many are rushing to complete undelivered boats as fishers prepare to return to the sea.

## Planned cities key to better public health

FROM PAGE 3  
between urban planning and public health began during his doctoral research, when he noticed many preventive medicine and public health journals publishing studies related to urban design.

"The link between planning and health was not widely understood around 2010," said Dr Koohsari, who has published more than 140 peer-reviewed journal articles between 2021 and 2025 and has been recognised among top 2 percent of scientists worldwide in the Stanford/Elsevier Global List.

"If a planner talked about health issues, people would ask, 'Are you a medical doctor?'" he recalled.

Responding to a question about developing countries like Bangladesh, where governments focus more on treatment than prevention, he said investments still mainly go toward curative healthcare because treatment is more

visible and receives greater public attention.

"Urban planning contributes to prevention in a different way," he said.

He gave the example of exercise and daily physical activity. Joining a gym requires money, time, and commitment, and many people eventually stop going. Research shows that nearly 70 percent of new gym members quit within six months.

However, if a neighbourhood has safe sidewalks, proper lighting, and nearby parks, residents naturally become more physically active without consciously planning exercise.

"Researchers call this 'habitual' or 'automatic' physical activity. Urban design can encourage healthy behaviour naturally," he said.

According to him, pedestrian-friendly neighbourhoods, parks, and safe walking environments are essential

for improving public health. If public transport stations are within walking distance and sidewalks are safe and comfortable, people will naturally choose to walk more.

He also stressed the importance of protecting public open spaces.

From a public health perspective, these spaces are important because they encourage physical activity and social interaction and can often be improved relatively easily. Research also shows that properties near quality parks and public spaces become more valuable.

However, he noted that public spaces are often ignored or encroached upon due to political or economic interests.

On why governments often give low priority to public open spaces, Dr Koohsari said policymakers need evidence-based economic analysis.

He cited research from Melbourne showing that

investments in sidewalks and public spaces can significantly reduce healthcare costs.

"This kind of cost-benefit analysis is easier for policymakers to understand than simply saying parks are good for health," he said.

He also stressed the importance of inclusive design. "If a public space works well for children, elderly people, and persons with disabilities, then it will work well for most other people too."

Dr Koohsari further highlighted the importance of community participation in maintaining parks, gardens, and sidewalks.

Finally, he said urban planners and designers carry enormous responsibility because poor planning decisions can affect generations.

"A city does not become better by chance. It must be carefully designed, planned, and continuously improved," he concluded.

## Extortion and grabbing plague Kalyanpur

FROM PAGE 3  
Manikganj and depends on the shop rent for survival, but managing it from a distance has become increasingly difficult.

Abdur Rashid, another trader at the market, said soon after he rented a shop on August 1, 2025, Kamal demanded Tk 1,000 from him. When he refused, a group of 10-12 people came to his shop, threatened him, and forced him to sign a non-judicial stamp paper worth Tk 1 lakh on the pretext of settling a dispute.

Although the dispute was later resolved, Rashid said the document has not been returned. He submitted a written complaint to the market authorities, but no action followed.

Several other traders at the market made similar allegations.

Contacted, Rafiqul Islam Rafi, chairman of the market committee, said Kamal had been appointed as an office assistant at the market in August 2024. Following multiple allegations, a three-member probe committee

was formed, which found evidence supporting the accusations. Kamal was terminated in March 2026.

He said Kamal had also set up a tea stall inside the market by blocking an alley and collected extortion money from vendors on the footpath outside the market. He advised victims to seek legal action.

The highest number of allegations, however, was found against Tarikul Islam Tarik, who claims to be convener of the Ward II Jubo Dal unit.

According to locals, Tarik used to work as a construction worker. Since the August 5 political changeover in 2024, he has allegedly been grabbing shops and houses in the slum by threatening owners with photos or videos showing their participation in Awami League rallies.

Victims were often forced to sign stamp papers under the guise of selling their properties before being evicted for minimal compensation.

Rozina Begum, a victim, alleged that Tarik and

his associates evicted her family from their property six months ago, accusing her husband of attending AL rallies and forcing them to hand over the property at a nominal price.

Liton Talukder, now in Saudi Arabia, said over the phone that he had operated a rickshaw garage, a fish business, and a cooperative in the slum. On the night of August 5, 2024, Tarik and his associates allegedly broke into his house, looted Tk 4.7 lakh, and took control of the property.

Unable to get any remedy despite approaching local political leaders and police at the time, Liton left the country last year.

Local residents also alleged that Tarik's group collects electricity bills at inflated rates of Tk 15-16 per unit.

Contacted, Comfort Kamal admitted to taking control of Nasima Azad's shop, claiming that her husband owed Tk 75,000 for construction work carried out in 2017. He denied all other allegations.

Both Nasima and

the market authorities described his claim as fabricated and said Kamal had no involvement in the market's construction.

Shakil Ahmed Swapan, general secretary of BNP's Ward-II unit under Dhaka North, said the accused individuals claim affiliation with BNP, Jubo Dal, or Swachhasebak Dal, but no committees of those organisations currently exist in the area.

"They attended Awami League programmes in the past and now join BNP rallies to use this political identity while engaging in criminal activities," he said, adding that he and others faced obstruction and harassment when they tried to protest. He also urged victims to seek legal action.

Contacted, Officer-in-Charge Golam Azam, who was withdrawn from Mirpur Police Station last week, said there had been multiple complaints from Kalyanpur Parabosti, and several individuals were arrested based on those complaints and produced before court.

## 25 illegal cottages dismantled in Sonadia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A total of 25 small, medium and large structures, used illegally as cottages on government land, were evicted during a joint drive by the upazila administration on Sonadia island under Maheshkhali in Cox's Bazar on Saturday.

Confirming the matter, Imran Mahmud Dalim, upazila nirbahi officer of Maheshkhali, said the


structures had been built illegally after clearing jhau forests, posing a threat to the island's biodiversity.

Members of the Bangladesh Coast Guard, Bangladesh Navy, police, Ansar, Department of Environment, Forest Department, and Fire Service and Civil Defence also joined the drive.

The operation was led by Abu Jafar Majumdar, assistant commissioner (land) and executive magistrate in Maheshkhali, the UNO added.

During the drive, the authorities demolished the cottages as well as bamboo, wood and tin-shed structures built in the area. Electricity connections to some temporary tourist cottages were also disconnected.

Li Commander Sabbir Alam Suzon, media officer of the Bangladesh Coast Guard, said in a statement that the operation was carried out in the eastern and western mangrove areas of Sonadia from 10:00am to 5:00pm on Saturday.



### পাওয়ার গ্রিড বাংলাদেশ পিএলসি

## POWER GRID BANGLADESH PLC

(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

Grid Bhaban, Avenue-3, Jahurul Islam City, Aftabnagar, Badda, Dhaka-1212 Web: www.powergrid.gov.bd

### INVITATION FOR BIDS


|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Power Grid Memo No. & Date | 27.21.0000.101.07.434.26.2175, May 10, 2026   |
| Loan No. and Title         | ADB Project Number (57232-001) - BAN: Power Transmission Strengthening and Integration of Renewable Energy Project.   |
| Contract No. and Title     | OCB NO. POWERGRID/ADB/PTSIREP/Package-4<br>Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 132/33 kV AIS Substations at Dhupchanchia, Kumarkhali, Matlab North and Chatkhil including associated 132kV bay extension at Kachua Substation on turnkey basis (Package-4) |

- The People's Republic of Bangladesh has applied for financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of **Power Transmission Strengthening and Integration of Renewable Energy Project**. Part of this financing will be used for payments under the contract named above. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible countries described in the section 5 of Volume 1 of the Bidding Document.
- The Power Grid Bangladesh PLC (Power Grid), ('the Employer') invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the **"Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 132/33 kV AIS Substations at Dhupchanchia, Kumarkhali, Matlab North and Chatkhil including associated 132kV bay extension at Kachua Substation on turnkey basis (Package-4)"** (herein after referred to as "the Works"). The Works under this turnkey contract shall have to be completed within 900 (Nine Hundred) days from the effective date of the contract.
- Open Competitive Bidding (OCB) - International** will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single-Stage: Two-Envelope bidding procedure and is open to all bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document.
- Bidders shall meet the following minimum requirements along with other requirements as mentioned in the bidding document:
  - Participation as a Contractor/JV Partner in at least three contracts that have been successfully completed within the last 10 (ten) years, and those are similar to the proposed contract, where the total cumulative value of up to four contracts must be at least: USD 30.0 M (Thirty Million USD), among those one (01) contract value must be at least USD 17.0 M (Seventeen Million USD).
  - The similarity of the Bidder's participation shall be based on the physical size, nature of works, complexity, methods, technology or other characteristics as described in Section 6 (Employer's requirements).
  - The scope of each contract must include design, supply, installation, testing & commissioning of 110/X kV or higher voltage rated AIS/GIS substations with a minimum of three (03) bays including one (1) power transformer of 110/X kV or above voltage rating.
  - For the above contracts executed during the period stipulated above, a minimum experience is required in the following key activities:
    - At least one contract shall be a new 110/X kV or higher voltage rating AIS substation.
    - At least one contract must be in successful operation for a minimum of three (3) years before the bid submission deadline.
    - At least one contract must be completed either in Bangladesh or outside the Bidder's own country.
    - At least one contract must be completed with a new 110/X kV or higher voltage rating transformer with capacity of 75 MVA or higher.

The qualification criteria of the bidders have been given above. The bidders are advised to inspect the bidding document in detail by visiting the Power Grid website <http://www.powergrid.gov.bd>.

- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents at the office of the Company Secretary, Power Grid Bangladesh PLC (Power Grid), Avenue-3, Jahurul Islam City, Aftabnagar, Badda, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh; Tel: +88 02 226600936-39, Fax: +88 02 226600925; Email: [share.cs@pgcb.gov.bd](mailto:share.cs@pgcb.gov.bd), [se.contract@pgcb.gov.bd](mailto:se.contract@pgcb.gov.bd), [xen1.contract@pgcb.gov.bd](mailto:xen1.contract@pgcb.gov.bd). The complete bidding documents are also available for download from Power Grid's website <http://www.powergrid.gov.bd>. Eligible bidders who download the bidding document from the Power Grid's website shall inform Power Grid in writing (and provide their contact details) at the address given above, failing which Power Grid shall not be responsible if the bidder does not receive clarifications and amendments, if any. **In case of any discrepancy between the documents downloaded by the prospective bidder and the Bidding Document (hard copy) of Power Grid, the latter shall prevail.**
- A complete set of bidding document in English language, may be purchased by interested bidders upon submission of a written application to the Company Secretary, Power Grid at the above address, from **12 May, 2026** up to one Working day before the bid submission deadline and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of USD 300.00 (United States Dollar Three Hundred) or BDT 36,000.00 (Taka Thirty Six Thousand only) in the form of Pay Order/ Demand Draft in favour of the Power Grid Bangladesh PLC. The Bidding Document may be sent through a courier for an additional fee of BDT 14,400.00 (Bangladeshi Taka Fourteen thousand four hundred only) for local delivery or USD 120.00 (United States Dollar One hundred twenty only) for international delivery in the form of Pay Order/ Demand Draft in favor of Power Grid Bangladesh PLC (Power Grid). No liability will be accepted for loss or late delivery of the Bidding Document.
- A Pre-Bid meeting will be held at **11:00 Hours** Local Time on **08 June 2026** at the head office of Power Grid Bangladesh PLC (Power Grid), Avenue-03, Jahurul Islam City, Aftabnagar, Badda, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh.
- Deliver bids:
  - To the address below:  
Company Secretary,  
Power Grid Bangladesh PLC (Power Grid),  
Head Office, Avenue-03, Jahurul Islam City,  
Aftabnagar, Badda, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh.
  - On or before **11:00 Hours** Local Time on **06 July 2026**.
  - Together with a Bid Security for the amount of: USD 550,000 (United States Dollar Five hundred fifty thousand only) or BDT 67,265,000 (Bangladeshi Taka Sixty-seven million two hundred sixty five thousand only) as described in the Bidding Document.
- Late bids will be rejected.
- Technical bids will be opened at **11:05 Hours** Local Time on **06 July 2026** at the head office of Power Grid Bangladesh PLC (Power Grid), Avenue-03, Jahurul Islam City, Aftabnagar, Badda, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend, whereas the Financial Bids shall remain sealed and unopened and shall be placed locked. The Financial Bids of only Technically Responsive and Qualified Bidders shall be opened after Technical Bid Evaluation, whereas, the Financial Bids of those Bidders whose Technical Bids are not responsive and qualified shall be returned unopened after the contract is awarded.
- When comparing bids, ADB's Domestic Preference Scheme will be applied in accordance with the provisions stipulated in the Bidding Document.
- Power Grid will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids including costs and expenses related to participation in pre-bid meeting and site visits.
- Power Grid reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to Bidders.

(Md. Jahangir Azad)  
Company Secretary



### WEST ZONE POWER DISTRIBUTION CO. LTD.

(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)  
Office of the Project Director  
Upgradation and Extension of Power Distribution System in Monpura Islands Project, Bidyut  
Bhaban, 35-Boyra Main Road, WZPDCL, Khulna, Email: [pdmiuepds@gmail.com](mailto:pdmiuepds@gmail.com) & [pd.miuepds@wzpdcl.gov.bd](mailto:pd.miuepds@wzpdcl.gov.bd)


Memo No: 27.22.4785.800.50.001.26.61 Dated: 07/05/2026

**E-tender Notice (ICT, OSTETM)**

e-Tender for the Project Director's office, Upgradation and Extension of Power Distribution System in Monpura Islands Project is published in e-GP Portal ([www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd)) for the Procurement of following Supply & Installation of Plant & Equipment on Turnkey Basis:

| Sl. No | Tender ID | Invitation Reference                           | Name of Tender  |
|--------|-----------|--|---|
| 1.     | 1260141   | 27.22.4785.600.50.001.26.60, Dated: 07.05.2026 | Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 33KV, Each Single Length 7 Km x 4 run x 1C, 300 sq.mm Submarine Cable (total Cable Length: each 7.0 Km x 4 x 1C=28 Km) including Landing Station and other related works on Turnkey Basis under the Project of Upgradation and Extension of Power Distribution System in Monpura Island, WZPDCL, Khulna. |

This is an Online Tender, where only e-tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration required on e-GP System ([www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd)) is mandatory. For more details contact e-GP Help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

  
Md. Shafiqul Islam  
Project Director,  
Upgradation and Extension of Power  
Distribution System in Monpura  
Islands Project, WZPDCL, Khulna

GD-1078