

Forest Department launches clean-up drive in Lawachhara

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

The Forest Department in Moulvibazar launched a clean-up drive in Lawachhara National Park in Kamalganj upazila yesterday to tackle the rising plastic pollution in one of the country’s key protected forests.

Plastic bottles, polythene bags and food wrappers, largely discarded by tourists, have been found scattered across the forest floor in recent weeks.

Officials said the drive followed a Daily Star report highlighting the extent of waste accumulation in the park.

Kazi Nazmul Haque, range officer of the Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Division in Sreemangal, said manpower shortages worsened the situation. “We cleaned Lawachhara again today [yesterday]. If tourists remain unaware, maintenance becomes increasingly difficult, but we are committed to continuing our efforts,” he said.

He added that the 1,250-acre forest is managed by only four staff members, with no dedicated sanitation workers under the revenue budget, making maintenance difficult.

Mango: more than just a fruit

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works of Kalidasa, mediaeval literary works from Bengal, and later in the writings of Rabindranath Tagore and Jasimuddin.

Few fruits have occupied such a significant place in literature, public memory, and everyday culture, Mahbub said.

He also criticised the practice of harvesting immature mangoes and sending them to urban markets before their natural harvesting time.

The seasonal gap between mangoes from Satkhira and Rajshahi is much shorter than many traders claim, he said.

Some traders market early varieties before they mature, depriving consumers of the fruit’s natural taste and aroma,

Mahbub added.

He urged consumers to follow a variety-wise mango calendar and avoid buying mangoes before their proper season.

Fruit specialist Md Mehedi Masud said mango ripening should be understood through science rather than fear.

Ethylene is naturally produced inside mature fruits and helps them ripen, he said. Ripening mature mangoes in chambers using controlled ethylene does not harm health, he added.

However, calcium carbide, which produces acetylene gas, is harmful and should not be used, Masud said.

He said many mangoes had previously been destroyed because of confusion over formalin.

Small amounts of formaldehyde may naturally occur in ripe fruits, while formalin has no practical role in preserving mangoes because the fruit contains very little protein, he said.

Masud said Bangladesh produces a large volume of mangoes within a short season, but exports remain far below potential compared with neighbouring producers.

To meet export standards, Bangladesh needs better orchard management, lot-based treatment, and technologies such as vapour heat treatment, he said.

SM Kamruzzaman, fruit production adviser at the agriculture ministry, said Bangladesh should focus not only on increasing seasonal mango

production but also on better timing, late-season varieties, processing, and export readiness.

Varieties such as Katimon, Gourmati, llamati, and Mayamati could extend the mango season and help farmers earn more, he said.

Kamruzzaman said the country should invest in solar drying and other processing technologies so that quality mangoes can be preserved, packaged, and sold throughout the year.

Bangladesh’s mangoes have strong export potential, but proper treatment, packaging, and compliance with standards must be ensured first, he added.

The session was moderated by The Daily Star journalist Emran Mahfuz.

Cut renewable energy

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equipment to a combined symbolic 1 percent for the next 10 years.

Speakers said Bangladesh currently has only 1,679MW of installed renewable energy capacity, including hydropower, against an estimated potential of nearly 1,32,000MW. They said the existing taxes bring little fiscal benefit.

While Bangladesh currently installs only about 300 megawatts of solar capacity annually, the government earns around Tk 333 crore a year from taxes on solar equipment, they said. This is less than 0.05 percent of the government’s projected revenue collection target for FY2026-27, they added.

Speakers proposed launching a Tk 25,000 crore revolving fund under

Bangladesh Bank for renewable energy project financing.

Under the proposal, commercial banks would lend to local entrepreneurs at below 5 percent interest rates. They also demanded direct subsidies of at least Tk 25,000 per kilowatt for residential rooftop solar systems and additional support for projects led by women and indigenous communities.

CLEAN Chief Executive Hasan Mehedi said continued dependence on imported fossil fuels would expose the economy to higher energy costs and external shocks. “Renewable energy must be prioritised in the upcoming budget through tax reform, financial incentives and strategic policy support,” he added.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADB

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OFFICE OF THE PROJECT DIRECTOR

“Feasibility Study with detailed design for Expansion & Modernization of Railway Training Academy (RTA)” Project,

Bangladesh Railway, Halishahar, Chattogram.

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI)

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Railways
2	Agency	Bangladesh Railway
3	Procuring entity Name	Project Director, “Feasibility Study with detailed design for Expansion & Modernization of Railway Training Academy (RTA)” Project
4	Procuring Entity Code	Not used at present
5	Procuring Entity District	Chattogram
6	Expression of Interest (EOI) for Selection of	Consulting Services for, “Feasibility Study with detailed design for Expansion & Modernization of Railway Training Academy (RTA)”
7	EOI Reference No.	54.01.1500.707.07.01.003.25
8	Date	07.06.2026
9	Procurement Sub-Method	QCBS (ICB)
10	Budget and Source of Funds	GOB (Development Budget)
11	Development Partner’s (if applicable)	N/A
12	Project/Programme Code (if applicable)	222019900
13	Project/Programme Name (if applicable)	Feasibility Study with detailed design for Expansion & Modernization of Railway Training Academy (RTA)
14	EOI Closing Date and Time	07.07.2026 at 11.30 hours
16	Brief Description of the Assignment	- This project involves the following but not limited to Conducting feasibility study for modernization and expansion of Railway Training Academy, Halishahar, Chattogram. - Preparing an innovative and appropriate organizational set up required for improving the institutional competency of a Railway Training Academy (RTA). - Preparation, Up gradation and Digitization of training manual, training modules for the RTA, Halishahar, Chattogram and Workshop Training Units (WTUs) at Pahartali, Dhaka, Ishwardi, Parbatipur. - To identify and propose advanced ICT based education facilities, teaching materials and guidelines to make qualified instructors for newly procured Rolling Stock and railway systems i.e. Civil, Signal & Telecom, Electrical etc. - Preparation of detail design and cost estimate for all infrastructures with modern facilities for Academy and all WTUs. - Prepare Development Project Proposal (DPP) and Tender documents for investment project and assist in tender evaluation. - Any other related issues instructed by the Project Director
17	Experience, Resources and Delivery Capacity Required	The Consulting firm(s) shall be eligible to participate and shall have the following experience and resources but not limited to: [Authenticated Documents must be Submitted] a)The Consulting firm shall have satisfactory working experience of conducting similar Study consultancy. b)The Consulting firm shall have adequate number of human resources stated in section 2.3 of Table-X of this notice with experience relevant to the assignment. c)The consulting firm shall have adequate Physical Resources such as office, working equipment, IT facility, Survey equipment, logistical support etc. d)The consulting firm shall have adequate financial capability such as turnover, liquid asset etc. e)Project Director, “Feasibility Study with detailed design for Expansion & Modernization of Railway Training Academy (RTA)” Project now invites eligible applicants (consulting firm(s) to indicate their interest in providing the aforesaid consultancy services. Interested consulting firms are invited to provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (Brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar operating conditions, availability of appropriate professional qualification and experiences of staff, financial capabilities etc.). The Expression of Interest (EOI) shall be evaluated on the basis of the following to prepare a short list. Age of the firm in respect of Registration Brochure(s) containing firm's available facilities, areas of professional/expertise/specialization for the assignment. Description of similar assignments (Feasibility study and detailed design of Expansion & Modernization of Training Academy with documentary evidence. Experience in similar conditions. Availability of appropriate professional qualification and experience among staff and availability of adequate resources for the assignment. Financial and Management capacity. The services for the assignment shall have to be delivered for 6 months.
18	Other Details of Application	a)The Consultant Firm shall be selected in accordance with PPA/2006 and PPR/2025 as enforced in Bangladesh b)Expression of Interest (EOI) in three sets (One original + Two duplicated hard copy + soft copy) shall be submitted in sealed condition delivered to the address of the under signee.
19	Association with foreign firm(s)	: Association in the form of JVCA or Sub-consultancy with qualified firm/firms will be allowed. The formation, operation and obligation of JVCA shall be governed by the Rule-70 of PPR, 2025 as enforced in Bangladesh.
20	EOI Evaluation Criteria-EOI will be evaluated based on the requirements of EOI Notice and detail criteria given in the following table-X.	

[Note: Authenticated supporting documents for the Completed Projects, Financial Reports and Liquid Assets/Working Capital and Others must be submitted. Irrelevant, excess and ambiguous documents as supporting will be treated as negative impression.

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Summary of submission according to Table-X should be attached.]

Ta	Table-X: EOI Evaluation Criteria:		
SL	Items for Evaluation	Criteria for Evaluation and Break-up of Evaluation	
1.	Eligibility Criteria	Yes	No
2.	Background of the proposer	2.1: Age of Consulting firm from the date of registration will have to be submitted and will be evaluated on a scale of $\geq$12 years =excellent, $\geq$9<12 years=very good, $\geq$6<9 years=good, <6 years=poor. 2.2. Number of total permanent employees of the firm/firms working for more than a year will have to be submitted and will be evaluated on a scale of $\geq$150 employees - excellent, $\geq$100<150 employees - very good. $\geq$50<100 employees - good, <50 employees - poor. 2.3: The proposer will have to submit those personnel working with the firm at least for the last two years. [List of Permanent manpower mentioning the position: firm name: experiences; working with the firm at least for the last two years; and authenticated by the proper signatory must be submitted] (i) Team Leader for Over-all supervision of feasibility study & detail design for modernization of RTA and preparation/upgradation of training curriculum, training manual & modules, (ii) Structural Engineer (Senior), (iii) Railway Training Specialist (Civil) (Senior), (iv) Railway Training Specialist (Signal & Telecommunication) (Senior), (v) Railway Training Specialist (Rolling Stock) (Senior), (vi) Railway Training specialist (Transportation & Commercial) (Senior), (vii) Railway Training Specialist (Electrical) (Senior), (viii) Railway Training specialist (Stores) (Senior), (ix) Human Resource Development Specialist (Senior), (x) Deputy Team Leader (Senior), Architect (Senior), (xi) Architect (Mid-Level), (xii) Structural Engineer (Senior), (xiii) Quantity Surveyor (Senior), (xiv) Environmental Specialist (Senior), (xv) Geotechnical/ Foundation Engineer (Senior), (xvi) Geotechnical/ Foundation Engineer (Senior), (xvii) Geotechnical/ Foundation Engineer (Mid-Level), (xviii) Electrical Engineer (Senior), (xix) Procurement Specialist (Senior), (xx) Railway Training Specialist (Civil) (Senior), (xxi) Railway Training Specialist (Signal & Telecommunication) (Senior), (xxii) Railway Training Specialist (Rolling Stock) (Senior), (xxiii) Railway Training Specialist (Transportation & Commercial), (xxiv) Railway Training Specialist (Electrical) (Senior), (xxv) Railway Training Specialist (Stores) (Senior), (xxvi) Human Resource Development Specialist (Senior), (xxvii) Financial Analyst (Senior), (xxviii) IT Specialist (Senior), (xxix) Curriculum Specialist (Senior) Number (i) to (ix) must be international. Total number of graduate consultants in all categories above will be evaluated on a scale of $\geq$24 nos. graduate consultants available - excellent, $\geq$16<24 nos. graduate consultants available - very good, $\geq$8 nos. graduate consultants available - good, <8 nos. graduate consultant available = poor. NB: Total number of consultants will be determined by the total number of people working with the positions mentioned above in the firm.	
3.	Consultancy experience of the proposer	3.1: Total years of experience in Consultancy Services will have to be submitted and will be evaluated on a scale of $\geq$12 years=excellent. $\geq$9<12 years=very good, $\geq$6<9 years=good, <6 years=poor. 3.2: Number of completed feasibility study and/or detailed design of Capacity enhancement of training academy consultancy services conducted by the proposer in the last 10 years will have to be submitted and will be evaluated on a scale of $\geq$6 completed contract= excellent, $\geq$6<4 completed contract = very good, $\geq$4<=1 completed contract = good, <1 completed contract = poor. 3.3: Number of feasibility study and/or detailed design of Capacity enhancement of training academy consultancy services completed over a value of 1 (One) million USD in last 10 (ten) years will have to be submitted and will be evaluated on a scale of $\geq$4 completed contract- excellent, 3 completed contract - very good, 1 completed contract = good, <1 completed contract - poor.	
4.	Audited Financial Reports and avg. Liquid Asset/Working capital for last five years	4.1: Audited Financial Reports for last five years will have to be submitted and will be evaluated on a scale or Average annual turnover $\geq$ 20 (Twenty) million USD or equivalent - excellent, $\geq$ 15 (Fifteen) million USD (or equivalent) < 20 (Twenty) million USD or equivalent = very good, $\geq$ 10 (Ten) million USD for equivalent <15 (Fifteen) million USD or equivalent = good, < 10 (Ten) million USD or equivalent = poor. 4.2: Average Liquid Asset/Working capital for last five years will have to be submitted and will be evaluated on a scale of excellent, very good, good, poor i.e. Average Liquid Asset/Working capital $\geq$2 (Two) million USD or equivalent - excellent $\geq$ 1(One) million USD <or equivalent < 2 (Two) million USD for equivalent - very good, $\geq$ 0.5 (Half) million USD (or equivalent < 1 (One) million USD <or equivalent = good, < 0.5 (Half) million USD < or equivalent = poor.	
5	Regional Experience	Number of consultancy services performed over a value or 01(One) million USD in the region within SAARC/ASEAN in last five years will have to be submitted end will be evaluated on a scale of $\geq$ 3 completed contract= excellent, 2 completed contract = very good, 1 completed contract = good < 1 completed contract = poor.	
NB: 1. Priority (weight) of evaluation would be as per Background=15%, Consultancy experience=60%, Audited Financial Reports and avg. Liquid Asset/Working capital=20%, Regional experience=5%			
2. Experience in railway training academy will be interpreted as experience in any kind of academy			
Procuring Entity Details			
21	Name of the Official inviting EOI	Jebunnesa Jerry	
22	Designation of the Official Inviting EOI	Project Director, “Feasibility Study with detailed design for Expansion & Modernization of Railway Training Academy (RTA)” Project	
23	Address of the Official Inviting EOI	Chief Training Officer (Mechanical) And Project Director, “Feasibility Study with detailed design for Expansion & Modernization of Railway Training Academy (RTA)” Project Railway Training Academy, Halishahar, Chattogram	
24	Contact Details of the Official Inviting EOI	Cell no.+880 01711691024 Email: pdrtapfs@railway.gov.bd ctromech@railway.gov.bd	
25	The procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject all EOIs		

04.06.2026

(Jebunnesa Jerry)

Project Director

“Feasibility Study with detailed design for Expansion & Modernization of Railway Training Academy (RTA)” Project and Chief Training Officer (Mechanical) Railway Training Academy (RTA) Bangladesh Railway, Halishahar. Chattogram.

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