How expats lit up an entire village in Tangail

Migrants spend Tk 10 lakh to install 100 streetlights along 3km road



PHOTO: STAR

In a collective effort, expatriates hailing from Sonalia village under Tangail's Basail upazila installed 100 street lights along a 3-kilometre road in the village so that people could use the road conveniently at night.

MIRZA SHAKIL, *Tangail*

A three-kilometre stretch from Karatia Bazar to Sonalia graveyard in Sonalia village under Tangail's Basail upazila now stays lit up from dusk till dawn, thanks to 100 streetlights funded by expatriates from the village.

The initiative, named "Alokito Sonalia" (Illuminated Sonalia), was completed in just five months at a cost of Tk 10 lakh.

Before the lights were installed, villagers struggled to use the road at night. Students faced problems attending evening coaching classes, women felt unsafe, and thefts were common. The new lights have made night-time movement easier for villagers.

"We spent Tk 7,000-8,000 for each light, installed every 100 feet. Everyone contributed what they could -- we did it with our own money," said Amir Ali of the village, who works as a factory worker in Woodlands Industrial Park, Singapore.

Amir is among more than 100 young men from the village working in Singapore. Many others live in Europe and the United States. Together, they formed a committee to implement the project.

The expatriates' contribution to the village goes beyond street lighting. Over the past two years, they have built a road to the graveyard, planted flower gardens, constructed houses for the poor and distributed Eid gifts to 200 households.

Their next plan is to provide interest-free loans to meritorious students to help them sit for IELTS and pursue higher education abroad.

Rabiul Awal Uzzal, president of local youth organisation Honours Foundation, said the expatriates had transformed the village through their collective effort. "People from other villages now say -- look at Sonalia. If this continues, Sonalia will be a model village."

Abdul Mannan Miah, a primary school teacher, said the initiative reflected the expatriates' attachment to their roots.

"Despite living thousands of miles away, they have shown what love for the village means," he said.

Fazlul Haque, a member of Ward-1 of Habla Union Parishad, said incidents of theft along the road had largely stopped since the lights were installed.

Tariqul Islam Ratan, president of the Alokito Sonalia project, and Nurul Islam Robin, director of the Tangail Chamber of Commerce, also pledged their support for the expatriates' efforts to turn Sonalia into a model village.

Protecting forest, struggling to survive

Lawachara patrollers unpaid for five months

MINTU DESHWARA

"I have been risking my life to protect the forests and wildlife of Lawachara, yet I have not received my wages for five months. My family and I are struggling to make ends meet," said Arun Nayek, a member of the Community Patrolling Group (CPG).

Like him, 39 other CPG members protecting Lawachara National Park and three forest beats under the Sreemangal Wildlife Range in Moulvibazar have been without their allowances for five months, leaving many struggling to support their families.

According to CPG sources, the 40 members, including 30 men and 10 women, patrol the Lawachara, Kalachara and Chautali forest beats to protect wildlife and biodiversity.

Each is entitled to a daily allowance of Tk 300.

The workers, recruited by the Lawachara Co-Management Committee (CMC), alleged that payments stopped after Divisional Forest Officer Md Abul Kalam questioned the committee's legitimacy and withheld funds.

"We are poor. We have to borrow money to run our families. We do not know how we will manage in the coming days," said CPG member Babul Mia.

Members Sunil and Arun Kahar said they received neither their regular allowances nor festival allowances during Durga Puja.

Begum Bibi, Raina Begum and Parveen Begum said they had not received their allowances since June.

"We have continued patrolling the forest despite not receiving our allowances for nearly five months. Our families are suffering, but we cannot simply abandon our responsibilities," said CPG member Shanur Mia.

Shamsul Haque, general secretary of the Lawachara People's Forum, said withholding payments undermined conservation efforts and called for immediate settlement of the dues.

Sheikh Nazmul Haque, range officer of Sreemangal, attributed the delay partly to the withdrawal of support from an NGO that previously assisted the Forest Department in overseeing and forming CMC bodies.

"A private organisation used to provide a team of six to seven members to help us with various issues concerning the CMC committees and their formation. Their



support was very helpful, but they are no longer involved, so we now have to handle the entire process ourselves," he said.

He said manpower shortages had also delayed the formation of committees at three administrative levels.

"Although there may be some delay, the workers will receive their full dues. We are trying to settle the payments as quickly as possible," he said.

Repeated attempts to contact DFO Md Abul Kalam by phone and text message went unanswered.

PRAYER TIMING

NOVEMBER 07

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	5-00	12-45	3-45	5-25	7-00
JAMAAT	5-35	1-15	4-00	5-30	7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Flat for Sale

1,750 Square feet. 3 Bedroom Flat with 1 parking space is available for urgent sale at Dhanmondi Road 32.

01812187784, 01733623784

We just want one last glimpse of him

FROM PAGE 3

in Dhaka but fell into debt after suffering losses. He borrowed Tk 7.5 lakh to go to Taiwan, he added.

The family said they had no means of repatriating the body without government assistance.

"We want to see our brother one last time. Without government assistance, we may not even get the chance to see his face for the last time," they said.

Kashiani Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md Shahin Mia said Anisur's brother contacted him on November 3 and sent relevant documents.

He said he was discussing the matter with district-level authorities to explore possible assistance. The matter falls under the jurisdiction of the foreign affairs and expatriates' welfare ministries, he said, adding that it was too early to confirm whether the body could be brought home.

He went for a job, ended up in a scam compound

FROM PAGE 3

Tofail retrieved his passport by telling his supervisor he needed it to open a bank account. Soon afterwards, the power outage enabled his escape.

He later obtained $20 from his family and moved elsewhere, fearing he would be killed if caught. The recruiters had never provided the promised one-year visa and work permit, leaving him without legal immigration status.

After learning on Facebook that the Bangladesh embassy in Thailand had arranged a waiver of overstay fines, he obtained the waiver and returned home on June 14. BRAC's Migration Programme has since been assisting him.

According to BMET data cited by BRAC, 15,963 Bangladeshis received employment clearances for Cambodia between January 1 last year and September 30 this year.

BRAC said recruiters lured Bangladeshis with computer operator, data entry and customer service jobs, promising monthly salaries ranging from Tk 50,000 to more than Tk 1 lakh.

Many paid Tk 2-7 lakh, only to be confined to guarded compounds, have their passports and phones confiscated, and be forced into online scams.

Shariful Hasan, associate director of BRAC's Migration Programme and Youth Platform, described the exploitation as "cyber slavery".

BRAC said 583 Bangladeshis had been repatriated from Cambodia by June, including 109 rescued from scam compounds.

The Bangladesh mission in Thailand also received requests for help from 1,796 Bangladeshis seeking repatriation. According to BRAC, around 300-400 had returned, leaving an estimated 1,300-1,400 awaiting repatriation at that time.

On October 20, another 30 Bangladeshis returned home following intervention by the mission after being detained in Cambodia while trying to leave.

"I want journalists to speak out so that people like me, particularly those from villages, do not fall into the hands of brokers who promise one job and force them into something completely different," Tofail said.

Prices ease at kitchen markets

FROM PAGE 3

Wholesaler Lakin Mia at the same market said abundant supplies and a lack of buyers were leaving produce to rot, forcing wholesalers to sell at lower prices and incur losses.

Over the week, broiler chicken prices fell by Tk 10–15 per kg from last week to Tk 165–180. Farm brown egg prices dropped by Tk 10 to Tk 120–140 a dozen. Sonali chicken prices remained unchanged at Tk 260–320 per kg.

Following the 22-day fishing ban, increased supply pushed hilsa prices down by Tk 200–300 per kg, said Karwan Bazar vendor Shukkur Ali. Hilsa is now selling at Tk 2,000–2,200 per kg.

Prices of other fish varieties and meat remained unchanged, with beef selling at Tk 780–850 per kg, mutton at Tk 1,250–1,300 and goat meat at Tk 1,100–1,150.

Private car driver Abu Hanif, who earns Tk 28,000 a month, including overtime, said he was struggling to support himself and his wife in Dhaka and was considering sending her back to their village.

"Even if a few vegetables are cheaper, living costs haven't dropped. House rent is set to rise, while power bills and transport costs have gone up. We can barely make ends meet, so we cannot buy extra vegetables even at lower prices," he said at Karwan Bazar yesterday.

Banglamotor grocer Mojibur Rahman said lower consumer spending had also hurt small neighbourhood shops.

"Vegetable and egg prices dropped, but fish and meat remain expensive. As people cut back on shopping, my shop's sales and income fell, leaving me unable to buy enough groceries for my own family," he said.

MPF

UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA
MASTER OF PROFESSIONAL FINANCE (MPF)
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

Admission Notice

For Application: mpf.finanancedu.ac.bd/admission

Application last date: November 17, 2026, **Admission test date:** November 20, 2026 (Friday) at 10:00 AM (Written) and 11:15 AM (Viva-voce).

For more information: MPF Program Office (Room 4005), 3rd Floor MBA Building, Faculty of Business Studies, University of Dhaka
Email: mpf@du.ac.bd, Cell: +8801725288250 and +8801914379230.

ACCREDITED PROGRAMME ACCA · TOP 300 · CFA Institute

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Faridpur.
☎/Fax: 0631-63256/66367
E-mail: eerhdfaridpur@gmail.com

e-Tender Notice

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, please register on e-GP system portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd).
e-Tenders are invited in e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) by Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Faridpur for the procurement of:

Sl. No	Tender ID No/ Package No	Name of works	Last date and time for Tender Security submission	Tender Closing/ Opening Date & Time.
1	2	3	4	5
1	1366533, 43/e-GP/FRD/ 2026-2027	Construction of R.C.C U-Drain at from Ch. 31+200m to Ch. 31+350 32th km (p) of Bhanga-Faridpur (Goalchamot) Road (N-804) under Road Division Faridpur, during the year 2026-2027	17/11/2026 12:00 hour	17/11/2026 12:30 hour
2	1366534, 44/e-GP/FRD/ 2026-2027	Construction of R.C.C U-Drain at from Ch: 31+545 m to 31+730 m 32 th km (p) of Bhanga-Faridpur (Goalchamot) Road (N-804) under Road Division, Faridpur during the year 2026-2027	17/11/2026 12:00 hour	17/11/2026 12:30 hour

e-Tender details can be downloaded from 05/11/2026 time: 23:00 to 16/11/2026, time: 17:00 of e-GP system portal http://www.eprocure.gov.bd for pursue.
e-Tenders will be accepted only as stated in above list, accepted tenders will be opened online immediately as stated in above list.

(Khalid Saifullah Sardar)
ID No. 602287
Executive Engineer, (C.C) RHD
Road Division, Faridpur.

GD-2696

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
প্রশাসনিক ট্রাইব্যুনাল-১, এর কার্যালয়
১৪, আব্দুল গণি রোড, ঢাকা-১০০০।

স্মারক নং-- /২০২৬ তারিখঃ ২০ কার্তিক ১৪৩৩ বঙ্গাব্দ / ০৫ নভেম্বর ২০২৬ খ্রিঃ

কার নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা প্রশাসনিক ট্রাইব্যুনাল-১ ঢাকা এর মেট্রো -খ-১৩-১৫৬৯ (MITSUBUSHI LANCHER GLX, মডেল নং-১১, সিসি-১৩০০, রেজিঃ সাল ২০১১ (যে অবস্থায় আছে সেই অবস্থায়) নিলামে বিক্রয়ের জন্য নিম্নলিখিত শর্তাবলী সাপেক্ষে আগ্রহী ব্যক্তিদের নিকট হতে নির্ধারিত দরপত্র তফশীল স্বাক্ষর ও সীল-মোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাইতেছে।

শর্তাবলী

০১। দরপত্র আগামী ইং ১১-১১-২০২৬ খ্রিঃ তারিখ বেলা ১৪.০০ ঘটিকার পর্যন্ত সময়ের মধ্যে অত্র কার্যালয়ে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাক্সে জমা দিতে হবে। জমাকৃত দরপত্র ঐদিনই বেলা ১৫.০০ ঘটিকার সময়ে দরপত্র সমূহ দরদাতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) খোলা হবে।
০২। দরপত্রের উদ্ধৃত দরের ১০% আর্নেস্ট মানি হিসেবে রেজিস্ট্রার, প্রশাসনিক ট্রাইব্যুনাল-১, ১৪, আব্দুল গণি রোড, ঢাকা ১০০০ বরাবর ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/ পে-অর্ডার আকারে দরপত্রের সাথে জমা দিতে হবে। কৃতকার্য দরপত্র দাতাকে অবশিষ্ট ৯০% মূল্য এবং উদ্ধৃত মূল্যের নির্দিষ্ট হারে সরকারী নিয়ম মোতাবেক (উৎসে কর ও ভ্যাট কর্তন করে) দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত সিদ্ধান্তের ০২(দুই) কার্য দিবসের মধ্যে পরিশোধ অন্তে কারটি গ্রহন করা যাবে।
০৩। কারটি অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে নিম্ন স্বাক্ষরকারীর সাথে যোগাযোগক্রমে পরিদর্শন করা যাবে।
উল্লেখ্য, সংশ্লিষ্ট কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন সময় নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি স্থগিত বা বাতিল সংক্রান্ত যেকোন সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। বিস্তারিত তথ্য ও সিডিউল অত্র কার্যালয়ের নোটিশ বোর্ডে পাওয়া যাবে।

(জিনাত জাহান)
সভাপতি
অকেজো গাড়ী নিলাম কমিটি
ও
রেজিস্ট্রার (যুগ্ম জেলা জজ)
প্রশাসনিক ট্রাইব্যুনাল-১, ঢাকা।

GD-2697

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Project Director
Maintenance & Rehabilitation of Railway Track in Eastern Zone of Bangladesh Railway Project
Bangladesh Railway, CRB, Chattogram.
Mobile No. 01711-506101
E-mail: pd.trep@railway.gov.bd

Reference No. 54.01.1500.109.07.079.26-1211 Dated: 05.11.2026

e-Tender Notice

The following e-Tenders have been invited in the National e-GP Portal System (http://eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of below **works:**

Sl. No.	Tender Reference No.	Tender ID No.	Procurement Nature and Name	Tender Method	Tender Document Last selling (Date and Time)	Tender Closing (Date and Time)
1.	e-tender/ trep/ 2026-27/WD-1	1344181	**Works:** Maintenance & Rehabilitation of Railway Track in Sholoshahar (SLHR)-Foteabad (FTWD)-Nazirhat (NZA) and Foteabad (FTWD) -Chattogram University (CTGU) Sections under Assistant Executive Engineer/Chattogram (AEN-1/ CTG) jurisdiction of Bangladesh Railway Eastern Zone.	**OTM NCT** (One Stage Two Envelope)	07-December-2026 at 16:00 Hrs.	08-December -2026 at 13:00 Hrs.
2.	e-Tender/ trep/ 2026-2027/ WD-2	1344196	**Works:** Maintenance & Rehabilitation of Railway Track in Laksam (LKM) - Noakhali (NKA) Sections under Assistant Executive Engineer/ Cumilla (AEN/CML) jurisdiction of Bangladesh Railway Eastern Zone.	**OTM NCT** (One Stage Two Envelope)	07-December-2026 at 16:00 Hrs.	08-December -2026 at 13:00 Hrs.

N.B.:
1. Tenderers, registered in the e-GP System who meet the eligibility criteria are requested to participate through e-GP system.
2. Tenderers are requested to purchase the tender documents and submit the tender security from a schedule Bank through e-GP System.

এস (২৬) (৯৮)

05/11/2026
(Md. Tanvirul Islam)
Project Director

GD-2694