

SPFMS Strengthens Fire Safety Preparedness at IEB through Multi-Agency Initiatives



A series of coordinated fire safety initiatives undertaken by the Strengthening Public Financial Management Program to Enable Service Delivery (SPFMS) has brought renewed attention to the urgent need for fire risk mitigation and institutional preparedness at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB).

The initiatives, carried out in collaboration with the Department of Fire Service and Civil Defense (FSCD) and IEB authorities, unfolded through a structured sequence of assessment, awareness-building, and practical drills during November and December 2025, focusing on government offices housed at the IEB Bhaban in Ramna, Dhaka.

The process began with a high-level coordination meeting on fire safety and risk management held on 17 November 2025 at the SPFMS Office in Dhaka. The meeting brought together senior officials from SPFMS, IEB, Fire Service and Civil Defense, the Public Works Department, and several government agencies operating from the Shahid Engineers Bhaban.

The session was moderated by Tanima Tasmin, Program Executive and Coordinator (Joint Secretary), SPFMS. Md. Nazrul Islam, Logistics Consultant for iBAS++, presented key findings from a fire safety assessment conducted by the Fire Service and Civil Defense. The assessment revealed serious vulnerabilities within the building, including uncontrolled electrical loads, loose and aging wiring, frequent short circuits, inadequate maintenance of air-conditioning systems, blocked emergency exits, insufficient fire extinguishers, and the absence of proper exit signage and emergency lighting. Addressing the meeting, Md. Shahidul Islam Sumon, Station Head of FSCD, warned that negligence in addressing these hazards could result in severe loss of life and property. He emphasized the importance of compliance with fire safety standards and timely implementation of corrective measures. In response, Engr. A. T. M. Tanbir-ul Hasan, Vice-President (Administration and Finance) of IEB, assured participants that necessary steps would be taken promptly to improve fire safety and risk management systems within the building.

Following the assessment, SPFMS organized a large-scale fire safety orientation training on 2 December 2025 at the IEB Council Hall to raise awareness and build preparedness among officials. Nearly 380 officials from various government offices located inside the IEB Bhaban participated in the program, which was conducted in three separate batches to ensure effective engagement.

The orientation was inaugurated by Dr. Ziaul Abedin, Additional Secretary (Budget-1) of the Finance Division and National Program Director of SPFMS, as the Chief Guest. Professor Dr Engr Md. Sabbir Mostafa Khan, Honorary General Secretary of IEB, attended as the Special Guest, while the session was chaired by Tanima Tasmin.

The program was also addressed by Muhammad Anisuzzaman, Program Executive and Coordinator (Deputy Secretary), SPFMS, and Md. Saleh Uddin, Deputy Director, FSCD, Dhaka. Technical sessions were conducted by Mohammad Enamul Haque, Zonal Commander, Dhaka, and Md. Shahidul Islam Masum, Station Officer, FSCD.

In his speech, Dr. Ziaul Abedin underscored the need for a structured and institution-specific firefighting and emergency management protocol. He directed the SPFMS team to formulate a comprehensive Firefighting Management Protocol, expressing hope that such a model could be replicated across other government buildings. He stressed that awareness and preparedness at all levels of administration are critical for effective emergency response.

The sequence of initiatives culminated in a hands-on firefighting drill held on 3 December 2025 at the IEB Bhaban. The drill was jointly organized by SPFMS, IEB, and the FSCD, with active participation from officials of SPFMS, IEB, Bangladesh Energy and Power Research Council, Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC), Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA), BAETE, B-R Powergen Limited, the e-Tax Management Unit, and the Sofia Kamal National Library.

Senior officials present at the drill included Jalal Ahmed, Chairman of BERC; Md. Mijanur Rahman, Member (Gas), BERC; Md. Rafiqul Islam and Tanima Tasmin, Program Executive and Coordinators (Joint Secretary), SPFMS; and Kazi Nazmuzzaman, Assistant Director (Dhaka), FSCD. The drill was led by Mohammad Enamul Haque, Zonal Commander, FSCD, Dhaka.