Fresh funds to speed

acquisition, resettlement and relocation of utility service lines, meaning the total cost of the project is Tk 13,825 crore.

But the scheme faltered time and again, mainly due to the failure of the private investor-- Italian-Thai -- to manage funds for the project, the government's delay in handing over the project, and problems related to land acquisition, officials involved with the project said.

Amid uncertainty over funds, BBA issued the work order to the private partner in March 2018, marking the beginning of a 25-year concession era, including threeand-a-half years' construction period, they said.

The government was able to hand over the entire land of first segment only in 2017, due to complications in land acquisition, resettlement and relocation of utility network.

In the meantime, Italian-Thai, in its attempt to manage funds, handed over 49 percent of its share to two Chinese companies -- China Shandong International Economic and Technical Corporation Group (34 percent) and Sino Hydro Corporation Ltd (15 percent).

"The two new shareholders actually helped Italian-Thai manage funds for the project," a project official said.

In March last year, Italian-Thai signed loan agreement with The Export-Import Bank of China (EXIM) for Tk 3,918 crore and Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) for Tk 3,400 crore, amounting the total at Tk 7,318

Yesterday, BBA, First Dhaka Elevated Expressway Company Ltd (FDEECL) and Citibank NA Dhaka Branch, on behalf of EXIM and ICBC, signed a direct agreement, while PPP Unit of Finance Division, FDEECL and Citibank signed Viability Gap Financing agreement.

After the contract singing, Belayet Hossain, Bridges Division secretary and executive director of BBA, hoped the work would be expedited after the loan agreements, and completed within the deadline. Obaidul Quader said due to the slow pace of the project,

many raised questions whether the project would see light at all. "I want to thank Italian-Thai for managing fund after long efforts," he added.

The overall progress of the project is 18 percent while the first phase has witnessed 55 percent progress.

Project Director AHMS Aktar said they have partially handed over land for the second phase and would complete it within March.

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1. Company Brochure



Diploma baked Bangladesh's largest cake, weighing 460 pounds, as part of a birthday celebration for fifty impoverished children yesterday. The initiative was undertaken by New Zealand Dairy, Grey Advertising Bangladesh, and TKCi, said a press release. PHOTO: STAR

Drizzle no

FROM PAGE 3

Publications, said, "Even amid the rain, our sales didn't go down. People are coming and asking for books from our stall"

"Lok-e Ki Bolbe" by Ayman Sadiq and Sakib Bin Rashid, and "Emotional Marketing" by Munir Hasan are the hottest sales

of the publication, he said. Niaz Shihat, a staffer at Chandrabindu Prokashon, said, "We are happy to see visitors even in this weather and we are hopeful to see a good sale at the end of

"History of Bangladesh Rock: The Legacy of Azam Khan" by Maqsoodul Haque is high in demand at their stall, he added.

Sheba Prokashoni salesman Mominul Islam said, "We always have loyal fans who visit and seek the classics from us. Today is no different.

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published multiple reports on the issue, highlighting patients' sufferings. In early 2018, construction firm Kohinoor Enterprise

got the work order through a fresh tender to complete fivestoreys of the building. "The building was supposed to be handed over to us

in January, 2019. Later, authorities extended the project period till December last year, but work is still ongoing." said Dr Bakir. "I've been shocked to see patients lying on the floor, but

we can't do anything about it." he said, adding that the new building would ease patients' woes. Rezaul Karim, director of Kohinoor Enterprise, said, 'We have finished main construction, including installing utilities, of the building. We will hand it over to PWD by

February 28." Contacted, Oliver Guda, executive engineer of PWD in Barishal, said, "The project was resumed under a fresh tender of Tk 8.10 crore...The building will be handed over to hospital authorities by June, after installing two

elevators and a gas plant." The contractor could not finish the work in time due to a fund crisis last year, he added.

SBMCH was established in 1968 with 500 beds. In 2013, the number of beds was increased to 1,000 without increasing required infrastructures. The new building will add 300 new beds initially, and later, the two more floors would be constructed to accommodate 200 more beds.

NCC buying FROM PAGE 5 2015. Following the work suspension, The Daily Star had

Baran Biswas, councillor of ward-15 at NCC.

NCC authorities have signed an agreement with private company Megha Organic Bangladesh Ltd to produce fuel from the waste, said Shyamol Paul, cleaning inspector of NCC. City dwellers also

welcomed the initiative. On the first day, 85kg

waste was purchased from 12 persons, said Mizanur Rahman, managing director of Megha Organic Bangladesh Ltd.

He also informed that some 25 litres of fuel can be produced by burning around 50 kg polythene. Some city dwellers

demanded effective measures from authorities to stop availability of polythene in markets.

Sayeed Anwar Hossain, deputy director of DoE in Narayanganj, said they were continuing mobile court drives against polythene, but public awareness is also important to stop the supply.

Road accidents

In Sirajganj, two people were killed and 10 injured as a bus and a truck collided head-on on Dhaka-Bogura highway at Nandina in Raiganj upazila yesterday.

Ambia Begum (70) and Shukur Ali (45), helper of the bus driver, died on the spot, said police.

Hatikumrul Highway Police Station OC Md Akteruzzaman said the accident took place as the drivers lost their control over the steering.

In Gopalganj, a car driver was killed and four of its passengers were injured as the vehicle hit a parked truck from behind on Dhaka-Khulna highway at Dumdia in Sadar upazila on Monday.

The deceased -- Setu Biswas (32) from the town's Moulavipara -- was a contractor.

Sadar Police Station Sub-Inspector Sohidul Islam said the accident took place as the car driver lost control over

The injured were admitted to Gopalganj General

In Jamalpur, a motorcyclist was killed when a truck hit the bike from behind on Tarakandi-Bhuapur road near Pigna High School in Sarishabari upazila yesterday, said

The deceased -- Khoka Miah (28) from Basuria village in the upazila -- was a carpenter by profession.

Police seized the truck but its driver managed to flee.

In Gazipur, a truck ran over a motorcycle on Boromi-Satkhamair road in Sreepur upazila yesterday, leaving the motorbike rider dead and two of his pillion passengers injured, said police.

Nahid Morol (28) from Kapasia area died on the spot. The injured were identified as Rasel Mia (25) and Habibullah (24)

In Sunamganj, 20 people were injured as a BRTC bus hit a roadside tree after the vehicle and a tractor collided headon in front of the town's Sunamganj Technical School.

Locals took the injured to a hospital, said police.

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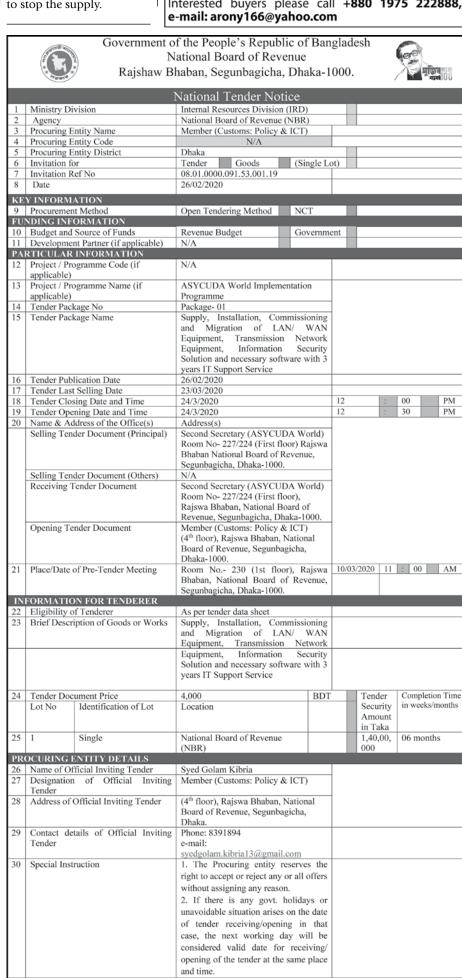
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