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SCADA project in the racks

Star Report

The fate of a Tk 105 crore SCADA project for modernisation of the country's gas supply system has become uncertain after the Gas Transmission Company Limited (GTCL) terminated the project contractors for failing to complete the work.

According to sources, although Granger System, the UK-based contractor, supplied all the equipment for the project, it could not finish installation as it was liquidated by that time.

The GTCL is now trying to complete the work through the principal subcontractor, which, the sources said, would take time.

Granger System, however, owes a huge amount of money to a number of local firms, which provided office furniture and stationary, and services.

According to an estimate, the company owes around Tk 8.45 crore to 12 suppliers. As its local office was closed down after liquidation the local firms could not realise the pending bills.

In response to a formal complaint, filed by the local suppliers, the British High Commission contacted Granger's London office, which promised that the outstanding bills would be settled

Admiralty Court Bill passed

The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday passed the Admiralty Court Bill, 2000 as recommended by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, reports BSS.

Piloting the bill, Law Minister Advocate Abdul Matin Khasru said the passage of the bill would bring dynamism in the shipping sector and help attract the entrepreneurs to invest more in trade and industries sectors.

Under the new Law High Court Division will act as the Admiralty court.

Angry people lay siege to Pallabi thana

By Staff Correspondent

About 800 people laid a siege to Pallabi thana yesterday morning protesting against the local maastans, sources said.

Local people said more than 20 armed men went to the D-Lane Avenue-3 at Pallabi and asked them to leave the area. The miscreants also threatened to kill them.

Later, the angry people under the banner of "Stranded Pakistani Youth Rehabilitation Movement" led by one Nawshar Ali went to the Pallabi police station to file a complaint.

The residents of the area laid a siege to the police station as they were not allowed to file a complaint.

When contacted, Pallabi police could not say anything about the incident.

4 Indians held in Bagerhat

BAGERHAT, Nov 23: Four Indian citizens were arrested from Moubhog village under Fakirhat upazila of the district today for travelling without passport, reports UNB.

The arrested were identified as Govinda, 20, Gourang, 20, Prodeep, 21 and Nimai, 25.

BCL factions fight on DU campus

By DU Correspondent

Three activists of ruling party backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) were injured during a clash between its two factions over formation of its committee in the History Department of Dhaka University yesterday.

The clash took place as a sequel to an incident when the general secretary of BCL unit of Dhaka University AKM Azim announced a committee in a council, held at room no. 1022 of Arts Building of the university, without informing BCL leaders, who were students of the department.

Two members of BCL central executive committee and also former History students Morsheuddin Selim and Lablu arrived at the council soon after the announcement of the committee. They stopped the microphone and asked to postpone the programme, sources said.

Then tension mounted among the attendants of the programme and in the mean time two rival groups locked in a clash.

A BCL cadre from Mohsin Hall attacked its rival faction of Bangladesh Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall inside the Arts Building and later chased them away towards Madhu's canteen as they came to know that somebody assaulted their leaders. Panic gripped the general students during the clash at noon.

The injured were identified as Shimul, resident of room no. 306 of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall, Kabir, finance secretary of BCL unit of the same hall and Moshinul Hossain.

The injured were treated at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), sources said.

Later, senior leaders Rafiqul Islam Kotoal and Saifuddin Nasir formed the committee at the council.

Meanwhile, the DU unit of BCL will hold an extended meeting today to discuss the incident.

Shibir cadre arrested in Moheskhal

COX'S BAZAR, Nov 23: Police arrested a Shibir cadre and member of 'Seven Star' group from Gorokghata in the Moheskhal Island on Wednesday night, reports UNB.

The gang leader, Enamul Haq, 28, was arrested when he was closely monitoring the movement.

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Eco-park at tribals' cost? Over 1,000 Khasi, Garo families fear eviction

By Naimul Haq, Baro from Moulvi Bazar

More than a thousand tribal families face eviction from their ancestral land in the Khasi hills in the country's north-east, thanks to a four-year project that contemplates facilities for tourists, preservation of rare forest animals and plants and constructions of buildings for offices and schools in the remote hills.

A government plan to develop an Eco-park around the famous waterfalls at Madhabkunda and Murai Charri in the deep forests of Moulvi Bazar district endangers age-old human habitation and natural forests.

It was learnt that the decision for the Madhabkunda-Murai Charra Eco-park development project was taken without the consent of the Khasi and Garo tribes who have been living in these hills for centuries. These people live an extremely simple life. Sale of betel leaves and nuts is their main source of income.

There are allegations that the tribals are being pressurised from the project authorities to leave their home. Even people, who possess lease agreement of high land, are being told to move away.

There are also reports of indiscriminate felling of trees in the name of the project.

"I have been living here for 74 years and I have hardly ever seen trees being chopped down to make household goods. But in recent times, that trend is on the rise," an old man told this correspondent during a visit last weekend at Madhab Purjil (village) in Barokhla.

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Eco-park for whose delight?
The proposed Eco-park around the famous waterfalls at Madhabkunda and Murai Charri in the deep forests of Moulvi Bazar district has raised fear amongst the tribals. -- Star photo

Trader shot dead in city

By Staff Correspondent

Miscreants shot dead a garments cut piece trader at Islambagh in the city's Lalbagh area in the early hours of yesterday.

The victim was identified as Delwar Hossain Delu, 28, son of Abdur Rashid of 19/1 Dhakeshwari, Palashi.

Police said a gang of miscreants led by Zaki and Motaleb called Delu out of a stationery shop at Dhakeshwari at about 7:30 pm on Wednesday and took him to Islambagh.

The gang shot him in his head point blank and stabbed in his back. They also took away Tk

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Fresh spate of bloodletting sweeps Gaza

Israeli soldier, Palestinian militant killed

JERUSALEM, Nov 23: An Israeli soldier and a Palestinian militant were killed in a fresh wave of bloodletting Thursday as the Palestinians said they were ready to go back to the bargaining table only if the Israeli "siege" were halted, reports AFP.

The violence came as Israel was weighing its response to a deadly rush-hour car bombing in the north of the country on Wednesday that prompted a new US effort to end the two-month cycle of unrest and repair the shattered peace process.

"We haven't renounced our right to respond," Israeli Foreign Minister Shlomo Ben Ami warned, saying the security cabinet meet again Thursday night to discuss the latest escalation and possible strategies.

Ben Ami also said US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright had called him Wednesday night to tell him of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's desire to revive stalled peace negotiations.

"If this is serious, it could be a sign of distress or a desire to exit this cycle of violence," he told public radio. "We will have to let the Americans verify that."

But in Cairo, Palestinian international co-operation minister Nabil Shaath the negotiations could resume only if there was a halt to the Israeli "aggression" and the implementation of a truce deal reached at the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh more than a month ago.

"We are ready to resume the peace process and the negotiations, but we want to see a total end to the siege," Shaath told reporters in Cairo.

Close to 270 people have been killed, most of them Palestinians, in the tide of unrest in the Palestinian territories and Israel.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak suspended the seven-year-old peace process a month ago but the negotiations had been on hold since the collapse of the Camp David peace summit in July.

In Thursday's violence, one Israeli soldier was killed and several

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Members of the Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee burnt effigies, protesting parody of the national anthem published in a Bengali daily recently. -- Star photo

Bangabandhu Murder Case All 15 officers equally guilty, says SPP

Submitting evidences and relevant law points, prosecution in the Bangabandhu Murder case tried to convince the court that the leader's assassination was the result of a deep-rooted conspiracy and all the convicts are guilty, reports UNB.

"All those who were convicted by the lower court were involved in the killing of Bangabandhu and they had common intent about the killing," said advocate Serajul Huq, special PP of Bangabandhu Murder case in the death reference bench of the High Court yesterday.

Before the killing of Bangabandhu, the conspirators held meetings in different places in Dhaka and Comilla for successfully carrying out the killing operation.

Referring to sections 10, 30 and 34 of Bangladesh Penal Code, the prosecution counsel contended that as all the 15 army officers convicted in the case had a common intention and executed the killing plot together, all of them are equally guilty.

The prosecution counsel is actually now submitting the matters in view of law points as to how all the death sentences given by the lower court were very much correct and authentic.

Dhaka District and Sessions Judge Kazi Golar Rasul, after one and a half years of hearings, passed verdict in the case on November 8, 1998 sentencing to death the 15 army officers for killing Bangabandhu along with his family members on August 15, 1975.

Of the 15 condemned, four are in Dhaka Central Jail. They are Col Syed Farooq Rahman, Col Shariyar Rashid Khan, Maj Mohiuddin Ahmed and Maj Bazul Huda.

Eleven others are on the run abroad and the government is trying to bring them to justice.

The chief prosecution counsel, Serajul Huq, was assisted by DAG Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik, AAG Anisul Huq, AAG Mosharraf Hossain Kajol, AAG Haider Ali, AAG Towfiq Karim and Advocate Khujir Hayat Liza.

The death-reference bench comprising Justice Ruhul Amin and Justice A B M Khairul Huq will continue hearing on Sunday on the question of confirming the death sentences against 15 convicted officers.

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Nov 24		5.11 pm
Nov 25	6-20 am	

Prayer Timings		
November 24		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-15	5-45
Juma	12-15	1-20
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-18	5-23
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

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১২২-১২৪, মতিঝিল বা/এলাকা, ঢাকা-১০০০

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ক্রম-১ : ডিআইটিএফ-২০০১ (২০ জানুয়ারি - ১৯ ফেব্রুয়ারি, ২০০১)-এর মেলা মাঠে প্রবেশ টিকেট ইজারা। ইজারা সর্বনিম্ন মূল্যঃ ১,১৩,২৬,০০০/- (এক কোটি তের লক্ষ হাকিশ হাজার তিশত) টাকা (উদ্ধৃত মূল্যের উপর ১৫% ভ্যাট ও ৩% আয়কর ব্যতীত)।

ক্রম-২ : ডিআইটিএফ-২০০১ (২০ জানুয়ারি - ১৯ ফেব্রুয়ারি, ২০০১)-এর মেলা মাঠে কার পার্কিং ইজারা। ইজারার সর্বনিম্ন মূল্যঃ ৯,০১,০০০/- (সাত লক্ষ এক হাজার) টাকা (উদ্ধৃত মূল্যের উপর ১৫% ভ্যাট ও ৩% আয়কর ব্যতীত)।

ক্রম-৩ : ডিআইটিএফ-২০০১ (২০ জানুয়ারি - ১৯ ফেব্রুয়ারি, ২০০১)-এর মেলা মাঠে অভ্যন্তরীণ মাইকিং ইজারা। ইজারার সর্বনিম্ন মূল্যঃ ১৬,৯৯,৯৯৯/- (ষোল লক্ষ নিরানব্বই হাজার নয়শত নিরানব্বই) টাকা (উদ্ধৃত মূল্যের উপর ১৫% ভ্যাট ও ৩% আয়কর ব্যতীত)।

ক্রম-৪ : ডিআইটিএফ-২০০১ (২০ জানুয়ারি - ১৯ ফেব্রুয়ারি, ২০০১)-এর মেলা মাঠে টয়লেট ইজারা। ইজারার সর্বনিম্ন মূল্যঃ ২,০৫,০০০/- (দুই লক্ষ পাঁচ হাজার) টাকা (উদ্ধৃত মূল্যের উপর ১৫% ভ্যাট ও ৩% আয়কর ব্যতীত)।

উপরে বর্ণিত ৪ (চার) ক্রমের কাজের জন্য প্রতিষ্ঠিত ও নির্ভরযোগ্য প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হইতে আগামী ০৫.১২.২০০০ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে দরপত্র আহান করা যাইতেছে। দরপত্রসমূহ অতিরিক্ত বিভাগীয় কমিশনার (সার্বিক)-এর অফিস কক্ষে (১ম ১২ তলা সরকারী অফিস ভবন, ৩য় তলা, কক্ষ নং-৩০৩, সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা) বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রণালয়ের মেলা সেল (ভবন নং-৩, কক্ষ নং-১৩২, দ্বিতীয় তলা, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা) এবং রঙানী উন্নয়ন ব্যুরোর মেলা সচিবালয়ে রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বাক্সে ০৩.১২.২০০০ইং তারিখ (অফিস চলাকালীন সময়) হইতে ০৫.১২.২০০০ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে প্রতিটি কাজের জন্য পৃথক পৃথকভাবে সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র দাখিল করিতে হইবে।

২। দরপত্রের সহিত উদ্ধৃত মূল্যের ৫ ভাগ জমানত হিসাবে "ঢাকা আন্তর্জাতিক বাণিজ্য মেলা তহবিল" শিরোনামে পে-অর্ডার/ডিমাত ড্রাফট এর মাধ্যমে দাখিল করিতে হইবে।

৩। ইজারাপ্রাপ্ত প্রতিষ্ঠানকে উদ্ধৃত মূল্যের উপর সরকার কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত ১৫% ভ্যাট ও ৩% আয়কর ইজারা মূল্যের সাথে "ঢাকা আন্তর্জাতিক বাণিজ্য মেলা তহবিল" শিরোনামে পে-অর্ডার/ডিমাত ড্রাফট-এর মাধ্যমে মেলা কর্তৃপক্ষের নিকট জমা করিতে হইবে।

৪। দাখিলকৃত দরপত্রসমূহ ০৫.১২.২০০০ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২.৩০ মিনিটে উল্লিখিত তিনটি স্থানের প্রতিটি দরপত্রদাতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকে) খোলা হইবে।

৫। আগামী ০৪.১২.২০০০ইং তারিখ বিকাল ৫.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত উল্লিখিত তিনটি অফিসের যে কোন একটি অফিস হইতে প্রবেশ টিকেট ও অভ্যন্তরীণ মাইকিং ইজারার ক্ষেত্রে নগদ টাঃ ৫৫০.০০ (সাতশত পঞ্চাশ) হারে (অফেরতযোগ্য) এবং কার পার্কিং ও টয়লেট ইজারার ক্ষেত্রে টাঃ ৪০০.০০ (চারশত) হারে (অফেরতযোগ্য) সিডিউল ক্রয় করা যাইবে।

৬। প্রতিটি কাজের জন্য নির্ধারিত মূল্যের নিম্নে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণযোগ্য হইবে না।

৭। মেলা কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার সকল ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

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