

New billing system likely to plunge BTTB into fresh crisis

MUSTAK HOSSAIN

The Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB), which has just emerged from its billing crisis, is likely to plunge into the same problem again due to its newly initiated billing programme.

Under the programme, the country has been divided into four zones: Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi, for which four separate companies will prepare bills, sources said.

Each firm will prepare about 1.5 lakh bills for the BTTB subscribers.

The move to prepare zonal bills would create intractable technical difficulties as the BTTB does not have any unified data-recording centres for International Subscrib-

ers Dialling (ISD), a source said. At present, the BTTB keeps records of ISD calls at Maghbazar and Mahakhali International Trunk Exchanges (ITXs), so making it difficult for the four separate companies to retrieve data of the two different exchanges.

In a move to resolve the problem, the BTTB has proposed that each company will prepare ISD bills for a three-month cycle. Of about six lakh BTTB subscribers, several thousands are ISD.

"The BTTB has selected four participating companies in the tender floated in June to prepare monthly telephone bills from January next year," a top official of the Department of Revenue, BTTB, told The Daily Star.

The official said the BTTB has forwarded the proposal to the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications for approval, and agreements are supposed to be signed with the bidders before long.

He said the BTTB does not see many problems as the ITX data will be supplied to the bill-preparing companies in compact discs (CDs) so that the companies can retrieve the data without any difficulty.

The companies have already been asked to collect data from the BTTB to develop software and prepare trial bills.

In the tender, private companies have agreed to prepare bills at the rate of Tk 2.20 per bill against the current rate of Tk 3.5. The companies will arrange a bank

guarantee of Tk 20 lakh each against its performance.

The one-year initial contract for bill preparation will be extended further on the basis of the companies' performance.

The BTTB does not have any plan to prepare monthly subscriber bills on its own despite having some in-built facilities at its exchanges, officials said.

By contrast, private cellular phone operators prepare monthly subscriber bills on their own.

The BTTB lagged about three months behind in sending monthly bills after it terminated the contract with Lithi Enterprises, a private firm, last year, and entered into a contract with the Computer Centre of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET).

Sources said the BTTB might encounter another billing crisis after its decision to award the highly technical job to four inexperienced firms by sidelining experienced bill-preparing firms through a clause in the tender.

The government faced a huge shortfall in foreign exchange since the BTTB could not settle its accounts with foreign operators and private cell phone operators due to the billing crisis.

Anniversary of Comrade Haq's death today

UNB, Dhaka

The sixth anniversary of death of communist leader Comrade Abdul Haq will be observed today.

On the occasion, various left-leaning organisations have drawn up elaborate programmes.

The National Committee to Observe Death Anniversary of Comrade Haq will hold a discussion at Jatiya Press Club on December 24.

Comrade Abdul Haq was born at Kharki in Jessore Sadar on December 23, 1920.

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Kazi Latifa Haq passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Kazi Latifa Haq, a renowned poet, lyricist and short story writer, passed away at her residence in the city yesterday at the age of 70.

Author of 'Chharamala', 'Kanak Lata' and 'Galpaguchcha', Kazi Latifa composed the lyrics of the popular song 'Aaj Putulor Gayee Holud, Kal Putulor Biye.'

The late poet was also involved in social welfare activities. She was the founder-president of Metropolitan Lions Club and established a day-care centre at Bhajahari Saha Street in the old part of the city.

Wife of late Kazi Nazmul Haq, a sports organiser and editor of weekly 'Kafela', Kazi Latifa is survived by four sons and a host of relatives.

She was buried at Banani graveyard after a *namaj-e-janaza* at Masjid-e-Takwa at Dhanmondi. Her *qulshuani* will be held at her residence at House No. 766, Satmasjid Road, after *Asr* prayers on Monday.

Meanwhile, Awami League president and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina in a condolence message expressed profound shock at the death of Kazi Latifa Haq.



The Shishu Park drew a large number of visitors yesterday as the Eid festivity is still in the air. PHOTO STAR

Saifur tells Moulvibazar meeting BNP to face defeat like AL if it fails to establish rule of law

UNB, Sylhet

Finance and Planning Minister Saifur Rahman finds his job difficult as he said the Awami League government led a ruined economy and an empty exchequer behind.

"The Awami League government left the country in chaos in every sphere. It is not an easy task to tackle the situation created by them," he told a function here yesterday.

Addressing an Eid-reunion programme organised by the district BNP at Sylhet auditorium, the minister elaborated on the development programmes drawn up for the region.

At a meeting in Moulvibazar, meanwhile, he said the ruling BNP would have to face defeat like Awami League if the government failed to establish the rule of law and work for development of the country.

"The people of this country are now much conscious. They do not mistake in making the right deci-

sion," he said while addressing the exchange-of-views meeting of the district law-and-order committee in Moulvibazar.

He noted that it is not possible to implement development activities if the country's law and order situation does not remain normal.

Expressing satisfaction over better law and order in Moulvibazar, the minister said stern action would be taken against people, whatever party they belong to, who would unleash terrorism.

Blaming the Awami League for incomplete development activities in the district, he alleged that this party did not do any work for the country's development.

The finance minister also assured of setting up of an engineering college in the district and upgrading of the district to A-grade one.

Chaired by DC Mokhesur Rahman, the meeting was attended by, among others, State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Ebadur Rahman

Chowdhury, M M Shaheen MP and former MP Khaleda Rabbani.

At the Eid-reunion in Sylhet, the finance minister elaborated on the development programmes drawn up by their government for the region.

He asked the authorities concerned to complete the construction of roads, bridges and culverts as well as rural infrastructure development programmes before the rainy season.

The minister said IDB allocated Tk 60 crore for development programmes in Sylhet and the work would begin next week.

The construction of Bhairab Bridge would complete within eight months and several other bridges be built, including one on the Surma River, he added.

The function was also addressed by State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfuzzaman Babar, Shafi Ahmed Chowdhury MP and Dildar Hossain Selim MP with district BNP vice-president Nurul Haq in the chair.

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★ Total cost : Tk. 1,15,000.00 (One lac fifteen thousand) only.
★ Application form and prospectus will be available from the department on payment of Tk. 200.00 only.

For further information, please contact : House # 47/A, Road # 12/A (New) Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka. Tel : 018280828

RHD Notice Inviting Tenders

- Tender Notice No : 04/SRD/2001-2002.
- Name of work : Construction of 3x6.10m span 9.76m width 6.10m height RCC box culvert at different KM of rent gap on Pagla-Jagannathpur-Raniganj-Auskandi road under Sunamganj Road Division during the year 2001-2002.
- Estimated cost : As per group list.
- Earnest money : -do-
- Time allowed : -do-
- Eligibility of contractors : -do-
- Name of the offices where tender document will be available : Undersigned/Divisional Commissioner, Sylhet/Executive Engineer (RHD), Road Division/Sylhet/M Bazar/Hobiganj Planning & Design Division, Comilla/Planning Division (P&D), Dhaka/Sub-Divisional Engineer (RHD), Road Division, Sunamganj/Chhatak/Mechanical Sunamganj.
- Name of the officers who received tenders : Undersigned/Addl Chief Engineer (RHD), Comilla Zone, Comilla/Divisional Commissioner, Sylhet/Superintending Engineer (RHD), Road Circle, Sylhet/Procurement & Monitoring Circle, Dhaka.
- Tender will be opened by : Undersigned office.
- Last date of selling tenders : At 4:00 PM of 28-1-2002.
- Last date of received tenders : At 12:30 PM of 29-1-2002.
- Date & time of opening tenders : At 12:30 PM of 2-2-2002.
- Date & time of lottery (if needed) : At 12:00 Noon of 5-2-2002.
- Group list-

Gr No	Name of work & location	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time allowed	Eligibility of contractor
I (one)	Construction of 3x6.10m span 9.76m width 6.10m height RCC box culvert at 10 th M gap No 10/1 of Pagla -Jagannathpur-Raniganj Auskandi Road	46,72,264/-	93,445/-	90 (ninety) days	"A" to "D" special category of RHD.
II (two)	-do- 17 th KM 17/1 -do-	46,72,264/-	93,445/-	-do-	-do-
III (three)	-do- 19 th KM 19/1 -do-	46,72,264/-	93,445/-	-do-	-do-
IV (four)	-do- 24 th KM 24/2 -do-	48,90,871/-	97,817/-	-do-	-do-
V (five)	-do- 24 th KM 24/4 -do-	48,90,871/-	97,817/-	-do-	-do-
VI (six)	-do- 26 th KM 26/1 -do-	48,90,871/-	97,817/-	-do-	-do-
VII (seven)	-do- 27 th KM 27/1 -do-	48,90,871/-	97,817/-	-do-	-do-

Md Golam Rahman
Executive Engineer (RHD)
Sunamganj Road Division.
DFP-31141-15/12
G-2329

DHAKA TODAY

FEJB seminar
Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB) will hold a seminar on 'Banning the use of Polythene Bags in Dhaka City: Implementation Strategy' with Environment Minister Shahjahan Siraj as chief guest. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:30 pm.

Seminar on bird
Bangladesh Bird Club organises a seminar on birds where experts from home and abroad will speak. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

Rotary Club meeting
The regular meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: Roche Bangladesh Ltd. House No. 22, Road No. 02, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka. Time: 1:30 pm.

Classical music evening
Anil Kumar Saha and Dipon Sarkar will perform at the Classical Music Evening organised by the Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Venue: Alliance Francaise gallery. Time: 8:00 pm.

WEATHER TODAY

Light rain or drizzle likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light rain or drizzle may occur at one or two places over Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Barisal divisions and weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country today.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins of the country during morning. Met office said adding night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Country's highest temperature 29.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chittagong and the lowest 11.4 degree at Srirongal.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5.17 pm and rises on Sunday at 6:38 am.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity in the main cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	23.6	15.0	94	79
Chittagong	29.2	16.0	80	78
Rajshahi	21.5	13.5	91	68
Khulna	23.6	13.6	59	86
Barisal	26.0	14.7	98	90
Sylhet	25.2	14.1	82	82
Cox's Bazar	27.5	17.8	83	74

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
PWD Division, Jessore

Notice Inviting Tender
No 53/2001-2002

Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No 2911 are hereby invited from the approved building contractor/firms under PWD for the undermentioned work as per terms and conditions as stated below.

- Name of work : Conversion of 54 Nos existing Sarkari Shishu Sadan into Shishu Paribar (Phase-II) under the scheme one at Jessore for girls. (SH: Construction of boundary wall).
- Estimated cost : Tk 15,58,334/-only.
- Earnest money : Tk 31,167/-only.
- Last date of selling tender : 13-1-2002.
- Receiving & opening date of tender : 14-1-2002.
- Time allowed for completion of work : 4 (four) months.
- Name of offices from where tender documents can be purchased : All the offices of the Executive Engineer under PWD Zone, Khulna, selected PWD Division of PWD Zone, Dhaka/Chittagong/Rajshahi, PWD Eden Building Division, Dhaka, PWD Division-2, Dhaka, Divisional Commissioner, Khulna and Jessore PWD Sub-Division-I/II/EM, Jessore.
- Name of offices from where tender documents can be submitted : All the offices of the Executive Engineer under PWD Circle, Jessore, Khulna PWD Division-1/2, Khulna, PWD Division, Barisal/Patuakhali, selected PWD Division of PWD Zone, Dhaka/Chittagong/Rajshahi, PWD Eden Bldg. Division, Dhaka, PWD Division-2, Dhaka, Divisional Commissioner, Khulna and Jessore PWD Sub-Division-I/II/EM, Jessore.
- Eligibility of the : Valid enlisted building contractors/firms under PWD for purchasing according to their financial limit.
- Date of lottery (if necessary) : 10-2-2002 at 11:00 AM.
- The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason.

Kazi Monzurul Haque
Executive Engineer
PWD Division, Jessore
DFP-30976-12/12
G-2323
Phone: 73395