

Volvo buses will run on city streets soon

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) is launching 120-seat Volvo single decker passenger buses in the capital city under the cooperation of the Swedish government and the Swiss International Development Agency (SIDA).

Five Volvo buses with 120-seat capacity each will ply on Dhaka's streets from this month and 50 more will be launched in March, BRTC officials said at a workshop on BRTC Volvo Joint Bus Support Project yesterday.

Communications Minister Barrister Najmul Huda opening the workshop thanked the Swedish government for providing its support to this project and said the communications, passengers and economy would greatly benefit if the Volvo bus could be operated all over the country gradually.

"We will bring the country's whole communications sector within a sustainable, infrastructural and disciplinary order as we have already done in Dhaka city," he said, adding that the BRTC would gradually introduce Volvo

bus service all over the country.

Barrister Huda referred to the recent improved vehicular traffic management in the capital city and said the people, both urban and rural, heaved a sigh of relief due to various steps implemented by the present government.

He asked the BRTC authorities to generate dynamism in the activities of bus drivers, officials and employees in the greater national interest.

"BRTC has suffered a lot due to indiscipline in the past while we after coming to power have made it acceptable to all," the communications minister said hoping that the transport owners would regard BRTC as a model.

Secretary of the Road and Rail Division Sayed Rezaul Hayat, Swedish Ambassador to Bangladesh Borje Hultson, BRTC Chairman Taimur Alam Khandaker and Volvo's Company Consultant Michael Quate also addressed the opening session.

Taimur Alam Khandaker said the launching of Volvo bus would, in fact, bring about a positive change in the country's socio-economic life.



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia exchanging greetings with the Hajj pilgrims after inaugurating Hajj flight operation at the Zia International Airport yesterday.

8 dev projects involving Tk 296cr okayed

BSS, Dhaka

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (EC-NEC) yesterday approved eight development projects involving Tk 296.02 crore with Tk 26.45 crore as project assistance.

Alternative Chairman of the EC-NEC and Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman chaired the meeting at the NEC conference room at Sher-e-Banglanagar.

The approved projects include Publication, Translation, Research and Dictionary project under the Ministry of Religious Affairs, National Heart Foundation Hospital (second and last phase) under the Social Welfare Ministry, Expansion of Terminal Building of Zia International Airport (Amended) project under the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism, Interim project (fourth and amended) for development of water distribution system under the Local Government Division, and Development and Renovation of affected

roads of Dhaka city with Asphalt Plant.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Textiles Minister Abdul Motin Chowdhury, Agriculture Minister Motiur Rahman Nizami, Industries Minister M K Anwar, Fisheries and Livestock Minister Sadeq Hossain Khoka, Post and Telecommunications Minister Muhammad Aminul Haque, Jute Minister Hafiz Uddin Ahmed Bir Bikram, Education Minister Dr Osman Faruque, Social Welfare Minister Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mujahid, State Minister for Religious Affairs Mosharrar Hossain Shahjahan, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin attended the meeting.

Members of the Planning Commission, ERD Secretary, Planning Secretary, IMID Secretary, Finance Secretary and secretaries concerned were also present.



Giersing new Representative of UNICEF

Morten Giering assumed the responsibility of UNICEF's new Representative in Bangladesh yesterday, says a press release.

Prior to his relocation to Bangladesh, he served as the UNICEF Representative in Hanoi, Vietnam.

With a rich and diversified experience at senior positions in UNICEF, UNESCO, and the University of Copenhagen, Giering's posting in Bangladesh illustrates UNICEF's continued resolve to offer priority attention to the situation of children and women.

Police club 10 Shibir activists on CU campus

CU CORRESPONDENT

At least 10 Shibir activists were injured as police clubbed them at the university gate no 1 yesterday morning.

The Shibir activists staged a sit-in under the banner of "General Students Parishad" (GSP) on the Chittagong Rangamati road and put up a barricade demanding an end to the standoff at the university.

Police beat the Shibir activists and removed the barricade.

New JUTA executives

JU CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Pro-BNP and pro-Jamaat teachers swept the Jahangirnagar University Teachers' Association (JUTA) election yesterday bagging nine out of 15 posts, including those of president and general secretary.

Prof. Amin Mohammad Ali (Economics) and Shamsul Alam Selim (Government and Politics) were elected president and general secretary respectively.

The other elected members of the pro-BNP and pro-Jamaat panel are Mostafa Najmul Mansoor (joint secretary), and executive members Prof. Khondoker Muzammil Haq, Shajed Ashraf Karim, Dr. Fahmina Ahmed, Farooq Ahmed, Mafroohi Sattar Tito and M Kamrul Islam Rubel.

Winners of the pro-AL teachers' panel are Prof. Abul Khayer (vice president), Prof. Abul Hossen (treasurer), and executive members Prof. Hasina Matin, Dr. Mahnuda Gani Ahmed, Prof. Ajit Kumar Majumder and Dr. M Hanif Ali.

Of the listed 273 voters, 260 showed up to cast their votes in the election held at the University Club from 9am to 1pm yesterday.

Dr. Fahmina Ahmed (Philosophy) bagged the highest 146 votes.

Prof. Amin Mohammad Ali, the new president, bagged 135 votes while the other contender Prof. MA Matin got 122 votes. Newly elected general secretary Shamsul Islam Selim got 137 votes defeating his rival Ahmed Reza who got 122 votes.

Ctg journalists protest threat on life of reporter

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Journalists and newspaper employees working in Chittagong launches a five-day agitation programme here today protesting the threat on the life of a senior reporter of Prothom Alo at Sitakunda and brutal attack on his brother by the local criminals.

They took the decision at a meeting of the Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ) Correspondents' Unit here yesterday.

As part of the programme, a rally will be held at local press club at 11am from where the next course of action will be announced.

At the meeting, the journalist leaders strongly resented that the culprits were roaming about freely threatening the reporter and his family members despite the assurances by top police officials that the criminals would be arrested immediately.

They said, the DIG and the Police Super gave the assurance when the journalist leaders called on them on January 16. But the assurance proved to be mere words of consolation as the criminals are still at large, they alleged.

Held at the Prothom Alo Chittagong Office, the meeting was addressed by CUJ President Muhammad Idris, Resident Editor of the Prothom Alo Abul Momen, former CUJ president M Nasirul Haq, CUJ General Secretary Asif Siraj, Press Club Joint-Secretary Ashoke Chowdhury, Nurul Amin, Devprashad Debu, Jasim Chowdhury Sabuj, Bishwajit Chowdhury, Shahidul Islam, Rafiqul Bahar, Najimuddin Shyamol and Ekramul Haq Bulbul.

Baridhara drain reconnected with Gulshan Lake

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Officials of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) on Tuesday reconnected the Baridhara drain with the Gulshan lake despite resistance from members of the Amartya Anglers Association who said fishes might die due to toxicity in the waste water.

The drain was previously disconnected after contamination of the lake water in which thousands of fishes died few weeks ago. But soon the liquid waste started to flow over the roads emitting stench in the area.

Following reports in The Daily Star, the DCC officials went to the spot and connected the drain with the lake removing water logging from Road-11 of Baridhara.

But members of the anglers association who invested lakhs of taka for fish cultivation in the lake said they fear that the toxic waste would kill fishes.

There are more than 100 surface drains flowing into the Gulshan-Baridhara-Bahar lake. Many of these drains are connected to industrial waste outlets of the Biswa Road.

Garment worker gangraped in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A garment worker was gangraped by hoodlums at Chowdhurypara in the city's Ramna area yesterday.

A gang of eight led by one Sani abducted the victim aged about 18 from in front of a garment factory at Chowdhurypara at about 9 pm on Tuesday. They took her to a place nearby and raped her, leaving the victim in an unconscious state.

Trafficking and sexual abuse Changes in social reintegration process of child survivors suggested

UNB, Dhaka

Speakers at a regional workshop yesterday suggested rethinking the social reintegration process of the child survivors of trafficking and sexual abuse to rehabilitate them properly.

They also called for considering the choice of survivors taking into account various options of their social reintegration with the objective of checking recurrence of such incidents in future.

The options include foster parenting, reunion with families of relatives, alternative living arrangements in orphanages or shelter homes and job placements.

The speakers were exchanging views during the two-day regional workshop on 'Rethinking Social Reintegration of the Child Victims of Trafficking and Sexual Abuse: South Asian Perspective' that began at the BRAC Center yesterday.

Representatives from Pakistan, Nepal, India and host Bangladesh are taking part in the workshop organised under Child Labour, Prostitution and Trafficking Programme of Save the Children Denmark Regional Office for South Asia.

On the inaugural day, participants presented their country papers where they identified poverty, illiteracy, urbanisation, globalisation, and lack of awareness and sensitization against trafficking as similar problems in their respective countries.

A number of child survivors of trafficking and sexual abuse who have taken shelter in different shelter homes also shared their views on the issue. They blamed the social system for their present condition and wanted to become self-reliant.

"If we go home without being a capable earning member, other family members may undermine us," said Putul (not her real name), pointing out the negative social impact on the survivors.

The participants stressed on issues like psycho-social counselling, occupational and educational rehabilitation, legal assistance and medical help for the survivors, and constant monitoring of each case after reintegration to ensure sustainability.

Regional Representative of International Organisation for Migration Shahidul Haq attended the workshop as chief guest while Chief Technical Advisor ILO-IPEC Trafficking in Children South Asia Tine Staeremose was present as special guest.

Executive Director of Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA) Adv Salma Ali, AKM Masud Ali and Dewau Sohrab Uddin, also spoke on the occasion.

The chief guest hoped that the workshop would come out with a new paradigm to replace the existing way of social reintegration of the child survivors so that recurrence of child trafficking and sexual abuse do not take place.

For this, the existing problems should be evaluated properly by looking into the entire process which is not an easy task, he said and hoped that an integrated programme would come out from the regional workshop as child trafficking and their sexual abuse are not limited in a boundary.

Tine Staeremose termed the issue a challenging task as giving the survivors non-abusive self-chosen life is very difficult. She said protection to the victim, their families and to the NGOs are equally important areas needing attention.

Focusing on the potentials and motivation of the individual child, she said motivation can pave the way for enlarging the chances for successful reintegration.

Salma Ali said SAARC Convention on preventing and combating trafficking in women and children for prostitution signed in 11 SAARC Summit in Kathmandu created the hope for the better process of repatriation of the victims of trafficking.

Manabendra Mandal of India, in his country paper, claimed that all cases are not trafficking, rather illegal migration.

He pointed out three levels for reintegration - mobilising programmes for changing attitude at society level, providing trained staff in shelter homes at state level and preparing family by utilising the local administration including police and judicial system.

Gauri Pradhan of Nepal, in his country presentation, stressed on taking the responsibility of the survivors by both countries - country of sufferers and recipients - in repatriation and social integration and providing enough compensation to the survivors.

Most of the trafficked children work as domestic servants in Pakistan, said Khalida Selimi of the South Asian country, adding that the government is yet to enact special laws to regulate this informal work.

Presenting the country paper of Bangladesh, Salma Sarwar, Director of Association of Community Development (ACD), said globalisation has made women and girls more vulnerable to trafficking and sexual abuse.

She also recommended creating regional resource centre on trafficking women and girls with SAARC support and signing bilateral agreement among the SAARC countries to check trafficking and violence against the child and woman.

CPA opens new container yard, truck terminal

BSS, Ctg

Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) yesterday formally commissioned a 10,000 square metre container yard inside the port and a truck terminal on 3.82 acres of land at Nimtala.

Labour and Employment Minister 'Abdullah Al Noman' inaugurated the truck terminal while Shipping Minister Lt Colonel (Retd) Akbar Hossain the container yard in the afternoon.

Chairman of Chittagong Port Authority Commodore Ghulam Rabbani, representatives of the port users' association, and senior officials were present on the occasion.

Abdullah Al Noman said the port facilities were enhanced for the business community in line with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's 100-day programme for development of export and import trade.

The minister said the 3.82-acre truck terminal would ensure parking facilities to 300 trucks and covered vans. The minister said the government would take every possible step for development of the Chittagong port.

The government is sincere to promote commercial activities in the city to popularise Chittagong as "commercial capital of the country," the minister said.

Shipping Minister Lt Colonel (Retd) Akbar Hossain said the existing complications in the Chittagong port would be removed as early as possible to make it a disciplined port.

He said efforts are underway for construction of a modern container terminal in the New-mooring area.

WANTED

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Industrial Development & Modernisation Project for the Physically Handicapped

Directorate of Social Service, Station Road, Tongi, Gazipur

Memo No DSW/IDMT-27(B)315(4)/2001 Dated: 31-12-2001/17-9-1408BS

Tender Notice

Tenders in sealed cover are invited from past experienced reputed suppliers/importers/manufacturers/nominated agents/dealers for purchase of automatic plastic injection moulding machine, automatic blow moulding machine, co-extrusion sheet plant, crushing machine, mixture machine, fork lift, computer set, 7oz crystal clear plastic automatic glass mould and thermoforming moulds and from only manufacturing firms (having own mould manufacturing factory) for purchase of locally made various types plastic injection & blow moulds subject to receipt of requisite fund allotment in Annual Development Programme (ADP) for the development project titled "Industrial Development & Modernisation for the Physically Handicapped" at Tongi during the current financial year under the Directorate of Social Service.

Group No	Description	Quantity/number	Price of tender schedule per set
1	2	3	4
Group-A	300, 70 & 50 ton clamping force capacity automatic plastic injection moulding machine.	3 (three) unit.	Tk 750/- (Seven hundred fifty) only.
Group-B	Automatic blow moulding machine 1000 cc (single head), 400 cc (double head) (with accessories)	2 (two) unit.	Tk 750/- (Seven hundred fifty) only.
Group-C	Co-extrusion sheet plant (with accessories).	6 (six) unit.	Tk 750/- (Seven hundred fifty) only.
Group-D	1) Crushing machine 2) Mixture machine 3) Fork lift (battery operated)	1 (one) unit 1 (one) unit 1 (one) unit	Tk 750/- (Seven hundred fifty) only.
Group-E	Computer machine (with printer).	2 (two) unit	Tk 400/- (Four hundred) only.
Group-F	1) 7oz crystal clear plastic automatic glass mould (with hot runner & control unit). 2) Thermoforming mould (of various types & designs).	1 set 5 set	Tk 750/- (Seven hundred fifty) only.
Group-G	Locally made plastic injection & blow moulds (of various types & designs)	19 set	Tk 750/- (Seven hundred fifty) only.

Tender schedule consisting terms & conditions can be collected from office of the undersigned, Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Commissioner Building, Segunbagicha, Dhaka & Director General, Directorate of Social Service, Samajseva Bhaban, 1st floor, Planning Section, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka, subject to deposit of challan of paying the price of schedule under head Code No 1-2931-0000-2681 through treasury challan during office hours after publication of the Tender Notice up to 30-01-2002. Earnest money (refundable) at the rate 2% of the quoted amount should be enclosed with the tender in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft from any scheduled bank in favour of the "Project Director". Tender should be deposited in tender box kept at the office of the undersigned, Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Commissioner Building, Segunbagicha, Dhaka & Office of the Director General, Directorate of Social Service by 12.00 Noon of 31-01-2002 and tender box will be opened on the same day at 2.00 PM at the conference room of Samajseva Bhaban, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in presence (if any) of the tenderers.

The tender committee reserves the overall right to accept or reject all or any tender without assigning any reason.

M H M Abed
Project Director
Industrial Development & Modernisation Project for the Physically Handicapped
Directorate of Social Service
Station Road, Tongi, Gazipur.
Phone: 9801489, 9801167, 9800302

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Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration & Production Company Limited (BAPEX)

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Material Control Division

Shahjalal Tower (7th Floor), 80/A-B Siddeshwari Circular Road, Dhaka-1217, Bangladesh

International Tender Notice

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Invitation for Bid (IFB) for procurement of casing shoe, stinger, liner packer & pump down plug for Fenchuganj Gas Field Development Project under Cash Foreign Exchange.

Date of issuance of tender: 16-01-2002

- Sealed bids are hereby invited from the bonafide manufacturers or their authorised agent for supply of materials & equipment as listed below under cash foreign exchange.

SI No	International tender No	Brief description of material	Cost of tender documents	Bid closing date
1.	BAPEX/MCD/INT/TE N-231/2002	Casing shoe, stinger, liner packer & pump down plug.	Tk 750.00 or US\$ 15.00 (non-refundable)	16-03-2002.

- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from General Manager (MCD) at the above address.
- Tender documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder or through their authorised representative upon payment of the cost of documents from Accounts Division of this Company at Shahjalal Tower (3rd Floor), 80/A-B Siddeshwari Circular Road, Dhaka-1217, Bangladesh from 09.00 hrs to 13.00 hrs on all working days with effect from 02-02-2002. No documents will be sold on the bid closing date.
- All bids accompanied by a bid security for 2.5% of total amount in the form of Bank Guarantee, Bank Draft or Pay Order from any scheduled bank located in Bangladesh or from any reputable foreign bank duly issued by a scheduled bank in Bangladesh must be delivered to the above address on or before 11.00 hrs of the closing date. The bids will be opened on the same day at 11.15 hrs in presence of bidders (if any). Should this day happens to fall on any holiday bids shall be opened at the same hours on the first subsequent working day.
- The company reserves the right to accept any bid or reject all the bids without assigning any reason whatsoever.

DFP-1379-19/1/02
G-199

General Manager
Materials Control Division