

CTG MOHARA WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

Glitch in tender process delaying award of contract

ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD, Ctg

A delay in awarding contract for the construction of Mohara Water Supply Project of Chittagong Water and Sewerage Authority (CWASA) is lingering the plight of about 40 lakh residents of the port city reeling under an acute water crisis.

The government financed Tk 197.96 crore project was taken up since CWASA with its present water producing capacity of 180mld (million litres per day) is not being able to meet the demand for over

500mld of water.

The new plant would ease the water crisis by producing an additional 90mld of water.

Having the project on the government's priority list the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Ecne) approved it in September 2003 and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia laid the foundation at the project site on October 6, 2003.

The project has been caught up in a bureaucratic tangle resulting from the tender invitation and evaluation process, since it was placed

before the Cabinet Purchase Committee meeting held in the capital on February 1 this year, sources said.

The technical evaluation committee (TEC) of the project sent the bids to the Cabinet Purchase Committee in late January this year after the pre-qualification and two other stages of the tendering process that started in May last year.

TEC recommended accepting the lowest bid offered by

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A CNG filling station at Karwan Bazar in the capital closes its entrance with chains yesterday as power outages several times a day disrupt its operation.

PHOTO: STAR

Hearing to frame charges against Sunny deferred for fifth time

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court could not frame charges against military commander of banned Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) Ataur Rahman Sunny and 10 others in two cases as five accused, including Sunny, were not produced before it yesterday.

The two cases were filed with Paltan and Khilgaon police stations under the Explosive Substances Act at different dates last year.

Judge Mohammad Shamsul Alam Khan of the First Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court fixed June 8 for framing charges against the accused and directed the authorities concerned to produce Sunny and others before it on that day.

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The Second Buriganga Bridge at Badamtoli in the capital has virtually turned into a parking lot as a large number of buses, trucks and autorickshaws queue up with the law enforcers turning a blind eye to this illegal practice.

HEROIN SMUGGLING Probe team plans foolproof report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The five-member probe team into the heroin smuggling to the UK is preparing a detailed report to submit along with ample evidence to the home ministry to make it impossible for the traffickers to evade punishment.

"We intend to prepare a comprehensive report, so that officers who will investigate the case later cannot mislead it and the real culprits are duly punished," said a member of the CID-led team on condition of anonymity.

The investigation report was scheduled to be submitted yesterday. But the team missed the deadline, as it is still working on the report.

However, the probe team member said they do not have to seek a time extension from the home

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WB for free NGO body, public disclosure of audit reports

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The World Bank has suggested setting up an independent NGO Commission, making public disclosure of their audit reports and forming a uniform regulatory framework for them.

The bank made the suggestions in a report titled "Economics and Governance of NGOs in Bangladesh" that was released yesterday at the bank's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar office in Dhaka.

"We have proposed establishing the commission as an effective

option to regulate NGO activities," said Dr Shantanayana Devarajan, chief economist of the WB's South Asia region.

The WB report praised the NGOs' contributions to health, education, women empowerment and many other sectors in Bangladesh over the last two decades or so.

Chief author of the report Hasan Zaman who presented the report later told reporters that the NGOs should not get involved in politics.

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US resumes full ties with Libya

REUTERS, Washington

The United States restored full diplomatic ties with Libya on Monday, rewarding the longtime pariah nation for scrapping its weapons of mass destruction programmes and signalling incentives for Iran and North Korea if they do the same.

Culminating a years-long rapprochement with the Opec member, Washington will reopen an embassy and remove Libya from a list of state sponsors of terrorism within 45 days.

US-Libya relations turned around after Tripoli decided in December 2003 to give up its weapons programme, and the two

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Population programme a serious challenge

UNFPA executive director tells The Daily Star

MONJUR MAHMUD

Higher maternal mortality is a shame on any government in a country and it is an indicator showing the gap between the rich and poor countries as well as the situation within a country, observed UNFPA Executive Director Thoraya Ahmed Obaid.

"Bangladesh is moving forward but facing serious challenges in population programme. Around 14,000 Bangladeshi women die

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Thoraya Ahmed Obaid

Bogra cops sue 33 more opposition activists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Police yesterday filed another case against 33 leaders and activists of 14-party opposition alliance including Shazanpur Jubo League president yesterday for their alleged involvement in ransacking vehicles on Dhaka-Bogra highway Sunday evening.

Sub-inspector (SI) Masudur Rahman, the complainant of the case, said a group of opposition activists blocked the highway and ransacked a number of vehicles. Sources said the opposition party leaders and activists were protesting the filing of false cases against them.

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BNP cadres beat AL man to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Cadres of ruling BNP beat to death an Awami League activist at village Balirmath in Meherpur Sadar upazila yesterday.

The deceased, Babar Ali, had rivalry with Abul Kalam, organising secretary of Kutubpur union BNP, over a piece of land, police said.

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ACC chairman not happy with Patel remark

UNB, Dhaka

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Chairman Justice Sultan Hossain Khan yesterday described as unfortunate the remarks on the ACC by visiting World Bank Vice President of South Asia Praful C Patel.

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Prayer Timing

May 17

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-10	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-36	6-40
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation