

DHAKA-CTG RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT Consultancy deal with Canadian firm signed

Japan bank to provide Tk 778.07 crore

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Railway (BR) and Canarail Consultants Inc of Canada yesterday signed a consultancy agreement under a railway development project to improve the quality of Dhaka-Chittagong railway service.

Emdadul Haque, general manager of Dhaka-Chittagong Railway Development Project, and Terence Marie Trotter of Canarail Consultants Inc signed the agreement on behalf of their respective sides at the Rail Bhavan in the city.

Communication Minister Syed Abul Hossain was present on the occasion.

Japan Bank of International Cooperation (JBIC) will provide Tk 778.07 crore as project aid for Tk 1150 crore Dhaka-Chittagong Railway Development Project while Tk 371.93 crore will be funded by the government.

The project has five components including doubling of

tracks between Laksam and Chinki Astana, improvement of Pahartali railway workshop, remodeling of Chittagong station yard, procurement of locomotives and skill development programme.

The consultancy service has been estimated at Tk 127.90 crore.

Canada-based consultancy firm Canarail Consultants in joint venture with SMEC International Ltd of Australia and DB International GmbH of Germany will accomplish the consultancy tasks of survey, design and drawing for the project.

ACE Consultants Limited of Bangladesh and Dainichi of Japan will act as sub-consultants.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, the communication minister said the government would make all-out efforts to infuse dynamism in railway services.

"We are working for bring-

ing dynamism in the railway which was missing during the previous years," he added. Replying to a question, the minister said construction work will be awarded through international tender.

He told the journalists that the government has massive plans to improve the railway sector including opening of Chittagong-Cox's Bazar railway line to connect the country with Trans-Asian Railway.

About the Padma Bridge, Abul Hossain said the government would keep the railway connectivity over the bridge so that the rail line could be extended to Barisal and Mongla seaport.

"We will request the Jica, ADB and World Bank to provide financial assistance for the project," he added. Replying to another question, he said the government has also a plan to build Padma Bridge II connecting Paturia in Manikganj with Gopalganj.

More bodies, individuals condole death of Dr Wazed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More organisations and individuals yesterday condole the death of Dr MA Wazed Miah, eminent nuclear scientist and husband of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

They prayed for peace and salvation of the departed soul and conveyed deep sympathy to bereaved family members.

In a condolence message Nobel laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus expressed deep shock at the death of Dr Wazed and conveyed his sympathy to the members of bereaved family.

Terming the death as an irreparable loss for the family as well as for the country he begged Almighty Allah to give strength to Hasina and her family members to bear the loss.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Nur Mohammad expressed shock and sorrow at the death of Dr Wazed and prayed for the salvation of the departed soul.

Dr Mosharrif Hossain, chairman of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission, expressed deep shock on behalf of the commission at the death of Dr Wazed.

He conveyed sympathy to the members of bereaved family and prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul.

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society Chairman Prof MS Akbar MP also condole the death.

Sectors Commander Forum also expressed deep shock and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Others who condole the death included Land Minister Md Rezaul Karim Hira, Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni, Jute and Textiles Minister Abdul Latif Siddiqui, Power and Energy Minister Advocate Samsul Haque Tuku, Dr Akram Hossain Chowdhury MP, CPB President Manjurul Ahsan Khan and General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agriculture University Vice-chancellor Dr Akand, Comillah University Vice-chancellor Prof Dr AHM Zehadul Karim, World University of Bangladesh Vice-chancellor Prof Dr Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, Bangladesh Jatiya Party (BJP) Chairman Barrister Andalib Rahman and General Secretary Shamim Al Mamun, Human Rights Review Society Chairman Advocate Saiful Haque Said, Workers' Party of Bangladesh (Reconstituted) Haider Akbar Khan Rano, Jatiya Party (JP) General Secretary Sheikh Shahidul Islam, Bangladesh Agricultural University Vice-chancellor MA Sattar Mandal, and Khulna University Vice-chancellor Prof Dr Saifuddin Shah.

The organisations that condole the death of Dr Wazed included Jatiya Mahila Sangstha, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology Teachers Association, Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Kalyan Samity, Bangladesh Janosheba Party, Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad Kendrio Command Council, Chetana-71, Ain O Salish Kendra, Bangladesh Ganatantrik Ainjibi Samity, Bangladesh National Awami Party, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Atish Dipankar University, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Bangladesh Medical Association, University Grants Commission of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Economics Association, Parbattya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity, Rangpur Kalyan Samity, Bangabandhu Shishu Academy, Bangabandhu Jubo Parishad, Bangabandhu Lekhak Parishad, Hazaribagh Tannery Workers Union, Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh, Bangladesh PWD Diploma Engineers' Association, Bangladesh Post Office Karmochari Union, Dhaka Ainjibi Samity, Bangladesh Christian Association, North Bengal Journalist Forum, Council of Chamber Presidents, Bangladesh Reconditioned Vehicles Importers and Dealers Association, Bangladesh Hindu Bouddho Christian Oikya Parishad, Bangladesh Jute Association, Abahani Limited, Society for Peace and Progress, Karmojibi Nari, Bangladesh Buddhist Federation, Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote, Bangladesh Civil Service (Taxation) Association, BGS General Education Association, Jamaat-e-Ahlahadis, Bangladesh Unani Medical Association, Bangladesh Kalyan Party, Muktiyoddha Oikya Parishad, Bangabandhu Lalitakala Academy, Sylhet Division Ainjibi Parishad, BKMEA, Bangladesh Frozen Foods Exporters Association and Muktiyoddha Smiritrakha Parishad.



People from all walks of life attend the namaz-e-janaza of nuclear scientist Dr MA Wazed Miah, husband of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, at Baitul Mukarram Mosque in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

Relations with Bangladesh to be strengthened further

Hopes South African new president

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, who attended the swearing-in ceremony of the 4th president of South Africa on Saturday as representative of the president of Bangladesh, met with the new President Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma.

She also met with Chinese Vice Premier Wang Qishan, Libyan Foreign Minister Mussa Kussa, Sudanese Foreign Minister Deng Alor, Foreign Minister of Mali Moctar Ouane and Bangladesh community leaders in South Africa during the visit.

She also exchanged greetings with foreign minister of the Netherlands, foreign minister of Zambia and Asha Rose Migiro, deputy secretary general of the United Nations.

During the meeting, Jacob Zuma and Dipu Moni hoped that the existing bilateral relations between the two countries would be strengthened further.

She also handed over the congratulatory messages from President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina along with official invitation to visit Bangladesh.

President Zuma thanked Dipu Moni and replied that visiting Bangladesh at his earliest convenience would be his priority.

She also exchanged greetings with the foreign minister and deputy foreign ministers of South Africa.

During the meeting with Chinese vice premier, Dipu Moni discussed matters of mutual importance.

The foreign minister discussed with the foreign minister of Libya on recruitment of manpower from Bangladesh. The Libyan minister praised the Bangladeshi workers and

informed that Libya would continue to take more manpower from Bangladesh.

During the meeting with Sudanese foreign minister Dipu Moni discussed on export of skilled manpower in Sudan and issues of bilateral trade.

Dipu Moni informed the foreign minister of Mali that Bangladesh has manpower to export in several sectors of Mali especially in agriculture.

The foreign minister also met with the community leaders from Bangladesh in South Africa in a dinner hosted by the Bangladesh High Commissioner in South Africa. She listened to their problems and assured them that all possible steps would be taken to mitigate those.

Zonta Club 3 Monsoon Ball postponed

METRO DESK

Zonta Club of Dhaka 3 has postponed its Monsoon Ball, scheduled for Thursday (May 14), due to unavoidable circumstances, says a press release.

New date of the programme will be announced soon and the invitation cards will remain valid.

NU degree exams begin today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Degree Pass, Subsidiary and Certificate Course Examinations under National University (NU) will begin today, says a press release.

World leaders condole Dr Wazed's death

UNB, Dhaka

Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh phoned Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to condole on the death of her husband Dr MA Wazed Miah.

Manmohan made the phone call at 10:15am yesterday and also sent a condolence message mourning the death, said Prime Minister's Deputy Press Secretary Mahbulul Hoque Shakil.

Besides, Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Yousuf Raja Gilani, Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Indian Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee sent separate condolence messages on Dr Wazed's death.

Doa mahfil

METRO DESK

Doa mahfil for late Prof Hosne Ara Islam (Minon), wife of late Aminul Islam, will be held at her residence after Maghrib prayers tomorrow, May 12 (Tuesday), says a press release.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend and pray for the departed soul.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pranesh Mandal, an eminent artist and former student of fine arts of Dhaka University, passed away due to old-age complications at a hospital at West Bengal, India on April 30 at the age of 68, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, three daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

He was the designer of many stamps of Bangladesh Postal Department and took part in various exhibitions at home and abroad.

Rezia Begum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rezia Begum, mother-in-law of BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain, passed away due to old-age complications at her son's residence in Rajshahi on Saturday at the age of 85, says a press release.

She left behind her three sons, four daughters and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

She was buried at Salimabad graveyard under Nagorpur upazila in Tangail yesterday.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia expressed deep shock at her death and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the second death anniversary of Rahima Islam, mother of Advocate Md Toufiq Inam Tipu and South East Bank official Md Tauhid Izzaz, says a press release.

Her family members requested all to pray for peace of the departed soul.

AL mourning programmes begin today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League has taken up three-day programmes, including hoisting of black flags at party offices, doa and milad mahfils and a memorial meeting, to mourn the death of nuclear scientist Dr MA Wazed Miah, husband of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The central working committee of the party took the decision in this regard at an emergency meeting at Jamuna, the official residence of Hasina, yesterday, with AL president member Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury in the chair.

The committee expressed deep shock at the death of Dr Wazed Miah and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family.

The three-day programmes will begin today.

As part of the programmes, party flags will be hoisted at half-mast and black flags will also be hoisted in all party offices across the country for three days.

Milad and doa mahfil will be held at the party's central office at Bangabandhu Avenue today and special prayers and milad will be held in all mosques, temples, churches and all party offices across the country tomorrow.

The memorial meeting will be held at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre at 4:00pm on May 13.

On May 14, a milad and doa mahfil will be held at Jamuna after Asr prayers.

AL joint general secretary and party spokesperson Syed Ashrafur Islam MP urged the party leaders and activists to hold the programmes in a befitting manner.

Justice Bazlur takes oath as HC judge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Justice Md Bazlur Rahman Chhana took oath as a regular judge of the High Court (HC) yesterday.

Chief Justice MM Rulul Amin administered the oath at judges' lounge at a simple ceremony.

All the judges of both the Appellate and High Court divisions of the Supreme Court were present at the function.



BSB Foundation and Cambrian College accord a reception to founder of the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP) Valerie A Taylor and language movement veteran Abdul Matin at a programme marking the Mothers' Day at Basundhara Convention Centre in the city yesterday.

NSU STUDENTS PROTEST FEE HIKE 10 hurt in clash with cops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several hundred students of North South University (NSU) staged daylong demonstrations on and around its campus at Gulshan in the city to protest an increase in tuition fees.

They also vandalised the office of the vice chancellor and other offices on the campus, leading to clashes with the police, which left at least 10 people, including three policemen, injured.

The agitating students also put up barricades on the roads in front of the campus for over eight hours in two phases, disrupting traffic movement.

During the clashes, police used teargas and baton-charged the students to bring the situation under control.

Witnesses said the students started their protests around 10:00am and put up barricades on the Kemal Ataturk Avenue for about four hours. Later, they also blocked the road in front of the campus.

The students again gathered around 5:00pm and laid siege to the VC's office. Later, they went berserk and vandalised the VC's office and other offices.

To disperse the agitating students, the police hurled teargas canisters and resorted to baton-charge, prompting the students to hurl pieces of bricks to the police.

AKM Hafiz Akter, deputy commissioner of Gulshan zone, told The Daily Star, "We resorted to baton-charge and used teargas to disperse the students who went berserk and put up barricades on the roads, caus-

ing suffering to the people."

He also said three policemen were injured as the students also attacked them.

Several students alleged that the university authorities often raise various fees without consulting the students.

Wasim Bari, a student, said the students first wanted to meet the VC, but he avoided talking to them, which made the students angry.

In February, when the students had started agitation against the tuition fee hike, the authorities had assured them of not raising the fees. But the announcement of fee hike came again this month, said another student.

Students started demonstration when they saw the notice of fee hike in the morning. The authorities increased the fee from Tk 3,000 to Tk 8,000 per semester, they said.

Meanwhile, NSU Deputy Director (Public Relations) M Iqbal Husain in a press release said that a small group of students aided by the outsiders took part in the agitation.

Fayez wins Child Literary Award

DU CORRESPONDENT

Noted writer, poet and journalist Fayez Ahmed won the 'Kabir Chowdhury Child Literary Award 2008' for his contribution in children literature, says a press release.

The Bangla Academy award will be handed over at a ceremony later.

WEATHER TODAY Thundershowers likely UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna and Sylhet divisions in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Offices said.

Moderate to severe heat wave is prevailing over Khulna division and the regions of Rajshahi and Ishwardi and mild to moderate heat wave over Dhaka division, which may abate slightly.

Day temperature may fall slightly over the country during the period.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:32pm today and rises at 5:17am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 40.6 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 20.3 degrees Celsius at Sylhet.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Table with 5 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening)

DHAKA TODAY View exchange meet Research findings Seminar Publication ceremony

Ugandan Vice President Prof Gilbert Bukenya visits Brac programmes at different places in Manikganj yesterday.



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Ugandan vice president visits Brac programmes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Ugandan Vice President Prof Gilbert Bukenya visited Brac programmes at different places in Manikganj yesterday.

Prof Gilbert Bukenya visited a sanitary Napkin production centre at Noyading, a tailoring and handicraft production sub-centre of Ayesha Abed Foundation at Sadarpur village and a handloom-weaving centre at Garpara.

During his visit he talked to microfinance borrowers. He also talked with poultry and livestock extension workers.

He said after returning he would start such programmes in his country so that rural poor women could be self-reliant.

Brac high officials, including its executive director of International Programmes Aminul Alam, deputy executive director of Africa Programme Dr Imran Matin and other officials were with him during the visit.

'Islam does not allow killing in name of jihad'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Islam is a religion of peace and does not allow killing of people in the name of jihad (fight for religion), said the speakers at a roundtable yesterday.

The roundtable titled 'Jangibad: Karon O Protikar' (Militancy: Causes and remedies) was organised by Saugat Foundation at the National Press Club in the city.

Presenting the keynote paper agronomist AMM Aminul Islam Babu spoke about the rise of militancy across the world, sufferings of people and the fight to resist militancy.

He defined the term 'militancy' as a well-planned propaganda of western media which eventually has harmed the Muslim community. Aminul said some verses of

the holy Quran are often misquoted and misinterpreted by vested quarters for their heinous interests.

Identifying some common traits of militancy, he said there is involvement of politicians and bureaucrats in patronising militancy in the country.

He suggested employment opportunities and special economic packages for madrasa students so that they are not derailed.

The media can also play a significant role in resisting militancy, he added.

Maulana Nurul Islam Faruqi, Advocate Abdul Mobin, Prof Suman Kanti Barua, Dr Mian Md Anwar, Dr Anisuzzaman, Golam Maula Roy MP, and Air Vice-Marshal (ret'd) Rafiqul Islam MP also spoke at the programme.