

Govt set to build Joydevpur-N'ganj elevated expressway

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is set to launch final bidding and embark on construction of the much-hyped Joydevpur-Narayanganj elevated expressway soon with exemption from existing rules, Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain said at a seminar yesterday.

The ministry has already short-listed four bidders out of nine through a pre-qualification bidding and is now ready to go for final bidding soon, said the minister.

The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT) organised the seminar on 'Traffic Congestions in Dhaka City: Challenges and Options' at the city's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

The communications ministry on

November 18, 2009 embarked on the \$2-billion project to build the 32.5km elevated expressway.

"We will now go directly for tender bidding and then start execution immediately," said Hossain, "We sought for exemption from existing rules to go for speedy execution of the project and the government gave us the waiver."

The ministry has also invited tender bidding for pre-qualification for construction of the Padma Bridge.

The Japanese government has given a hint that they will finance 80 percent of the expressway project and will finalise it during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit, he said. A Japanese team will submit a report on the project in the next two months.

The cabinet committee on economic

affairs on October 20 exempted the project from rules of Private Infrastructure Committee, Major Terms and Conditions Committee and Bangladesh Private Sector Infrastructure Guidelines to save time.

Country's leading transport experts have always emphasised on an adequate and credible feasibility study for such a mega project.

According to the experts, the government should first ensure proper parking management, optimum use of the existing road spaces, and removal of bottlenecks and small-scale improvement of traffic network as some immediate measures to resolve Dhaka's traffic mess.

CILT Vice President Karar Mahmudul Hasan in a presentation said that the government should restrict

any further registration of new private cars in the capital, remove truck stands from inside the city, free footpaths and avenues from illegal occupancy and phase out rickshaws to bring some relief in the horrendous traffic mess.

Replying to why the government cannot free the city's roads and footpaths from illegal occupancy, the minister said it is the job of DCC claiming it has "relieved considerably the misery of city dwellers".

The government intends to complete the construction of a flyover from Mirpur-10 to New Airport Road by 1212, said the minister.

While presiding over the seminar, CILT President Syed Rezaul Hayat said that a mass transport system is the ultimate solution to the mass people's need.



BNP takes out a procession from the party's central office at Naya Paltan in the city yesterday alleging vote rigging in the by-election in Bhola-3 constituency.

Power offices now open on Saturdays

UNB, Dhaka

The government has ordered all the public offices related to power generation, transmission and distribution to remain open on Saturdays until further notice.

Weekly holidays of all these offices are cut to one day -- only on Friday -- with the intention of giving more dedication to mitigate the problems of power crisis.

In compliance with the order, all the offices under Power Distribution Board (PDB), Power Grid Company of Bangladesh (PGCB), Dhaka Power Distribution Company Ltd (DPDC), Dhaka Electric Supply Company Ltd (DESCO) in the city and other offices outside the capital remained open yesterday.

"We received an order from Power Division on Thursday last and accordingly we are doing our offices today (Saturday) like the other working days," a top official at DPDC told UNB.

Official sources said the order came from the government in the wake of nagging power crisis across the country. But it's not clear if such order will really bring any positive change in the power supply situation.

All the relevant offices responsible for power generation, transmission and distribution normally remain open round the clock throughout the week.

He mentioned that the headquarters of different organisations in power sector, which are mainly responsible for the administrative works, only remain closed on the weekly holidays on Friday and Saturday.

"But now on, our head office will remain open on Saturday as well. Keeping open our office on Saturday is not relevant to increased power generation," he said replying to a question about improvement of power supply situation.



Laurent Therond, managing director of Nestle Bangladesh Limited, and Prof Dr Nazrul Islam Khan of the Institute of Nutrition and Food Science, DU, sign a Memorandum of Understanding on nutrition awareness programme recently. Jatinder Middah and Mirza Golam Hossain, manufacturing director and senior manager, Corporate Affairs and Communication, respectively of Nestle Bangladesh Limited, were present.

2cr still drink arsenic-laced water: Unicef

BSS, Dhaka

About two crore people are still drinking arsenic-contaminated water in the country, while only 53 percent of its population has access to improved sanitation facilities.

However, the practice of open defecation has been significantly reduced to 7 per cent from 33 per cent in 1990, Unicef said here yesterday on the occasion of the first annual high-level meeting of a new global partnership, Sanitation and Water for All, that began in Washington the same day.

It also said at least 2.5 billion cases of diarrhoea occur in children under five years of age every year in the world and an estimated 1.5 million children die from it annually.

"Huge savings in health care costs and gains in productive days can be realized by improving access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene - amounting to some 2% to over 7% of gross

domestic product, depending on the region," the UNICEF said in a release issued simultaneously from Washington and Dhaka.

With only five years remaining to reach the 2015 Millennium Development Goal (MDG) target of halving the proportion of people living without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, the meeting has been convened to stimulate urgent action towards ensuring that access to sanitation and safe drinking water becomes a reality for the billions who still live without it.

Hosted by UNICEF, the high-level meeting is bringing together 35 ministers from developing countries, donors and development agencies for the united goal of achieving universal and sustainable access to sanitation and drinking water.

A high level delegation, including Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashraf Islam, is representing Bangladesh in the meeting.

Nestle's nutrition awareness campaign

METRO DESK

Nestle Bangladesh Limited signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Institute of Nutrition and Food Science, Dhaka University (DU), recently to conduct a 'Nutrition Awareness Programme', which is part of Nestle Healthy Kids Global Programme, says a press release.

This training module jointly prepared by Nestle and DU nutrition experts will be initially conducted in the schools in Gazipur district and will cover 1500 students this year.

Nestle Bangladesh Limited has always taken active participation in sharing its nutrition knowledge through nutrition experts with the health professionals, general people and consumers of Bangladesh.

Since Nestle started manufacturing its products in Bangladesh, the company has been involved in taking part in activities such as supply of clean drinking water for the rural schools, sanitation for the girls' students and distribution of computer in the rural schools.

Documentary on Biranganas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

They are Biranganas. They did not fight with arms during the Liberation War in 1971, but their sacrifices and contribution can in no way be undermined. They are rape victims -- physically abused by the Pakistani military and their local collaborators.

Instead of being honoured for their sacrifices, they were rather treated very badly in society after independence. They could not go back to their own families and many of them preferred suicide.

Even after 39 years of independence, they are waiting for justice and want to see the war criminals brought to book.

Shafiqul Islam Kajol in his documentary titled 'Tears of the Biranganas and demand for justice' interviewed the courageous women and depicted their sagas of sacrifice, acts of valour and their expectations from independent Bangladesh.

Launching the documentary at a programme at the National Museum auditorium, Rashed Khan Menon MP said, "Even after 60 years of the 2nd World War, both the North and South Korea want compensation from Japan for abusing their women. Then why shouldn't we raise our voice against the Pakistani hyenas?"

Speaking as the chief guest, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni said different groups have been trying to divert the people's attention from the war crimes trial to the issues like water, gas and power crises.

"We admit to the fact that we have limitations. But the crises of electricity, gas and water are the results of the misuse of seven long years and it will take time to resolve the problems. But the trial of the war criminals cannot be halted for these crises, because it is disgraceful for the whole nation."

Dipu further said that a large portion of the history of the Liberation War is untold and the contribution of women to the war remains unknown.

"Perhaps this documentary will play a pivotal role in bringing the culprits to book," she added.

Director General of National Museum Prokash Chandra Saha, Information and Research Secretary of Awami League Advocate Afzal Hossain and Shafiqul Islam Kajol also spoke.



Journo Zahirul Ahsan passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Zahirul Ahsan Tipu, news editor of the Bhorer Kajol, a Bangla daily, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at a city hospital in the early hours of yesterday at the age of 47.

He left behind his mother, wife, a son, a daughter and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death.

Tipu had also worked with the Amader Shomoy, the Shamokal and the Destiny.

In separate statements, Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) president Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury and secretary general Altaf Mahmud, and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) president Shah Alamgir and general secretary Abu Zafar Surjo and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) expressed deep shock at the death of Tipu.

Those who rehabilitated war criminals to stand trial: Tuku

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will also try to rehabilitate the war criminals after the liberation war in 1971, said Sate Minister for Home Shamsul Haque Tuku yesterday.

"Along with the war criminals and collaborators, those who rehabilitated them will have to stand trial," he added.

Tuku said this at a discussion on trial of war criminals, organised by Bangabandhu Academy at Dhaka Reporters' Unity in the city.

The minister also said that any threat made by the war criminals would be resisted both socially and politically.

Pointing to the opposition, he said the persons, who are responsible for water, gas and power crises in the country, are conspiring to divert people's attention from the trial of war criminals by making the water-gas-power issue focal point.

Suranjit Sengupta, chairman of a parliamentary standing committee and member of Awami League (AL) advisory committee, said the government is contemplating to formulate a law to protect the witnesses to the war crimes.

The government will not interfere in the trial process and the tribunal will work independently, he added.

State Minister for Law Quamrul Islam alleged that late president Ziaur Rahman tried to establish Bangladesh as a communal state by rehabilitating the war criminals.

He stressed the need for bringing all the institutions run by anti-liberation forces under the government control to monitor their activities.

Call to promote creativity of children

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of Chander Haat, a leading cultural organisation for youngsters in the country, have called for promoting creative sides of children by generating recreational atmosphere.

Children are growing up with only school work and are being deprived of recreational activities simply because there are not enough facilities, they added.

Members of Chander Haat said this at its national representatives' council at Shishu Academy in the city yesterday.

State Minister for Housing and Public Works Abdul Mannan Khan formally inaugurated the council.

He called on the youngsters to prepare themselves to take the helm of the country as great nation builders.

Mustafa Monwar, chairman of Bangladesh Shishu Academy, said children these days have no time for recreation as they spend most of their time only studying. Children's organisations can bring back the bubbly spirit in their monotonous life.

To take the lead, they have to participate in both academic and other aspects of life, including merrymaking, he added.

The members of the organisation also urged the government to provide a permanent location for the organisation, which has been working with children for three decades.

Mohammad Zakaria Pintu, chairman of National Presidium of Chander Haat, Abdur Rahman, chairman of National Member Council, and Shah Alamgir, convener of National Member Council, also spoke.

A colourful rally was held in the morning followed by formal inauguration of the council and a vibrant cultural programme.

13 bombs recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered thirteen bombs in an abandoned state at a mess in the capital's North Jatrahari area yesterday.

Sub-Inspector of Jatrahari Police Station Mosharruf Hossain told The Daily Star that they recovered the bombs from the bin of Momtaz Mess after being informed by the locals at about 11:15am.

The bombs were brought to Jatrahari Police Station.

WEATHER

No change in temperature

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions in the next 24 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said in a forecast.

Mild to moderate heat wave, which is sweeping over Khulna division and the regions of Rajshahi and Ishwardi may continue.

It said that day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:24pm today and rises at 5:28am tomorrow.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 39.0 degree Celsius was recorded at Rajshahi and the lowest of 19.8 degrees at Sylhet.

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

| City/Town | Temperature in Celsius | | Humidity in percentage | |
|-------------|------------------------|------|------------------------|---------|
| | Max | Min | Morning | Evening |
| Dhaka | 35.4 | 28.6 | 65 | 57 |
| Chittagong | 32.2 | 26.6 | 73 | 74 |
| Rajshahi | 39.0 | 27.5 | 75 | 46 |
| Khulna | 35.6 | 28.4 | 78 | 73 |
| Barisaha | 34.7 | 27.5 | 74 | 71 |
| Sylhet | 30.3 | 19.8 | 79 | 71 |
| Cox's Bazar | 34.6 | 27.0 | 76 | 73 |

DESCO warns against frauds

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka Electric Supply Company Ltd (DESCO) yesterday warned its consumers about fraud groups trying to cheat people in the name of distributing energy saving bulbs.

In a press release, the Desco mentioned that a cheat, Monwar Hossain (son of Tozammel Ali, village-Sholzaria, thana-Kathalia, and district-Jhalakati) was caught red handed on Thursday at East Kazipara of Mirpur in the city while trying to receive money from Desco consumers using his fake forms in the name of distributing energy saving bulbs.

Later, Monwar was handed over to Kafrul police.

The Desco said that the government's planned distribution of energy saving bulbs is yet to start in the Desco areas.

When the distribution will start, the energy saving bulbs will be distributed among the consumers free of cost, said the release.

Jabbarer Boli Khela begins

METRO DESK

The century-old legendary Jabbarer Boli Khela and a three-day Baishakhi fair began at the Lalidighi Maidan in Chittagong yesterday.

Bangladesh is sponsoring this event for the second consecutive year.

Director and Head of News of Channel i Shykh Seraj inaugurated the programme while Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury was the chief guest.

Md Moniruzzaman, commissioner of Chittagong Metropolitan Police, and Bishwajit Paul, regional commercial head of Bangalink, were present as special guests.

Jabbarer Boli Khela is a traditional wrestling competition and is one of the oldest traditions of the port city.

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Admission in MPH and MPhil Courses in Public Health under University of Dhaka

The Division of Public Health of the Bangladesh Institute of Health Sciences (BIHS), through a collaborative program with the University of Oslo supported by a NOMA Grant, is announcing the admission of the 3rd Batch of students (Session 2010-11, starting in July 2010) in MPhil and MPH Courses in the following disciplines under the Faculty of Postgraduate Medical Sciences and Research, University of Dhaka.

| Two Year Courses (MPhil) | One Year Courses (MPH) |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Noncommunicable Diseases (NCD) | Noncommunicable Diseases (NCD) |
| Epidemiology (Epi) | Epidemiology (Epi) |
| Health Education & Health Promotion (HE & HP) | Community Nutrition (CN) |

BIHS offers some unique opportunities

- Degree to be given by the University of Dhaka which is widely recognized all over the world.
- The second Institute in Bangladesh to offer MPhil Courses in any Public Health Discipline.
- MPH Courses dedicated to individual disciplines in Public Health.
- The Institute is linked to the BIHS Hospital - the high standard Apex Hospital of the Health Care Development Project (HCDP) established under Bangladesh-Netherlands joint cooperation.
- Full-time, nonpracticing Faculties as well as rich multinational Guest Faculties coming from renowned University/Institutes in Norway, UK, Switzerland, Denmark, Netherlands, Nepal, India and Pakistan.
- Availability of large number of primary to tertiary health care facilities of the Diabetic Association of Bangladesh, spread all over the country, which gives unparalleled opportunity of exposure to community level health problem (a vital requirement of effective public health education).
- Intensive and research based programs having possibility of collaborative studies with advanced institutes of the world particularly with the University of Oslo.
- Scholarship/Stipend available to provide partial support to the students.

Admission requirements

Candidates with MBBS or its equivalent recognized by the BMDC plus one year in service training are eligible for all MPhil or MPH Courses.

In addition, nonmedical professionals with Master or equivalent degree with 2nd class (or equivalent GPA Grade) from a recognized University or BDS or its equivalent recognized by BMDC are eligible for certain courses as follows:

- MPhil & MPH in Epi: From 'Statistics' background
- MPH in CN: From Nutrition/Home Economics (Nutrition Group)/Biochemistry background
- MPhil in HE & HP: From any academic background

Age limit on the last date of Application is 45 years.

Interested candidates are requested to submit their Application and CV together with certified copies of all relevant documents and a recent passport size photograph. The course sought should be clearly marked on the envelope and sent to the above address. Application through e-mail will be acceptable. The last date for submission of application is 06 May 2010.

For further details please contact the office of the Director, BIHS at the address of the Institute.

AN ENTERPRISE OF DIABETIC ASSOCIATION OF BANGLADESH