

PADMA BRIDGE

'Bid on to start work early next year'

BSS, Dhaka

Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain yesterday said the government is making all out efforts to start the construction of Padma Bridge at the beginning of next year.

Once this construction starts, initiatives would be taken to build another bridge at the Paturia-Daulatdia point of the Padma River, he added. He was talking to reporters after a meeting with South Korean Ambassador Yang Chou at the secretariat office.

The minister said the South Korean envoy, on behalf of International Association of World Road Congress, invited him to attend world road congress to be held in Mexico in 2011.

Abul Hossain said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina directed the communications ministry to expand roads and railways and the ministry is working to this end.

He said the government has taken initiatives to construct a second railway bridge beside the Bangabandhu Jamuna Bridge and two bridges at Bahadurabadghat point over the Jamuna and Paturia-Daulatdia point on the Padma.

The process will begin soon to appoint consultants in this regard, he added.

Explaining the move to construct the railway bridge over the river Jamuna, he said Bangabandhu Bridge does not have enough capacity to take additional loads. Therefore, the need for a separate railway

bridge has arisen.

He said the new railway bridge would be able to take the load of trains with goods too and facilitate direct train communications from Kunming of China to India. This bridge will play an important role in regional communications, he added.

Abul Hossain said the PM has asked the ministry to construct bridges over all rivers, in phases, to establish direct road and railway communication across the country.

He said the present government is taking big projects at hand for construction of roads, railways and bridges.

All the projects would be completed, if the PM returns to power after the present tenure, he added.

Expand scouts movement to remote areas: President

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday urged Scout leaders to expand their activities in the remote areas to make the scout movement more dynamic and popular in the country.

"It's true that success of any movement depends on the qualities of its leaders," he said at an award distribution ceremony of Bangladesh Scouts at Bangabhaban.

The president handed over 'Silver Tiger' award to 13 scouts and 'Silver Hilsha' award to 24 scouts.

Addressing the function, President

Zillur Rahman said the country's new generation would have to be more involved in the scout movement for building a disciplined and prosperous nation.

The president, who is also the Chief Scout of Bangladesh, congratulated the award winners and urged the scout leaders to work as devoted volunteers in the development process reflecting the spirit of the scout movement in their personal, family and social lives.

He expressed his satisfaction over the implementation of two projects namely 'Bangladesh Scouts Expansion' and 'Cub Scouts in Primary Schools', both funded

by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education.

President Zillur hoped that these projects would accelerate the expansion of scout movement across the country.

The president also assured of his full support to the Bangladesh Scouts in hosting the 23rd regional scout conference of the Asia Pacific Region scheduled to be held in Bangladesh in 2012.

President of Bangladesh Scouts Momtajul Islam and Chief National Commissioner Abul Kalam Azad also spoke at the function.



President Zillur Rahman distributes 'Silver Tiger' and 'Silver Hilsha' awards among the members of Bangladesh Scouts at a function at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.

Europe plans large lunar lander

BBC ONLINE

Europe is pressing ahead with plans to send a sophisticated, unmanned spacecraft to the surface of the Moon.

EADS Astrium has been awarded a 6.5m-euro contract by the European Space Agency (Esa) to do further detailed design work on the mission.

The 700-800kg robot would be aimed at the lunar south pole, using automated systems to guide itself into a gentle, precision landing.

Once down, it would release a small rover to trundle across the surface.

"The lander will have a set of scientific instruments onboard but the science will be geared towards human exploration," said Simonetta Di Pippo, the director of human spaceflight at Esa.

"We will be looking for minerals and, hopefully, water in the soil, to see if we can prepare for a sustainable presence on the surface of the Moon," she told BBC News.

Recent spacecraft observations have indicated that some polar craters on the Moon probably hide vast reserves of ice deep in their shadows.

The new study is being led by the German division of EADS Astrium.

Michael Menking from the company observed: "This is an important technology project. For sure, it's dedicated to the Moon but if you can make a soft, precision landing on the lunar surface you can also do it on other planetary bodies as well."

SELF-SELECTION

The feasibility work conducted in industry, known as a Phase B1 study, will elaborate the lander's key specifications, and

initiate some component development and testing.

These investigations will inform the fully costed mission proposal (likely to come out at several hundred million euros), which will go before Europe's space ministers for final approval in 2012.

If the politicians like the concept and decide to fund it, the robot could leave Earth on a Soyuz rocket before the decade's end.

The mission would build upon the experience gained from Europe's highly successful Automated Transfer Vehicle (ATV), which resupplies the International Space Station (ISS).

Once in orbit, this 20-tonne freighter is capable of finding its own way to the platform using advanced navigation and sensor technologies.

In a similar vein, the Moon lander would have to take itself to a specific location, scan the area for slopes and boulders, and then pick out a safe place to put down.

"You need to have hazard-avoidance," said Bruno Gardini, who heads the Esa department in which the lunar lander project is embedded.

"During the descent, you have to keep targeting two or three different landing sites, and so you have to keep the algorithm available which is a very heavy load on the onboard processor. You need to be ready to switch from one site to another to select the one that has lowest risk."

ASTRONAUT HEALTH

The spacecraft would be targeted at the lunar south pole because it has locations that enjoy extended sun-

light. This is necessary because Europe does not possess the radioisotope space technology capable of generating the power and heat needed by robots to survive long periods of darkness.

One possible landing site already under discussion is a ridge close to Shackleton Crater where the Sun stays above the horizon for months on end. Solar panel and battery technology should be sufficient to sustain the robot at such a location.

"Depending on the illumination pattern, we would hope to have a mission lasting several months, up to half a year," explained Richard Fisackerly from Esa's project team.

"The patterns we're looking at actually don't consider continuous illumination, but we should be able to tolerate very short periods of darkness which may be brought about by obstacles on the horizon."

As well as looking for any local resources that could be used by future human explorers, the lander's instruments would also assess the lunar environment to understand the risks it could pose to astronauts, said Esa project team member James Carpenter.

"These have been identified as radiation and its effects on human physiology; and the lunar dust environment - both in terms of the physics of the behaviour of the lunar dust and the way it will interact with the systems that are on the surface, but also in terms of the potential health effects of lunar dust when it comes into contact with humans," he told BBC News.



A small passenger vehicle rams into a makeshift gate erected on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, damaging a telephone exchange box on a Shahjahanpur road in the city yesterday.

2 killed, 38 hurt in road crashes

METRO DESK

Two people were killed and 38 others injured in separate road accidents in Dinajpur and Thakurgaon districts on Wednesday and yesterday.

Our Correspondent from Dinajpur reports: A woman was killed and 38 others were injured in two road accidents in Birganj and Parbatipur upazilas yesterday. The deceased was identified Jahanara Begum, 60, wife of Ahsan Uddin of village Hazipara of Thakurgaon.

Birganj police quoting witnesses said a speedy microbus rammed into a roadside

tree after it going out of control following a rear tyre burst on Panchagarh-Dhaka highway at Badiyapara village in Birganj upazila in the morning, killing one person and injuring eight others. The injured persons were rushed to Birganj Upazila Health Complex.

The condition of injured Dr Shamim Mamataz, 32, and her husband Dr Abdus Shukur Khan, 42, residents of Dhanmondi in Dhaka was stated as critical.

Another accident occurred when a passenger bus fell into a roadside ditch as its driver lost control over the steering on Parbatipur-Phulbari highway at Chandpara village in Parbatipur upazila in the morning,

leaving at least 30 people injured.

Of them, three were rushed to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital with critical condition while the rest to Parbatipur Upazila Health Complex.

Our Correspondent from Thakurgaon adds: A minor boy was killed when a Panchagarh-bound bus crushed him while crossing the road near the power substation in the district at about 3:00pm on Wednesday.

The deceased was identified as Ronu, 6, son of Toiyabur Rahman of Doulatpur village of the Sadar upazila.

Locals rushed Rony to Sadar Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

Arctic sea ice shrinks to third lowest area on record

AFP, Washington

Arctic sea ice melted over the summer to cover the third smallest area on record, US researchers said Wednesday, warning global warming could leave the region ice free in the month of September 2030.

Last week, at the end of the spring and summer "melt season" in the Arctic, sea ice covered 4.76 million square kilometers (1.84 million square miles), the University of Colorado's National Snow and Ice Data Center said in an annual report.

"This is only the third time in the satellite record that ice extent has fallen below five million square kilometers (1.93 million square miles), and all those occurrences have been within the past four years," the report said.

A separate report by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) found that in August, too, Arctic sea ice coverage was down sharply, covering an average of six million square kilometers (2.3 million square miles), or 22 percent below the

average extent from 1979 to 2000.

The August coverage was the second lowest for Arctic sea ice since records began in 1979. Only 2007 saw a smaller area of the northern sea covered in ice in August, NOAA said.

The record low for Arctic sea ice cover at the end of the spring and summer "melt season" in September, was also in 2007, when ice covered just 4.13 million square kilometers (1.595 million square miles).

Mark Serreze, director of the NSIDC, said climate-change skeptics might seize the fact that Arctic sea ice did not hit a record-low extent this year, but said they would be barking up the wrong tree if they claimed the shrinkage had been stopped.

"Only the third lowest? It didn't set a new record? Well, right. It didn't set a new record but we're still headed down. We're not looking at any kind of recovery here," he told AFP.

In fact, Serreze said, Arctic sea ice cover is shrinking year-round, with more ice melting in the spring and summer months and less ice forming in the fall and

winter. "The Arctic, like the globe as a whole, is warming up and warming up quickly, and we're starting to see the sea ice respond to that. Really, in all months, the sea ice cover is shrinking -- there's an overall downward trend," Serreze told AFP.

"The extent of Arctic ice is dropping at something like 11 percent per decade -- very quickly, in other words."

"Our thinking is that by 2030 or so, if you went out to the Arctic on the first of September, you probably won't see any ice at all. It will look like a blue ocean, we're losing it that quickly," he said.

Losing sea ice cover in the Arctic would affect everything from the obvious, such as people who live in the far north and polar bears, to global weather patterns, said Serreze.

"The Arctic acts as a sort of refrigerator of the northern hemisphere. As we lose the ice cover, we start to change the nature of that refrigerator, and what happens up there affects what happens down here in the middle latitudes," he said.

Aviation holds 'critical keys' on climate: UN climate chief

AFP, Geneva

UN climate chief Christiana Figueres yesterday urged the air transport industry to press on with curbs on emissions, underlining that it held "critical keys" to tackling global warming.

Aviation produces an estimated two percent of global emissions from human activity which "if left unchecked, will have further impacts on climate change," Figueres told an industry conference on aviation and the environment.

"The world will continue to need a strong aviation industry but the high flying plane must also be a symbol of proactive action to address climate change," she added.

"Your sector has been proactive and I welcome that ... but we face major challenges and the aviation sector holds some critical keys."

Figueres, the executive secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), delivered her speech in a video message to the two-day gathering in Geneva.

Over the past three years, airlines under the wing of the International Air Transport Association (IATA), backed by the aerospace industry and airports have set targets for cuts in carbon emissions.

They include 1.5 percent-a-year increases in fuel efficiency by 2020, carbon neutral growth thereafter and a 50-percent cut in carbon emissions by 2050 compared to 1990 levels.

Cuts are being sought through more efficient modern aircraft, better flight management and air traffic control and improvements in infrastructure, as well as the ongoing development of biofuels.



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1. Human Resources Officer

This role manages the day to day administrative functions of the office, performs HR & payroll duties, and ensures that legal and regulatory affairs are in order and compliance.

Required skills & experience:

A diploma or higher qualification in an HR related degree/course; at least 3 years of experience in HR function; work experience in a multinational company will be preferable.

Good interpersonal and presentation skills; good command of spoken and written English; strong computer skills, particularly in excel, power point, word and e-mail.

2. Technical Manager - Production

This role needs to ensure factory standards for efficiency, technical and ethical compliance for clothing and work with Production Technologists and QC's to ensure that all factories, products and services consistently meet the quality, safety, technical, legal and ethical standards of Tesco.

Required skills & experience:

At least 5-6 years of experience as a Production Technologist in a leading multinational company including 1-2 years of managerial experience. Leadership capability to manage a team, excellent communication and interpersonal skills and the ability to drive people to achieve business goals; analytical and problem solving skills.

3. Garment Technologist

This role needs to deliver the technical process for a category and ensure that all products and services from a designated set of suppliers' factories consistently meet the quality, safety and legal standards of Tesco. Responsibility may range from designing to final sealing for shipment.

Required skills & experience:

At least 3-5 years of experience as a Garment Technologist in a leading company. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills and ability to influence people to achieve goals.

4. Production Technologist

This role needs to ensure compliance and safety standards in factories and follow up on non-compliances found in audits and ensure that corrective actions are implemented on time. The role also focuses on pre-production meetings and in-line quality of production and diagnosis of issues.

Required skills & experience:

At least 3-5 years of experience as a Production Technologist in a leading company. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills and ability to influence people to achieve goals.

If you feel you are the right candidate for any of the above positions, please apply with a CV detailing your personal data along with a recent passport size photograph by 30th September 2010 addressed to: Human Resources, Tesco IS Bangladesh, Rangs Arcade, 3rd Floor, 153/A, Gulshan North C/A, Gulshan-2, Dhaka-1212.

OR: Email: hr.bd@tesco.com.bd.

You can also apply online through bdjobs.com. Please mark the position on top of the application.

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