



PHOTO: AFP

A handout photo provided by the Iranian news agency IRNA shows rescuers working near the wreckage of a state-run Iran Air Boeing 727 airliner early yesterday near the northwestern city of Urumiyeh in the West Azerbaijan province.

Hasina seeks constructive

FROM PAGE 1 Mujibur Rahman's homecoming day. The prime minister said the opposition leader's statements about the government activities were false and fabricated. She asked Khaleda to refrain from hindering the government's progress. On Khaleda's call for making parliament effective, Hasina sarcastically said the leader of the opposition made the House "effective" by attending only five sittings out of 174 so far. Referring to the widespread corruption and misuse of the previous BNP-Jamaat coalition government, the prime minister said Khaleda could not add even 1MW of electricity to

the national grid during her tenure due to massive corruption in the power sector. "They looted hundreds of crore taka, siphoned off money abroad and tarnished the image of the country," the premier said. She said her government has taken a number of short, mid and long-term projects to resolve power crisis and the people will soon be benefited from these initiatives. About the price hike of commodities, Hasina said the government is trying hard to contain the price hike. "We have almost doubled the salaries and allowances of all government employees and increased per capita income so that the people

can cope with the situation. The former prime minister [Khaleda] should have noticed the price hike of essentials in international market," Hasina said. She went on saying that the price of rice was at Tk 10 per kilogramme when the AL-led government completed its tenure in 2001 but it shot up to Tk 25-27 per kg after BNP-Jamaat four-party alliance assumed power. "Had the BNP-Jamaat alliance been in power, the rice price would have gone up to Tk 100 per kg," Hasina added. Mentioning Khaleda's claim of no development activities by the incumbent government, Hasina said, "We want people's develop-

ment, not that of personal and the Awami League-led government has been working to this end." About Khaleda's remark on law and order, Hasina recalled the killings of former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria, lawmaker Ahsanullah Master and other AL leaders and workers; patronisation of military, incidents of rape of several hundred women, ousting of more than 25,000 minorities from their houses, August 21 grenade attack, arms haul in Chittagong and Bogra, simultaneous bomb attacks at the portrait of Bangabandhu in Dhanmondi.

WikiLeaks losing half million euros a week

Says Assange

Whistleblower website WikiLeaks has been losing some half a million euros a week since it began publishing confidential US cables, the founder of the site Julian Assange said in an interview appearing yesterday. When asked about the pressure put on him over the website's move, Assange told Swiss newspapers Tribune de Geneve and 24 Heures: "From a personal point of view, no. I would say that the pressure reinforces my determination. "But from a financial point of view, it's another matter. "We have been losing more than 600,000 francs (481,068 euros, 620,053 dollars) a week since the start of the publication of the diplomatic cables. To continue our business, we would need to find a way or other to get this money back," he added.



There was no explanation of why Wikileaks was losing money with the publication, but several banks or payment systems have terminated business with the website in recent weeks. The Australian is on bail in Britain facing extradition proceedings to Sweden on charges of sexual assault. The date of his trial is to be fixed during a hearing on Tuesday in London. Media reports suggest that US prosecutors are also trying to build a case against him on the grounds that he encouraged a US soldier, Bradley Manning, to steal cables from a government computer and pass them to WikiLeaks. Assange had also acknowledged during a December interview to Britain's Sunday Times that financial difficulties had pushed him to sign more than one million pounds (1.2 million euros, 1.55 million dollars) in deals for his autobiography.

India alleges incursion by Chinese troops

AFP, New Delhi India yesterday said Chinese troops had threatened Indian workers in an area of the Himalayas claimed by both countries, in the latest sign of long-standing cross-border friction. Indian army chief General V.K. Singh told reporters that the workers were illegally building a shelter at Demchok in the Ladakh region of Indian Kashmir when the Chinese military patrol threatened them in September or October. The borders between India and China have been the subject of 14 rounds of fruitless talks since 1962, when the two nations fought a brief but a brutal war over the issue.

Expressway gets

FROM PAGE 20 said a source in the meeting. The bidder during final negotiations agreed to pay the government a one-time concession fee of \$40 million in addition to other financial benefits, said Prof Md Shamsul Hoque, a member of the tender evaluation committee. The government however desired in the Request for Proposal that the concessionaire should pay it a concession fee of \$25 million every year. The bidder committed the government to providing it with other financial benefits that include 37.5 percent corporate tax of the income from the expressway, 15 percent VAT on every toll transaction and 11 percent customs duty on imported materials. It also agreed to pay the government Tk 87 crore for transfer of technology. A part of the amount will be spent to set up an engineering institute to impart training on the new technologies to be used in the construction, said Prof Hoque. The technical teams involved in tender evaluation opted for box type construction of the expressway,

for which Ital-Thai offered a cost of Tk 8,703 crore. The government has agreed to provide 27 percent of the construction cost as Viability Gap Fund from its Public Private Partnership fund. The concessionaire has to start the construction work in three months after issuance of the work order and complete it in three and a half years. The proposed route of the expressway starts from Shahjalal Airport via Kuril, Banani, Tejgaon, Moghbazar and Kamalapur Stadium along the existing railway track. It then runs through Gulbagh across the Demra road up to Kutubkhali via Dania. Ital-Thai has agreed to a standard toll of Tk125 for a car from one end to the other and Tk100 for partial use of the expressway. A public bus has to pay double the standard rate, a six-wheeler truck four times and any vehicle larger than that five times. Motorbikes will not get access to the facility for safety reasons. The expressway will be handed over to the government after 25 years of concession period.

Saudis hunt 47 'al-Qaeda suspects'

ALJAZEERA ONLINE Saudi Arabia interior ministry officials say they have issued international arrest warrants for 47 suspected al-Qaeda fighters who are thought to have been trying to build "terrorist cells" in the kingdom. The list includes names of Saudis who hold senior functions inside al-Qaeda and have tried to recruit in the country, authorities said. They are believed to be hiding in Yemen, Afghanistan, Pakistan or Iraq. "The security follow-up, on those wanted by the security authorities, led to monitoring 47 Saudis who are now outside the kingdom and provided evidence that proves that they follow the deviant [al-Qaeda] ideology and efforts to support its activities," Mansour al-Turki, the interior ministry spokesman, announced on Sunday.

Money offered to woo voters

FROM PAGE 20 A few candidates and election representatives alleged that most of the mayoral candidates have already spent around Tk 40-50 lakh each while the councillor aspirants about Tk 10 lakh each. According to them the spending will continue till the eve of the elections. As per electoral rules, a mayor aspirant is allowed to spend up to Tk 2-5 lakh depending on the number of voters in his or her municipality. Preferring not to be quoted, a union parishad chairman in Baghamra upazila said the representatives of candidates are offering Tk 1,000 per vote. "How much do you want to vote for our candidate?" a villager quoted an election representative as saying. Tanor, Godagari, Bagmara and Charghat of Rajshahi; Shibganj and Chapainawabganj sadar of Chapainawabganj; Kalai and Joypurhat of Joypurhat

district; Gurudaspur, Gopalpur, Singra and Natore Sadar of Natore district; Dhunot and Gabtoli of Bogra are among those municipalities where more money is being spent comparing to other municipalities. Meanwhile, general voters are saying that they would not choose their mayor for money. Many politicians and general voters believe that the main reason behind money playing a major role in the polls is the significant number of businessmen candidates. In the 21 municipalities in Rajshahi division, 84 mayoral candidates out of 114 are businessmen, including contractors, fish traders and sweet traders, according to the information provided by the candidates to the Election Commission. The picture is the same in Rangpur division. The election monitoring authorities has not taken

any exemplary actions against any of the mayoral and councillor candidates here although the candidates have been raising allegation and counter allegations against each other about attempts to buy votes. In Haragachh municipality, biri (local handmade cigarettes) factory owners are facing serious disruption in production, as their workers are not coming to work having cash flowing from the contestants, alleged a biri factory owner. "Each worker is getting Tk 500-700 every day from the candidates and the income is increasing with the election nearing," he said. Kurigram and Lalmonirhat have the same tale to tell. In Baderganj municipality all the mayoral candidates brought out colourful rallies. Eyewitnesses said mayoral candidates Uttom Kumar Saha, Mosharraf Hossain, Sarwar Jahan brought out separate rallies as part of their election campaigns. As per the electoral rules, no candidates can organise processions or rallies ahead of polls. Asked Returning Officer of Baderganj municipality admitted the incident but said that there were less than 20 people there. He said the rallies paraded the municipality so fast that they ended before mobile court could reach them.

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পাওয়ার গ্রীড কোম্পানী অব বাংলাদেশ লিঃ POWER GRID COMPANY OF BANGLADESH LTD. (An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board) Institution of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB) Bhaban (New), 3rd & 4th Floor, 8/A, Ramna, Dhaka-1000. Web: www.pgcb.org.bd

খোলা দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১। বিষয় বা কাজের নাম	ক) গোপালগঞ্জ গ্রীড উপকেন্দ্রে হইতে নির্মাণাধীন গোপালগঞ্জ বিদ্যুৎ কেন্দ্র পর্যন্ত ১৩২ কেভি সঞ্চালন লাইন নির্মাণ কাজ (পুনঃ বিজ্ঞপ্তি)। খ) মানসিপুর-গোপালগঞ্জ সঞ্চালন লাইনের ৪৯টি টাওয়ারের অসমাপ্ত নাট-বোল্ট ব্রেজিং করণ। গ) ফরিদপুর ও গোপালগঞ্জ গ্রীড উপকেন্দ্রে ২টি লাইন "বে ইকুইমেন্ট" স্থাপনের জন্য কন্ট্রোল ক্যাবল সরবরাহের কাজ (সংশোধিত দরপত্র)।
২। বায়না জানানত	ক কাজের জন্য টাকা ১,২০,০০০/-, খ কাজের জন্য টাকা ৪০,০০০/- মাত্র, যে কোন তফসীলি ব্যাকে কর্তৃক পে-অর্ডার/ ব্যাকে ড্রাফট আকারে পাওয়ার গ্রীড কোম্পানী অব বাংলাদেশ লিঃ এর অনুকূলে দেয়।
৩। দরপত্র দাখিলপত্রাদি প্রাপ্তিস্থান	ক) মহাবাহুবস্থাপক (সঞ্চালন-২), বিদ্যুৎ ভবন (১০ম তলা), ১ আব্দুল গণি রোড, ঢাকা। খ) কোম্পানী সচিব, পিজিসিবি/এস এম কার্যালয়, আইইবি ভবন, রমনা ঢাকা। গ) উপ-মহাবাহুবস্থাপক, গ্রীড সার্কেল, পিজিসিবি, গোয়ালপাড়, ফুলবাড়ী। ঘ) প্রকল্প পরিচালক, আরপিপি সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রকল্প, ৮০, মহাখালী (২য় তলা), ঢাকা। ঙ) নিম্ন স্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তর।
৪। দরপত্র দাখিলের মূল্য	ক কাজের জন্য টাকা ২,০০০/-, খ কাজের জন্য টাকা ২০০/-, গ কাজের জন্য টাকা ১,০০০/- মাত্র (অনুলেখিত) পাওয়ার গ্রীড কোম্পানী অব বাংলাদেশ লিঃ এর অনুকূলে তফসীলভুক্ত ব্যাকে এর পে-অর্ডার/ ব্যাকে ড্রাফট এর মাধ্যমে দেয়।
৫। ঠিকাদারের যোগ্যতা	১) 'ক' কাজের জন্য পিজিসিবি/এস এম অধিভুক্ত সম্পন্ন অথবা বিউবো/ডিপিউসিএস ১ম শ্রেণীর তালিকাভুক্ত এবং এনিসি ইলেকট্রিক্যাল লাইসেন্সধারী ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠান যাহাদের ১৩২ কেভি বা তদূর্ধ্ব ভোল্টেজের সঞ্চালন লাইন নির্মাণ ও টেস্টিং কমিশনিং কাজে বিগত ৫ বছরের মধ্যে কমপক্ষে ৩০,০০,০০০/- টাকার একক কাজের সন্তোষজনক কার্য সম্পাদনের অভিজ্ঞতা আছে। ২) 'খ' কাজের জন্য পিজিসিবি/এস এম অধিভুক্ত সম্পন্ন অথবা বিউবো/ডিপিউসিএস ১ম শ্রেণীর তালিকাভুক্ত এবং এনিসি ইলেকট্রিক্যাল লাইসেন্সধারী ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠান যাহাদের ১৩২ কেভি বা তদূর্ধ্ব ভোল্টেজের টাওয়ারের নাট-বোল্ট ব্রেজিং কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা আছে। ৩) 'গ' কাজের জন্য IEC Standard বা সমমানের ক্যাবল উৎপাদনকারী প্রকৃত প্রতিষ্ঠান যাহাদের হালনাগাদ আয়কর সার্টিফিকেট, VAT রেজিস্ট্রেশন ও ট্রেড লাইসেন্স আছে। যাহা দরপত্র সিডিউল ক্রয়ের পূর্বে প্রদর্শন করিতে হইবে এবং দরপত্র সিডিউলে উল্লেখকৃত অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী এই ক্ষেত্রে প্রযোজ্য হইবে।
৬। দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	ক ও খ কাজ ৩০/০১/২০১১ইং এবং গ কাজ ১৬/০১/২০১১ বিকাল ৪:০০ ঘটিকা।
৭। দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	ক ও খ কাজ ৩১/০১/২০১১ইং এবং গ কাজ ১৭/০১/২০১১ইং দুপুর ১২:০০ ঘটিকা জমিক নং ৩-এ উল্লেখিত ('খ' ও 'গ' ব্যতীত) যেকোন দপ্তরে দরপত্র দাখিল করিতে হইবে।
৮। দরপত্র খাম খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	ক ও খ কাজ ০২/০২/২০১১ইং এবং গ কাজ ১৬/০১/২০১১ইং তারিখ দুপুর ১২:০৫ ঘটিকায় নিম্ন স্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তরে সকল দরপত্র একত্র করিয়া দরদাতাগণের সম্মুখে, যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন সকল দরপত্রের খাম খোলা হইবে।

OBITUARY Mahmuda Haque, a former teacher of Willes Little Flower School, Kakrail, and wife of Alaul Haque, expired on 8 January due to heart attack at her residence at Hafizabad Colony, New Eskaton. She was 65. She left behind her husband, a son and a daughter. Her *namaz-e janaza* will be held after *Zohr* today (11 January) at Nur Nagar Jame Masjid, near BIAM.

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