

## DHAKA-CTG TRAIN SERVICE 3 crucial deals in a week

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

Bangladesh Railway will sign contracts for three crucial projects worth around Tk 2,000 crore within a week to improve train service between Dhaka and Chittagong.

Of them, the deal for remodelling Chittagong Station Yard will be inked today, railway officials said yesterday.

The contract for upgrading Laksam-Chinki Astana single-line will be signed on Thursday while the deal for purchasing 11 MG locomotives on Sunday.

“Train services between Dhaka and Chittagong will improve after completion of the projects,” Abu Taher, director general of the BR told The Daily Star.

Local Max Automobile Company will get the Tk 250-crore job of remodeling the Chittagong Station Yard. Of the sum, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) will give Tk 237 crore, and the government will provide the rest.

Project director Noor Mohammad, however, said Jica may agree to fund the entire project.

The project was undertaken in 2007, and is supposed to be completed by 2014.

Marubeni Corporation, a Japanese firm, has got the Tk 291-crore project for purchasing 11 Metre Gauge locomotive by next year.

Most of the money for this project is to come from Jica. The total cost of the project will stand at Tk 374 including CD and vat, said Project Director Md Shamsuzzaman.

Upgrading the 61km Laksam-Chinki Astana single-line rail track into a double track is the most crucial of the three projects.

Project Director SM Liakot Ali said three companies, two Chinese and one Bangladeshi, got the contract of the project worth Tk 1,301 crore.

He said China Railway Material Import and Export Co Ltd along with another Chinese firm, Chentu Ranken Railway Construction Co Ltd and Bangladeshi Max Automobile Products Ltd will do the job in two years.

Jica will provide some assistance to this project.

Five projects, including these three, were undertaken in 2007.

The two other projects are improvement of Pahartoli Railway Workshop and Consulting Engineering Services for Dhaka-Chittagong Development Project and Skill Development Programme.

Sources said deals for these two projects will also be signed soon.

## Robbery in city house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A young woman was stabbed during a robbery at a house in the city's Jatrabari yesterday.

The injured Farhana Yasmin, 19, daughter of retired banker Delwar Hossain Mollah, was rushed to Central Hospital at Green Road.

A gang of six robbers, one in mask, entered Delwar's house by cutting the window grill around 3:00am and looted 50 tolas of gold ornaments and Tk 3 lakh in cash, said the family. A case was filed with Jatrabari Police Station.



A fighter plane catches fire instants before it lands and skids off the runway at Shah Amanat International Airport in Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

## Remove CCTVs from beauty parlours

HC asks govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to take necessary action immediately for removing closed-circuit televisions (CCTVs) from the service rooms of the beauty parlours across the country.

The court also issued a rule upon the five government officials to explain within two weeks why they should not be directed to make a policy on the use of CCTV cameras in service rooms of the parlours.

The five are information secretary, home secretary, labour secretary, inspector general of police (IGP) and director general of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab).

The court order came following a writ petition filed by Advocate Alena Khan, chief executive of Bangladesh Human Rights Foundation.

Advocate Alena filed the petition following an outcry over privacy at beauty parlours after a woman made allegations to police and the media that she was video taped by a CCTV while taking service at Persona, a beauty parlour in the city, on September 30.

A HC bench of Justice Farid Ahmed and Justice Sheikh Hassan Arif passed the order.

The petition says after the Persona incident, most of the people irrespective of female and male used to take parlour services are in fear that they might have been video taped by CCTVs.

Alena Khan told reporters that they sought directives from the court, as there is no guideline for installation of CCTVs in the beauty parlours to protect the life and liberty of the people.

## 'Beheading of eight medieval barbarism'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sammilito Samajik Andolan leaders yesterday condemned and protested the public execution of eight Bangladeshi migrant workers in Saudi Arabia.

The workers were beheaded in public in Riyadh on October 7 after they were found guilty of killing an Egyptian in 2007.

In a statement, the leaders compared the executions to “medieval barbarism”, saying such an act in public is barbaric.

“We are profoundly saddened,” said the organisation's President Ajoy Roy, vice presidents Pankaj Bhattacharya, Advocate SMA Sabur and Rajia Samad Dalia and General Secretary Tobarak Hossain in the statement.

Demand to stop death sentence is being voiced worldwide. A number of human rights organisations in recent times are forming public opinion to stop capital punishment while some countries already stopped it, they said.

Besides, different human rights organisations are claiming that the judicial system of Saudi Arabia is not of international standard, they added.

Gonotantrik Bam Morcha (Democratic Left Alliance) also condemned and protested the executions, says a press release.

Hiding the dead bodies without informing the family while falsely claiming that they were buried and ignoring international customs goes against humanity and is also condemnable, said the morcha leaders.

The government of Bangladesh failed to ensure the safety of the lives of its citizens. It also tarnished Bangladesh's image abroad and represented the country as one without a backbone before the international community, they said.

## Fighter aircraft crashes in Ctg

### Pilot injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A fighter aircraft of Bangladesh Air Force crashed at Shah Amanat International Airport in the port city yesterday.

Flight Lt Muntasin, the lone pilot of the aircraft A-5, managed to eject by parachute, said SM Joynal Abedin, duty manager of the airport.

The pilot sustained minor head injuries and was taken to the air force hospital at Sergeant Zahirul Haq Airbase at Potenga.


The accident happened around 12:20pm when the aircraft was landing on the southern runway after a training session.

It crashed seconds before touching down the ground when its rear wheel caught fire, Joynal said.

Later, the flame spread through the entire aircraft, he said, adding that the civil aviation authorities managed to douse the blaze within a few minutes.

“The aircraft exploded with a big bang when it crashed. Then a coiling cloud of smoke went skyward,” said Abu Taher, who saw the crash.

The accident stopped the activities of the airport for an hour. However, it did not disrupt the flight operation, as no commercial flights were scheduled to take off during the one hour.



WEATHER  
TODAY

### Light rain likely

**UNB, Dhaka**

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions in 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

**The sun sets in the capital at 5:37pm today and rises at 5:54am tomorrow.**

Country's highest temperature 35.6 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 24.0 degrees Celsius at Srirangal.

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       | 33.5                   | 25.5 | 76                     | 85      |
| Chittagong  | 32.5                   | 25.4 | 77                     | 77      |
| Rajshahi    | 33.5                   | 25.5 | 80                     | 89      |
| Rangpur     | 33.8                   | 26.3 | 79                     | 84      |
| Khulna      | 34.6                   | 26.5 | 79                     | 87      |
| Barisal     | 34.8                   | 26.2 | 78                     | 86      |
| Sylhet      | 35.3                   | 24.4 | 70                     | 76      |
| Cox's Bazar | 33.5                   | 24.5 | 75                     | 73      |

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এসো আমরাও মজা করে ইংরেজি শিখি

তুমিও কি  
শিখতে চাও?

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আফন্য আমবেই

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