Polytechnic

call off work

abstention

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers of polytechnic

institute have withdrawn

their pre-announced work

abstention programmes

following a meeting with the

banner of Bangladesh

Polytechnic Teachers

Association (BPTA) and

Bangladesh Polytechnic

Teachers Council yesterday

sat with the officials of edu-

cation ministry about their

demands at the ministry's

Earlier, they announced

to go for work abstention at

the state-run polytechnic

institutes from June 2 to June

7 to press home their 8-point

demand, including resolv-

ing the crisis of teachers in

conference room.

The teachers under the

government.

teachers

e-ticketing service launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will buy 200 air-conditioned railway coaches from Malaysia within a year to enhance the country's rail service capacity, Communications Minister Obadiul Quader said yesterday.

The coaches will be for narrow track (metre gauge), he said, and an expert team is expected to visit Bangladesh next month to ascertain their compatibility with the local rail

An agreement between the two governments in this regard will follow a visit of a Bangladeshi team to Malaysia, said Obadiul Quader, who is also in charge of the railways ministry.

The minister talked to the media about the plan after Malaysian prime minister's special envoy Dato Seri S Samy Vellu called on him at Railway Division. Asked if Bangladesh government is going to spend for the

Quader said it was not yet settled. Malaysia has offered such coaches, while Bangladesh signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with it on

railway cars with its own money or with Malaysian loan,

Padma Bridge funding this April, he said. The minister described the railway sector as "limping"

with age-old tracks, coaches and engines. Of 2,835 kilometres of rail track, 2,200 kilometres are

metre gauge. Dato Seri, who is heading a 26-member Malaysian delegation, will visit Bangladesh late next month again to discuss final agreement on proposed Padma bridge project and construction of a monorail in Dhaka, he said.

Asked about the idea of monorail and where it might be built, the minister said Malaysia was interested in developing a metro rail out of proposed the three plans.

Unlike metro rail, monorail is a rail-based transportation system where trains run on a single rail, which acts as its sole support and its guideway.

About World Bank's financing for Padma Bridge, Quader reiterated that the government would take its money if the bank started the loan process within the current tenure. E-TICKET SERVICE

Bangladesh Railway formally launched e-ticketing service yesterday, enabling aspiring travellers to buy tickets online. One could pay for tickets online with a Visa card, Master

card or credit or debit cards of any bank. On successful completion of the purchase subject to availability of desired seats, one will be able to get a printout

of the ticket from his or her email address. Obaidul Quader said e-ticketing was aimed at preventing

railway tickets' sale on black market. However, only 10 percent of the total tickets will be available online. The amount has been excluded from 25 percent tickets, which were purchasable with mobile phone ticket service of designated operators.

One has to visit www.esheba.cnsbd.com or www.railway.gov.bd for purchasing e-tickets.

Samamana 27 Sangathan will organise

a rally; Venue: Institution of Diploma

Engineers, Bangladesh; Time:

Number and Type of Aircraft

Preference

closing schedule.

11:45am.

Human chain

Bangladesh Bharatiya Kalyan Samity

will form a human chain; Venue: Jatiya

Azimpur Old Friends Association will

arrange a memorial meeting; Venue:

Dhanmondi Club, Road No-8; Time:

Press Club; Time: 10:30am.

Memorial meet



Development work continuing for about a month makes it difficult for traffic to move on the road from Rampura to Malibagh railway gate in the capital. The photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

State must ensure rights of the challenged Says chief justice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice (CJ) Md Muzammel Hossain said yesterday the state must ensure the rights of people with disabilities, as the constitution had given equal rights to all citizens.

Muzammel Hossain was speaking as the chief guest, at a book launching ceremony, jointly organised by Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) and Harvard Law School Project on Disability (HPOD) at the Supreme Court Bar Association.

Noted jurist Dr Kamal Hossain presided over the function.

The book titled, "Disability Rights Law Manual", was written by Khandaker Shariar Shakir.

Justice Iman Ali said the government should create job oppurtunities for the challenged people.

Dr Kamal Hossain, also chairperson of BLAST, said the state should formulate a law to ensure the rights of the special needs persons to end discrimination.

Prof M Shah Alam, acting chairman of Bangladesh Law Commission, also spoke.

SC stays Mahmudul's oath taking as MP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday stayed the administration of oath to Major General (retd) Mahmudul Hasan as lawmaker for Tangail-5 constituency till tomorrow. Mahmudul, a BNP-backed candidate, was scheduled to be

sworn today, as the SC earlier had directed the Election Commission to declare him as elected lawmaker of the constituency. Chamber judge of the Appellate Division of SC yesterday passed the order following a prayer moved by Advocate Anisul

Huq, a counsel for Abul Kashem whose candidacy was declared illegal by the apex court. Abul Kashem, a Jatiya Party candidate, was elected Member

of Parliament in the elections held on December 29, 2008. Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, chamber judge of the Appellate Division, also fixed May 31 for holding hearing on the review petition filed by Abul Kashem against the SC verdict before its full bench.

During hearing Anisul Huq told the court that the review petition would become ineffective if his rival candidate Mahmudul Hassan was administered oath today.

He prayed to the court to stay the administration of oath to Mahmudul and to hold hearing of the review petition.

Barrister M Amir-Ul Islam, the counsel for Mahmudul, opposed the prayer for staying the administration of oath of his

Shah Monjurul Hoque, the filing lawyer of Abul Kashem, told The Daily Star that he filed the review petition with the SC on behalf of his client on May 7, as they got the copy of the full text of Appellate Division verdict on April 27.

He said that his client had prayed to the apex court to stay its verdict till disposal of the review petition.

Monjurul also said they could know from the media report yesterday that the Speaker to Jatiya Sangsad would administer oath to Mahmudul today.

The EC on May 7 declared Mahmudul Hasan elected MP, and cancelled candidacy of Abul Kashem, in line with the SC verdict that on February 14 declared Kashem a disqualified candidate for the 2008 polls, as he had been a loan defaulter then.

RTI act still unknown to many: Experts

'Some kind of fear acts

among the public servants

and information officers

who think that they might

face problem if they

provide information'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three years into the enactment of Right to Information (RTI) Act in the country and yet information seekers and officials concerned hesitate to ask for and give information as many of them lack proper knowledge of the act, said speakers at a seminar yesterday.

They urged all stakeholders to help properly implement the act for ensuring transparency and accountability in all areas of society.

The seminar titled 'Right to information: Making the difference' was organised by Management and Resources Development Initiative (MRDI) in partnership with USAID Progati at Ruposhi Bangla Hotel in the capital.

Some kind of fear acts among the public servants and information officers who think that they might face problem if they provide information, said Shaheen Anam, convener of RTI Forum and executive director

of Manusher Jonno Foundation.

"Years of practicing the culture of secrecy cannot go away in a couple of years just because we have a law," she said, adding that, "But we should not be discour- root and become even stronger, the envoy

"We have got this law and the only place we will go with this is forward," she said.

This needs the cooperation of all since amended anytime. the government alone cannot ensure full implementation of the act, she added.

She also urged the NGO communities to come forward and use the law responsibly

for establishing citizens' rights. Information Commissioner MA Taher seminar while MRDI Executive Director said the main purpose of the act is yet to be served as none, be it journalists or NGO

irregularities using the RTI tool in the last three years of its existence.

the institutes.

If the act could be properly utilised, the government would be more alert and people better served by now, he said.

Referring to Padma bridge issue, he said the journalists could approach the information commission or the communication ministry's designated information officers to gather details in this regard.

"We must go to them and ask them why they did not give the information," he added.

US Ambassador to Bangladesh Dan W Mozena said the RTI Act is an important step in ensuring transparency and accountability in Bangladesh's democracy.

"It is a tool for everyone - the media, civil

society, lawyers, researchers, teachers, general citizens - to access information from the government," he said.

As the RTI Act matures, as the government becomes increasingly responsive to requests from the citizenry for infor-

citizens individually learn how to better use the act to acquire information, then Bangladesh's democracy will take deeper

mation, and as media, civil society and

Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad said, the RTI Act is not final, it can be

"If the civil society approaches for amendment of the act we must look into

it," he added. Boishakhi TV Editor-in-Chief and CEO Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul moderated the

Hasibur Rahman also spoke among others. Meanwhile, two books were launched

activists, could trace out any corruption or at the programme.

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Sajeda acting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury will

act as the president of Awami

League after departure of its

President and Prime Minister

Sheikh Hasina for Qatar on a

two-day official visit.

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M. A. Mamdud Khan

Ref: DACPM/Hajj 2012-2/2012/55 Date: 29 May 2012 Request for Proposal (RFP) Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd. invites proposal for taking lease of 02 (Two) 747-400 aircraft on ACMI (wet) basis from Airlines, Operators, Owners of Aircraft and/or Leasing Companies for its Hajj operations in 2012 as per terms and conditions given in the RFP Schedule. Basic requirements are mentioned below:

Biman Bangladesh Airlines Limited

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HEAD OFFICE, BALAKA, KURMITOLA, DHAKA-1229, BANGLADESH, PHONES: 8901600-14, 8901680-94, FAX: 88-02-8901558, www.biman-airlines

Two (02) 747-400 series aircraft.

- Nature of Lease ACMI (Aircraft, Crew, Maintenance and Insurance) Date of 1st flight in Pre-hajj Phase 15 September 2012 (tentative) Date of last flight in Pre-hajj Phase 21 October 2012 (tentative) Date of 1st flight in Post-hajj Phase 01 November 2012 (tentative) Date of last flight in Post-hajj Phase 01 December 2012 (tentative) Number of passenger to be carried 20,000+ by each aircraft (estimated) Air Operators Certificate for ACMI operation. Mandatory requirements
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 - Aircraft manufactured in November 1992 or later.

 - Sistership aircraft having similar passenger seat configuration.
 - Aircraft from a single source
 - Detailed information is available in the RFP Schedule. RFP Notice and Schedule may be viewed at Biman's website: www.biman-airlines.com. For further information or query, General Manager Corporate Planning may be contacted at
- Telephone: +880-2-8901600/Ext. 2284 & 2286, Fax: +880-2-8901588, e-mail: gmp@bdbiman.com during the office hours. Proposals/Offers are to be submitted to General Manager Corporate Planning, Biman Bangladesh Airlines Limited, Head Office, Balaka, Kurmitola, Dhaka-1229, Bangladesh latest by 1000 hours BST (0400 hours UTC) on 13 June 2012 through courier service or e-mail to hajj2012-2@bdbiman.com. The Proposal(s)/Offer(s) will be opened on the same day

immediately after the closing schedule in presence of the Bidder(s), if any. No Proposal/Offer will be accepted after the

- No unsolicited paper/document/information/approach will be entertained at any level. Bidders are requested to comply with the stipulated terms and conditions of the RFP Schedule, failing which the offers/proposals may be rejected at the option of the Lessee.
- 5. Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd. reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposal(s)/offer(s) at any time and/or stage without assigning any reason, whatsoever, and no claim shall be acceptable in this regards.

General Manager Corporate Planning