

Tender floated

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Communications Minister Obaidul Quader on December 21 said the upgrading work will remain suspended until the legal battle was over. Quader said this while inspecting the work on Joydevpur-Mymensingh Highway.

The minister that day apparently didn't know why the deal with Intraco was cancelled as he had also asked Intraco to withdraw its case and resume upgrading work. However, he changed his decision immediately after learning the legal complications.

"The ministry went for fresh tendering after taking opinions of the attorney general," Quader told The Daily Star last week, adding, the move was taken to

upgrade the road immediately for smooth transportation, but lengthy legal battle is delaying it.

Asked if Intraco's win in the legal battle would complicate the matter further, the minister said the chances are very slim.

Acting Communications Secretary MAN Siddique also came up with similar view. He asked this correspondent to talk to the project director (PD) to learn everything about the project and the fresh move.

However, Project Director Feroj Iqbal declined to say anything. "I am helpless and can't tell you anything," he said.

He also made no comment when asked why no legal action was taken against

Intraco for fraudulence and why no action was taken against those who were in the tender evaluation committee and recommended to give the work to Intraco.

Sheikh Babar Ali of Intraco claimed they have evidence that will prove their joint venture with HRBC genuine. He termed the fresh tendering move illegal.

By going for fresh tendering, the ministry also trashed the option for an amicable settlement with the contractor. The tribunal in an observation recently suggested that both sides reach an amicable settlement considering the urgency and nature of the construction.

BACKGROUND
The ruling Awami League in its

election manifesto pledged to upgrade the Dhaka-Mymensingh Highway into four lanes and accordingly undertook a project in 2010. The Roads and Highways Department signed a Tk 330 crore contract with Intraco on January 27, 2011 to upgrade the road from Joydevpur to Mawna.

The deal was signed following recommendations of a six-member tender evaluation committee (Tec) headed by Chief Engineer Aminur Rahman Laskar.

In the middle of the evaluation, Tec received a complaint against Intraco that it had forged documents on the joint venture partnership with Chinese firm HRBC. The Tec found that the name and address

of the complainant used were fake. There is no provision to entertain such complaints, but Tec accepted it for what it said was flawless evaluation and transparency.

The committee also communicated with the HRBC head office in China which confirmed that the joint venture with Intraco was genuine.

Intriguingly, the then communications minister on the basis of a dubious complaint sent Chief Engineer Laskar and a deputy secretary of his ministry to China to verify the joint venture.

Upon their return home, the duo termed the joint venture false.

Abul cancelled the contract with Intraco and promised to take action against the firm. His action came as a big surprise since Intraco got the job after lengthy procedures and formalities. The termination came eight months after Intraco got the task and mobilised fund and equipment to begin the upgrading work.

Judges

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Bhaban. Kishoreganj Journalists Forum, Dhaka, organised the programme.

He said he did not mention anyone's name in parliament while speaking on May 29 about the judiciary, legislature and administration.

Hamid said he did not speak against anyone personally that day, yet he was blamed for remarks tantamount to sedition. "I have nothing to do then. I have gone to jail many times before. I take it easy," he added.

"What I had said was [that] people would resist if a government turned autocratic. Likewise, they would protest if a parliament enacted laws against their interests, and they would stand against a court if it delivered verdicts against them," he continued. "This was the rule everywhere."

The Speaker also said Chief Justice Muzammel Hossain was his friend and he would also have to carry out his duty considering the

people and it was mandatory.

He said the three pillars of the state are not in conflict with each other. However, it would be a problem if rivalry arises between them.

"I don't shy away from speaking what I think is just and I don't pursue politics of flattery," he added.

A High Court bench led by Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik on June 5 said the speaker had provoked people against the apex court by making comments on its directive on a piece of Supreme Court land, and that "the act amounted to sedition".

Hours afterwards, several senior lawmakers said in parliament that Justice Manik had violated the constitution by making "derogatory remarks" about the speaker.

They also demanded that the president ask the chief justice to constitute a Supreme Judicial Council for removing the judge from office.

Obama eases deportation rules for young illegals

AFP, Washington

US President Barack Obama Friday suspended the threat of deportation against hundreds of thousands of young illegal immigrants, delighting crucial Hispanic voters ahead of November's election.

The scheme applies to people brought to the United States before the age of 16, who are currently under 30, are in school or have graduated from high school, or have served in the military and have not been convicted of a felony.

Although affected youths will be able to apply for work permits, they will not be granted permanent residence status or a path towards citizenship.

Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said that only youths that had been living in the United States for five years and were no threat to national security would be

Mother reeling from 35-hour nightmare

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room," Khaleda told The Daily Star at her Topkhana house in the capital last Monday.

A gang of three entered Khaleda's flat at around 8:00pm on the fateful night and strangled her daughter Nishat Banu, 47, and unleashed terror on the elderly widow before leaving in the early hours the next day.

Khaleda's husband Abul Kaseem Mohammad Jalaluddin went to India in 1972. There he took a second wife and never returned. Khaleda inherited the building from her father.

For over 10 years, Khaleda and her daughter had been living with fear and a sense of insecurity. So much so that they did not even rent out the two top floors of the building lest the tenants should sniff out their helplessness and take advantage.

Khaleda's youngest daughter Zeba Sanjida got married and went to live in the USA 10 years ago. Her eldest daughter Rashida Banu lives in Canada. Nishat got divorced from her husband 20 years ago, just 15 days into her marriage.

The elderly mother and her daughter shunned the neighbours. Most of the times, they kept to them-

selves within the flat on the ground floor of the three-storey building.

"Everybody wants to grab my property. Many people wanted to rent the floors above, but I didn't allow it. That is why, we didn't use to interact with other people too much," she added.

She said they would go out twice a month to buy the essentials. Helplessness and a sense of insecurity gripped her daughter so much that she would not leave her bedroom for days, said Khaleda Banu.

According to her, the time she had spent lying on the floor tied up was the worst in her life. With no one within the hearing distance, nearly a day and a half went by before she was able to loosen the knots and call out for help.

"I screamed for help and water, but nobody heard me. The rope was so tightly put around that it left deep bruises on my hands, legs and face," said the grief-stricken mother sitting motionless in a room beside the crime scene.

Even after she had succeeded in untying herself around 1:30am on June 7, nobody came to help her that night. She had to wait for agonising seven hours for daybreak when a neighbour

came and raised the alarm.

JM Faruque, uncle of Nishat, said they did not have any communications with the family.

"The mother and daughter were very pious. Most of the time they kept themselves busy in prayers. They feared that people might take away their land," he added.

The only source of income of the family is a Tk 20,000 rental from a tin shed building adjacent to their residence.

Khaleda said she was not sure whether she would get justice for the murder of her daughter.

"Two brothers, Selim Talukder and Saiful Talukder, have been occupying a piece of my land for 20 years. Their father Moniruzzaman wanted to kill my elder daughter. I filed cases against them, but justice does not seem to know my address," she added.

Though Khaleda could not recognise the criminals, she alleged that the two brothers had planned the murder to grab her remaining property.

"We are still being watched by the cohorts of the brothers. They roam around the house all day. But police are not arresting them," she alleged.

Khaleda's eldest daughter

Rashida came from Canada on June 11. She said, "I can't imagine how anyone could kill an innocent person like my sister. She was in her prayers when the criminals entered the room. Blood is still there on her Tasbeeh."

She said she was also feeling insecure in Bangladesh. "I urge the government to complete the investigation as soon as possible and award the killers the capital punishment."

Meanwhile, two policemen have been deployed at Khaleda's residence for security.

On June 7, Khaleda filed a case in connection with her daughter's murder with the Shahbagh Police Station accusing three unidentified criminals. She also alleged that Selim and Saiful masterminded the killing following a dispute over land.

That very day police detained the brothers.

On Thursday, a Dhaka court placed six suspects, including Selim and Saiful, in three days' remand with detectives. The first-phase three-day remand of the brothers ended on Wednesday.

Sources in the police said that during primary investigation the two brothers had admitted that they had had a feud with the family over land.

Vacancy Announcement



United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh has a vacancy for the post of **Project Associate under Service Contract** for the 'Improving Democracy through Parliamentary Development' Project. The project duration is until 30 June 2014.

The duration of the Service Contract is one year initially, subject to renewal on an annual basis upon satisfactory performance and availability of funds

For details of the Terms of Reference and instructions to apply, please visit our website: <http://www.undp.org.bd/jobs>. Applications should be received no later than 17:00, 28 June 2012. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

Vacancy Announcement



United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh announces the vacancy for the post of **Training Manager for the Activating Village Courts Project**. The Project Duration is until December 2013.

The duration of the Service Contract is one year initially, subject to renewal on an annual basis upon satisfactory performance and availability of funds

For details of the Terms of Reference and instructions to apply, please visit our website: <http://www.undp.org.bd/jobs>. Applications should be received no later than 17:00, 24 June 2012. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

Re-Advertisement



United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh announces the vacancy for the post of **Project Officer for the Bangladesh National Human Rights Commission - Capacity Development Project**. The Project Duration is until April 2015.

The duration of the Service Contract is one year initially, subject to renewal on an annual basis upon satisfactory performance and availability of funds

For details of the Terms of Reference and instructions to apply, please visit our website: <http://www.undp.org.bd/jobs>. Applications should be received no later than 17:00, 28 June 2012. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

Electricity bill shocking

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have to pay a hefty Tk 7.89 per unit.

The rates apply to customers of the Power Development Board (PDB), Dhaka Power Distribution Company Ltd, Dhaka Electric Supply Company Ltd and West Zone Power Distribution Company Ltd.

Earlier, households used to pay a mandatory minimum bill and additional bill for their consumption above 100 units. If the electricity consumption of a home exceeded 100 units and remained below 400 units, they paid higher rates for the units consumed above the 100 mark.

Now, the unit price of electricity for households squarely depends on how much power is consumed in a month.

Salim Mahmud, member of Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC), said, "We have withdrawn the common lowest slab facility to give relief to the government from its huge subsidies."

"We want to make sure that the real small consumers enjoy the lowest slab facility. The well-off should not get the benefit of the subsidised rates," Salim told The Daily Star.

He admitted that consumers' bills have gone up sharply not only because of the price hike of electricity but also due to the withdrawal of this facility.

Residential users said the discontinuation of the minimum bill system had caused a rise in their monthly energy bills at a time when households were struggling with high electricity prices.

Khondoker Shoyeb, a consumer of Dhaka Power Distribution Company Ltd, paid a maximum of Tk 1,200 a month in the summer last year. But he had to pay Tk 1,800 in April this year.

Quazi Faruque, president of Consumers Association of Bangladesh, said, "It is not acceptable. The previous tariff system should be reinstated. People should not be punished for the state's subsidy burden."

"Ordinary citizens are living a miserable life. We do not know what they will do if electricity prices continue to increase," he said.

BERC member Salim,

however, maintained that the tariff hikes and change in the billing system were part of the government's move to slash subsidies in the power sector.

According to the PDB, the average production cost of per unit electricity is Tk 5.70, and the government spent Tk 20,000 crore in subsidies to the power sector last year.

It said power tariffs in Bangladesh were the lowest

in the sub-continent.


Salim said if the companies make a profit for this sudden change in the billing system, the regulator will try to make sure that the extra money goes to the PDB.

He said the regulator was preparing to put in place a mechanism for that. "We will not allow the companies to distribute the profits among its officials."

After coming to power,

the present government has increased electricity prices four times on the grounds of high production cost.

Consumers of the Rural Electrification Board now pay Tk 3.08 to Tk 3.55 per unit for consuming 100 units, Tk 3.67 to Tk 4.20 a unit for 101 to 300 units, Tk 5.98 to Tk 6.35 per unit for 301 to 500 units and Tk 7.88 to Tk 9.38 a unit for using

 **ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED**
395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area
Dhaka-1208

LOCAL TENDER NOTICE (SHORT DATED)

Tender ref: EDCL/PUR/LOCAL/TENDER/2012/497 Dated: 14/06/2012

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the reputed Contractors having experience for successful completion of construction works in any single work worth of Govt/Semi Govt./Autonomous bodies during the last 5 (five) years.

Name of work	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender Schedule	Time for completion after getting work order
Construction of Oral Liquid Filling Sealing and processing area (Existing Bottle area) at EDCL, Dhaka. (Details as per design drawing and BOQ)	Tk. 5% of quoted amount	Tk. 1,500.00/set (Non refundable)	01 (one) month

Tender schedule will be sold from the Accounts Department of Essential Drugs Company Limited, Dhaka on payment as stated above during office hours on all working days (except Friday, Saturday and Govt. Holidays). No tender schedule will be sold on the opening date of the tender.

The tender will be accompanied by an amount of Earnest Money as mentioned above in the from of Bank Draft/Pay Order/ Bank Guarantee from any Schedule Bank of Bangladesh in favour of "Essential Drugs Co. Ltd." without which the tender will be considered as non-responsive.

The tenderers may drop their offer alongwith detailed work plan to the tender Box kept at the Purchase Departments, EDCL, Dhaka office till 12.00 Noon on 21/06/2012 which will be opened on 21/06/2012 at 12.30 Noon in presence of the tenderers/their representatives (if any).

EDCL authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

(Md. Ali Mukarram)
Manager , Planning & Procurement.
For: Managing Director.

Vacancy Announcement



United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh announces a vacancy for the following positions for "Police Reform Programme - Phase II" project.

1. Project Assistant
2. Admin and Finance Assistant

The duration of the Service Contract is one year initially, subject to renewal on an annual basis upon satisfactory performance and availability of funds.

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