

## India delivers 290 buses

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

India has completed delivering a consignment of 290 double-decker buses, amounting to \$ 23.32 million, to Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC).

The project for procurement of the buses was approved under the \$ 1 billion Indian Line of Credit.

Of the buses, 180 are already plying Dhaka roads while 110 wait at the depot for distribution.

The contract of the buses' procurement was given to M/s Ashok Leyland Ltd, India with effect from September, 2011.

The delivery of the buses started in March this year and the last lot of the buses arrived in Chaitipur BRTC depot on October 30.

Alongside, two truck-loads of spare parts have also arrived in the capital.

Meanwhile, deliveries of 165 broad gauge tank wagons with six brake vans, 81 meter gauge tank wagons with three brake vans, and six diesel locomotives are expected to begin in the first half of 2013, said a press release of the Indian High Commission yesterday.

It said the construction work of the second Bhairab rail bridge over Meghna river, the second rail bridge over Titas river and third and fourth rail line between Dhaka-Tongi would commence next year.

Two more contracts for supply of 88 air-conditioned buses and 50 articulated buses have been signed between BRTC and M/s Ashok Leyland Ltd, India, under the Indian credit line, delivery of which is expected to commence next month.

Ten contracts have so far been signed for supply of buses, tank wagons, diesel locomotives, flat wagons, consultancy for new rail lines and railway bridges.

Meantime, India has reduced the credit component of the \$ 1 billion credit line by converting \$ 200 million into grants.



The fourth batch students of the management information system (MIS) department of Dhaka University celebrate rag day at TSC ground yesterday.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

## HC clears way for ACC case against Habib

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday cleared the way for the Anti-Corruption Commission to resume trial proceedings of a corruption case against former BNP lawmaker Habibul Islam Habib.

The ACC had filed the case on July 3, 2008 against Habib on charge of illegally amassing wealth worth Tk 87.94 lakh and concealing information about it.

The HC yesterday rejected a petition filed by the BNP lawmaker for quashing the proceedings of the case and vacated its earlier order in 2008, which had stayed the proceedings.

The HC bench of Justice Khondker Musa Khaled and Justice Md Nazrul Talukder came up with the verdict saying that it cannot accept any petition for quashing a case which is under investigation.

ACC's lawyer Barrister Abdul Halim told The Daily Star that following the HC verdict there is no there is no legal bar to his client running the corruption case at the lower court.

In July of 2008, another HC bench had stayed the proceedings of the case and issued a rule upon the ACC to explain why the case should not be scrapped.

## Pabna to get connected with rail network

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Railway yesterday signed a Tk 155.77 crore deal with Max Automobile Product Ltd to set up a 25-kilometers long new rail line from Majgram of Ishwardi to Pabna town.

The new track will link Pabna district with the country's railway network.

Max Automobile Product Ltd will take 18 months to set up the railroad. The construction firm will also install a four-kilometre loop-line and some level-crossing gates.

The railway authorities have acquired 390 acres of land for the new track.

Planning Minister AK Khandker, who witnessed the agreement signing ceremony, said the new railroad would reduce the distance between Pabna and

Dhaka by five kilometres.

General Manager of railway's west zone Abdul Awal and Managing Director of Max Automobile Product Ltd Golam Mohammad Alamgir signed the deal at Rail Bhaban.

The agreement is part of a Tk 982 crore project, approved in October 2010, to construct rail line from Majgram of Ishwardi to Dhalarchar near Pangsha of Rajbari district.

The project aims to found a new rail route linking Ishwardi, Majgram, Dhalarchar, Rajbari, Faridpur, Bhanga, and the proposed second Padma bridge connecting Paturia and Daulatdia.

Railways Minister Mujibul Hoque urged Max Automobile Product Ltd to complete the construction work within the tenure of this government.

## Akhtaruzzaman to be laid to rest today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury Babu, a senior Awami League leader and lawmaker, will be laid to rest at his family graveyard in Anwara upazila after Asr prayers today.

Akhtaruzzaman, also an organiser of the Liberation War, passed away in Singapore on Sunday. He was 71.

His first namaz-e-janaza was held at South Plaza of the parliament building at 11:00am yesterday and the second one at Jamiahtul Falah National Mosque in Chittagong city after Asr prayers.

His third namaz-e-janaza will be held at Pashchim Patiya AJ Chowdhury College ground at 11:00am today, the fourth one at Anwara High School ground at 2:00pm, and the final one at Hyle Dhor School ground after Asr prayers.

Akhtaruzzaman was elected member of the provincial assembly in 1970 and MP in 1986, 1991 and 2008 from Anwara in Chittagong.



PHOTO: BSS

President Zillur Rahman pays his last respects to Awami League lawmaker Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury Babu at Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan yesterday. Akhtaruzzaman, also an organiser of the Liberation War, passed away on Sunday.

# RISING Stars

Find out the funniest Facebook pages of our own this issue while we honour the age old rules of Dhaka city that we take for granted. We have our very own rock legends on centre. On a more serious note we look back at Ramu. All this and more.

SEE THIS WEEK'S RISING STARS.

## ACC okays graft charge against Jamir Uddin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday gave approval for submitting charge sheets in three cases for misappropriating money by four persons including the parliament's former speaker Jamir Uddin Sirker.

The commission gave approval to file the charge sheets in the cases against Jamir Uddin, former deputy speaker Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui and others, said ACC Commissioner Mohammad Shahabuddin.

In 2010, the ACC lodged the cases with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station.

In a case, the ACC brought allegation that Jamir Uddin and former chief whip late Khandaker Delwar Hossain, abusing their power misappropriated furniture and other goods worth over Tk 6 lakh supplied by the parliament secretary.

In another case, the ACC said Jamir Uddin and former chief accounts officer of the parliament Ashraf-ul-Islam, who is now posted at the post and telecommunication ministry, misappropriated over Tk 27 in the name of medical checkup abroad.

Meanwhile, Jamir Uddin and Akhter Hamid misappropriated over Tk 1 lakh for the same purpose.

### HALL-MARK SCAM

## Menon suspects govt high-ups too

UNB, Dhaka

Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon MP yesterday suspected involvement of high government officials in Sonali Bank loan scandal by Hall-Mark Group.

"The owners of the Hall-Mark group are not the only ones involved in the scandal, high officials of the government are also involved in it," Menon told a human chain programme in the capital.

"Such kind of big scam cannot happen without their support," he said.

Employees and workers of Hall-Mark Group under the banner of National Garment Workers Federation (NGWF) formed the human chain in front of the Jatiya Press Club.

Menon demanded immediate appointment of an administrator for the Hall-Mark Group.

He also said the scam did not happen in a day or two. Speaking at the event, the NGWF general secretary Amirul Haque Amin said if the government fails to resolve the problems within seven days, staff of the group will march to the Prime Minister Office.

The workers demanded immediate payment of the wages to more than 15,000 workers of the group under direct supervision of the government

Dhaka University professor MM Akash also spoke at the event with NGWF President Amirul Haque Amin was in the chair.

Some senior officials of the company, including its managing director Tanvir Mahmud, are in jail on charges of swindling about Tk 2,668 crore from state-run Sonali Bank.

## FUGITIVE KILLERS OF BANGABANDHU Extradition sought at Interpol conference

UNB, Dhaka

Home Minister Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir has reiterated Bangladesh's demand at Interpol's conference in Rome that the six convicted killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who have taken shelter in its member countries be extradited soon.

He made the demand while delivering his lecture on "Violence and Organised Crime", at the 81st General Assembly of International Police Organisation (Interpol) on Monday afternoon (Italian time), according to a release of Bangladesh Embassy in Rome, received in Dhaka yesterday.

Mohiuddin Khan is leading a seven-member Bangladeshi delegation at the assembly, got underway in the Italian capital on Monday. Interior ministers from 100 member countries, out of 192, and police chiefs from 190 countries are taking part in the event.

In his address, the home minister stressed giving more attention to combat terrorism and ameliorate socio-economic conditions that lead to criminality. He said collective efforts should be made by them to improve good governance as pointed out by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the UN General Assembly in New York in September.

Other speakers emphasised combating organised crimes, human trafficking, terrorism and transnational crimes by all member countries and strengthening Interpol to this end.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Hassan Mahmood Khandker, Deputy Inspector General of Police Mohammad Iqbal Bazar, and two Assistant Inspector Generals Mohammad Mahbubur Rahman Bhuiyan and Rukhfur Sultana Khanam are among the Bangladesh delegation.

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