

Law-'breaker'

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went to Ahsanul's aid, said Executive Magistrate M Sujauddoula.

The mobile court, comprised of officials of the Department of Environment, police and fire service, went to the kiln at Sikdari Kalapara village around 12:00 noon.

"We found the kiln was still functioning without any licence," said Sujauddoula.

The kiln was fined last year for the same reason. There was also a high court directive following a writ petition to stop its operation.

The mobile court sentenced Ahsanul to six months' imprisonment and ordered that the brick

kiln be shut down. It doused the kiln's fire with assistance from the Fire Service and Civil Defence.

Owner of the kiln, Ahsanul was seated in a minibus guarded by a havildar and seven constables when the lawmaker's motorcade turned up at the site around 4:00pm.

The MP asked police to leave the accused with him, said Saidur Rahman, acting officer-in-charge of Bagmara Police Station.

Lawmaker Enamul threatened the magistrate of "dire consequences", even though the magistrate repeatedly told him to put up bail for the accused or appeal to a higher court.

At one stage, the execu-

The big buy

FROM PAGE 1
tive magistrate took shelter at Bagmara Upazila Nirbahi Office as the situation worsened, said witnesses.

"This is sad. A legislator should not behave like this," M Sujauddoula told The Daily Star.

The lawmaker's mobile phone was found switched off around 6:00pm. The phone was switched on an hour later when his assistant personal secretary received the call and said Enamul was in a meeting.

Around 8:00pm, the APS said Enamul was playing badminton, adding that the lawmaker had not snatched the accused from the court. None of the calls made by this correspondent were answered since then.

of the new dimensions that the arms deal with Russia has added to Bangladesh's military and foreign policy projections. And depending on one's leaning, it is bound to be interpreted in different ways.

The billion dollar purchase has both a diplomatic and a defence/military dimension. And given that it has been after almost 35 years that Bangladesh has sought a different source for a bulk of its weaponry, particularly for the army, there are several implications that the authorities concerned will have to contend with.

It must be mentioned that Russian weapons are not new to the Bangladesh military, but the bulk user has been the BAF only, with very little or nothing Russian in the army or navy inventory. But since 1975, China has been the main defence supplier, although we saw a shift in 1996 when Mig-29s were purchased from Russia after

almost 30 years of dependence on China for ground attack and fighter aircraft. The question is why the sudden change after almost 35 years. We do not have a defence white paper or a complete defence policy. It is therefore difficult to rationalise such a big purchase.

Any purchase should be in line with a country's defence policy. And every military needs to reevaluate its defence policy (whatever be the structure of the policy and in whatever way that may be articulated) and its military strategy from time to time. And that is what begs the question. What was the urgent need at this point in time to go for such bulk purchases, the highest single order in our history?

Given that the matter was not discussed by the cabinet, much less in parliament, leads to all kinds of speculations. The question is did the military go through the complete process of weapon

acquisition before going for Russian-made weapons. Even if the process is abridged, one cannot do without the in-country test and trials of a military kit to assess its operability in own terrain and weather conditions. We do not know if that had been done. And that gives a degree of validity to the comments that the nuclear deal, given Bangladesh's need for energy, was lumped with the arms deal, that there were extraneous compulsions for Bangladesh to opt for the one billion dollar deal with Russia.

Without going into the "guns vs butter" debate, one would like to think that the purchase will help meet the forces goal of the country, and the weapon systems have been carefully chosen to meet the military's need. It is difficult to accept the argument, in some cases it sounds almost like an excuse, by

some TV talk-show panelists that these equipments are mainly for use in UN peacekeeping operations. No country will ever spend such a huge sum at such a high rate of interest just for peacekeeping purposes.

However, this cannot be seen just as another military deal. The diplomatic undertones that the deal conveys cannot be overlooked. Some see this as a tectonic shift from PRC to Russia, not merely for diversification of source of weapons, because there are cheaper sources of weapons available at this point in time elsewhere in the world, but also as a strategic choice, whatever the rationales might be.

The writer is Editor, Op-ed and Strategic Issues, The Daily Star.

Nat'l museum goes digital

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was spent to build and modernise the galleries, buy two LED monitors and four touch screen kiosks. Four documentaries on the Language Movement, historic 7 March speech, Liberation War and Father of the Nation Sheikh Mujib Rahman's life will feature in the new galleries. Besides, Tk 174.98 lakh was spent on creating a dynamic website and a digital archive that would enable people to identify and find the historic

artefacts of the national museum and four other museums. Meanwhile, the security system of the museum was modernised with the installation of 140 CCTVs, one archway metal detector, burglar/intruder alarms, 160 fire extinguishers and control room and monitoring. The national museum is instrumental to the protection of national and cultural identities, history and heritage, said speakers at the inauguration ceremony at the auditorium of the

Down with default loans

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parties by giving "acceptance" to bills of different banks and branches of Sonali Bank.

The state-run bank is yet to repay the whole amount to other banks against the acknowledged bills; had it done that, the sum of default loans would have been much higher, the officials said.

Besides the Ruposhi Bangla branch, BB's inspections unearthed similar irregularities at the state-owned bank's Gulshan, Argaoon, Ramna and Narayanganj branches.

"Under the BB directive the loans have been classified, which compounded the default loans," said the Sonali Bank official.

The bank's default loans started increasing from September 2012; by month's end the figure was Tk 8,750 crore.

In percentage, default loans increased by 16 percentage points and stood at 33 percent of the bank's

outstanding loans on December 31, 2012.

Furthermore, the state-run bank's recovery of default loans has fallen as well: Tk 966 crore was recovered in 2012 against Tk 1,011 crore in 2011.

The rise in classified loans, therefore, weighed down Sonali Bank's financial performance for the whole year.

The central bank last month presented a detailed report on the irregularities at Sonali Bank to the BB Board.

The report said the bank's management and asset liability committees, and the audit committee of the board of directors failed to discharge their responsibilities in most cases.

Despite going through a liquidity crisis in the first half of 2012, Sonali Bank distributed loans desperately.

Between January and May 2012, the bank failed to maintain Cash Reserve Ration every day, but still disbursed loans of Tk 10,883 crore, said the BB report.

Forgive us

FROM PAGE 20
of Biswa Ijtema.

Renowned Islamic scholar Moulana Zobayerul Hasan from India conducted the 18-minute Akheri Munajat [concluding prayer] of the three-day Ijtema, the second largest Islamic congregation in the world that began on January 18 on the bank of the Turag river at Tongi.

The first phase of the three-day Ijtema started on January 11 and concluded on January 13.

Lakhs of devotees including women from different parts of the country joined the final prayer arriving at the venue on foot as vehicular movement on Dhaka-Mymensingh Highway, Tongi-Kamarpura Road and Uttra-Ashulia Road was attended by the first phase.

Chairman of Jatiya Party HM Ershad and several other political leaders took part in the second phase.

A multi-tier security system was in place to ensure peaceful holding of the congregation. Law enforcers kept close watch on the venue using closed-circuit TVs.

Twenty-four devotees died of old-age complications and cardiac arrest in the two phases of the Ijtema. Of them, 11 including one yesterday died in the second phase. Hossain Ali, 70, of Dapulia in Mymensingh died of cardiac arrest yesterday morning.

Twenty-four mobile courts from Gazipur district administration fined and realised around Tk 2.74 lakh and filed 67 cases against owners of shops and restaurants for selling adulterated food and also for unhygienic atmosphere.

As the devotees had to walk miles to return home, different social and voluntary organisations distributed dry food, juice and water among them at different points on the way.

from nearby houses, rooftops of buildings, open fields and roads.

People who could not reach the venue joined the prayer through cellphone and television live coverage.

Many devotees had to walk miles to reach the venue and return home after the concluding prayer.

"I had to walk more than 15 kilometres to join the Ijtema as I did not get any vehicle after Chandina in Gazipur," said Almas Hossain, a resident of Bhaluka.

Devotees from 32 districts of the country including foreigners attended the second phase, while devotees from the other 32 districts attended the first phase.

The venue of the Ijtema turned into a vast sea of people spilling over to adjoining areas and roads. Many people joined the prayer from rooftops of vehicles and boats and

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Gas Transmission Company Limited

(A Company of Petrobangla)
Engineering Services Division

জালানি নিরাপত্তা সর্বোচ্চ
আধিকার

গ্যাস জাতীয় সংস্থা এর অপচয় রোধ
করে জাতীয় দায়িত্ব প্লান কর্ম

শিল্প প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাস
গৃহস্থানে বিকল্প জালানি

Invitation for Tenders

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources/Energy & Mineral Resources Division.			
2	Agency	Bangladesh Oil, Gas & Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla).			
3	Procuring entity name	Gas Transmission Company Limited (GTCL).			
4	Procuring entity code	Not used at present.			
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.			
6	Invitation for	Operation, maintenance and development works of the CP System of Beanibazar-Kailashilla, North-South, Rashidpur-Ashuganj, Ashuganj-Bakhrabad, Titas-AB, Bakhrabad-Demra and Bakhrabad-Chittagong pipelines.			
7	Invitation Ref. No.	GTCL/ED/CP/04/2012			
8	Date	20 January, 2013.			
9	Procurement method	Open tendering method, single stage: one envelope.			
10	Budget and source of funds	Own fund of the company.			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION					
11	Tender package No.	01 (one).			
12	Tender package name	Operation, maintenance and development works of the CP System of Beanibazar-Kailashilla, North-South, Rashidpur-Ashuganj, Ashuganj-Bakhrabad, Titas-AB, Bakhrabad-Demra and Bakhrabad-Chittagong pipelines.			
13	Tender publication date	20 January, 2013.			
14	Tender last selling date	11 February, 2013.			
15	Tender closing date and time	12 February, 2013 11:00am			
16	Tender opening date and time	12 February, 2013 11:30am			
17	Name & address of the office(s)	<p>Address:</p> <p>- Selling tender document (principal)</p> <p>- Receiving tender document</p> <p>- Opening tender document</p>			
		<p>Address:</p> <p>Funds Department, Finance Division, Gas Transmission Company Limited (GTCL), Red Crescent-Borak Tower (Level-4), 71-72, Old Elephant Road, Eskaton, Dhaka-1000.</p> <p>Committee Room, Gas Transmission Company Limited (GTCL), Red Crescent-Borak Tower (Level-3), 71-72, Old Elephant Road, Eskaton, Dhaka-1000.</p> <p>Committee Room, Gas Transmission Company Limited (GTCL), Red Crescent-Borak Tower (Level-3), 71-72, Old Elephant Road, Eskaton, Dhaka-1000.</p>			
18	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	Not applicable.			
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER					
19	Eligibility of tenderer	<p>1. Any firm who satisfactorily completed similar works of at least Tk 20.00 (twenty) lakh under one number of contract over a period of 10 years as on the date of tender opening.</p> <p>2. Joint Venture, Consortium or Associations (JVCA) is not acceptable for this tender.</p>			
20	Brief description of works	To provide all engineering services, equipments, tools, instrumentation and consumables for operation, maintenance and development of impressed current cathodic protection systems protecting gas transmission pipelines in accordance with the maintenance manual, design specifications and requirements. These works shall include but not limited to the following:			
		<p>(i) Monthly operation and maintenance of CP station (TEG/TR Set);</p> <p>(ii) Monthly PSP measurement, survey and record;</p> <p>(iii) Protection of the Road/Rail Casing pipe (sections) by sacrificial anodes;</p> <p>(iv) Installation of CP Station (Vertical Grounded & TEG Station);</p> <p>(v) Rehabilitation/Installation of CP Test Post;</p> <p>(vi) Installation of Zinc Earthing Ribbon at HT Line crossing;</p> <p>(vii) Protection of unprotected underground pipe by Mg. anodes;</p> <p>(viii) Construction of walkway for existing CP station;</p> <p>(ix) Installation of TEG on existing TEG platform;</p> <p>(x) Testing & rehabilitation of Grounded/Drain point cable;</p> <p>(xi) Change of damage coating/wrapping.</p>			
21	Price of tender document (Tk)	Tk 2,000.00 (two thousand) only.			
Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time in weeks/ months	
22	1	Operation, maintenance and development works of the CP System of Beanibazar-Kailashilla, North-South, Rashidpur-Ashuganj, Bakhrabad, Titas-AB, Bakhrabad-Demra and Bakhrabad-Chittagong pipelines	The site is located at the right of way (ROW) of the relevant cross country pipelines operated by GTCL under different districts of Bangladesh	Tk 2,00,000.00 (two lac) only	36 months (1095 days)

23	Name of official inviting tender	Engr. Md. Anowar Hossain.		
24	Designation of official inviting tender	General Manager.		
25	Address of official inviting tender	Engineering Services Division, Gas Transmission Company Limited (GTCL), Red Crescent-Borak Tower (Level-6), 71-72, Old Elephant Road, Eskaton, Dhaka-1000.		
26	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel No.	Fax No.	e-mail: gmesd@gtcl.org.bd
27	If the tender cannot be received and opened due to any unavoidable circumstances or holiday(s) on scheduled date and time, the same shall be opened at the same venue and time on the subsequent working day.	9354929	9358100	
28	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all the tenders or annul the tender proceedings.			
29	All activities in connection with the said procurement works will be guided as per "The Public Procurement Regulation-2008".			
General Manager Engineering Services Division Gas Transmission Company Limited				

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION (RFQ)

For

FURNITURE

Ref: RFQ-BD-2013-004