

# Typical Dubai

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building... And now, if plans come to fruition, the emirate could become home to the world's largest underwater hotel.

The Water Discus hotel has been designed by Polish company Deep Ocean Technology (DOT) with the help of Swiss firm BIG InvestConsult AG. The hotel will comprise of two discs - one under the water, and one suspended above the water. The discs will be connected by five legs, and a vertical shaft in the centre housing stairs and a lift.

The underwater section will be up to 10 metres beneath the sea surface, and contain 21 double rooms adjacent to a dive centre and a bar. Each room has been designed to 'integrate with

the underwater world as closely as possible'.

Due to the modular design of the hotel, the Water Discus can be transferred to a different place in case of environmental or economic concerns. The surface discs have been designed to be buoyant and detachable from the main structure, to act as lifeboats should any natural disaster strike.

Bogdan Gutkowski, president of BIG, believes that the project will have an impact on numerous areas as well as the tourism industry in Dubai. "Water Discus Hotel project opens many new fields of development for the hotel and tourism sector, housing and city sector in the coastal off-shore areas, as well as new opportunities for ecology

support by creation of new underwater ecosystems and activities on underwater world protection," he told World Architecture News.

"Additionally we would like to create here in the UAE the International Environmental Program and Center of the Underwater World Protection - with Water Discus Hotel as a laboratory tool for oceans and seas environment protection and research."

This underwater project is by no means the first attempt at sub-marine construction or indeed an underwater hotel - the Maldives Rangali Islands resort has one underwater suite, and there's also Jules Undersea Lodge, which is the only underwater hotel in the US - but it is by far the most ambitious yet.

# Enemies within

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The detectives also recovered from the arrestees Tk 40.54 lakh, a pair of handcuff, a wireless handset and the private car used in the robbery.

The detained garment workers were identified as Kabir Hossain, 33, Bibhash Mondol, 35, and Akhteruzzaman Liton, while the five other gang members are Arifuzzaman Sharif, 35, Tahinur Islam Badal, 30, Abu Sayeed, 35, Mohammad Selim, 32 and Md Shahjahan Mollah, 32.

They had been handed over to Ashulia police.

On January 10, the gang of robbers on information from the detained employees looted Tk 1.08 crore. Golam Rabbani, an accountant of Azmat Group, Golam Kabir, an accountant of Z-3

Composite Knitwear Ltd, and driver Rabiul Islam were taking the money to the Z-3 factory on a microbus from the Gulshan house of the factory owner.

"When the officials reached near Kathgorah in Ashulia, a microbus and a private car intercepted them. Some men came out of the microbus and introduced themselves as members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab). They said they needed to search the vehicle," said Nazrul Islam Mollah, deputy commissioner of DB (North).

He said the money, officials and the driver had been boarded onto the intercepting microbus and were taken to Turag area. The robbers had left the captives over there.

The factory authorities, however, suspected that the

accountants and the driver had been involved in the loot and so they had them arrested filing a case with the Ashulia police in connection with the robbery.

Meanwhile, the DB launched a parallel investigation into the incident. Acting on a tip off, they first arrested one of the robbers Tahinur at Uttara with Tk 1 lakh. Following his confession, the detectives arrested leader of the gang Arifuzzaman Sharif with Tk 35 lakh, his deputy Sayeed with Tk 1.4 lakh and two other members of the gang Selim and Shahjahan with Tk 1.75 lakh and Tk 1.39 lakh respectively.

"We came to know about the involvement of the employees after the arrest of the five robbers," said DC Nazrul.

Asked, he said the crimi-

nals had been using different techniques. At times they used to impersonate as Rab men and other times as detectives. During the loot of Tk 1.08 lakh, they presented themselves as Rab men and were wearing vests like Rab personnel do.

Inspector Mahbub Ur Rashed, who led the arrests, said garment workers Kabir, Bibhash and Akhteruzzaman had been working in the factory for the last three years and their plan to rob it was no less than a year old.

Quoting the employees, he said, "The gang of robbers had earlier made two attempts to loot the company, one during the Eid-ul-Fitr and another during the Eid-ul-Azha seasons, when the amount of money is heavier with worker'

bonus and other arrears.

Each of the detained employees was supposed to get Tk 10.8 lakh. Their money was kept with gang leader Arifuzzaman.

During preliminary interrogation, the robbers admitted to looting Tk 1.7 lakh, Tk 2.1 lakh and Tk 1.5 lakh from three garment waste traders, and Tk 60,000 from a woman," said the inspector, adding that those robberies had also been committed on the information from the same three employees, who got their due share of the booty.

Asked the inspector said including the employees, there were a total of 18 members in the gang. Police was trying to arrest other culprits and recover the rest of the looted money.

# Vote for AL to keep dev going

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to build Bangladesh as a hunger and poverty free country. Bangladesh would achieve the target and become a middle income country by 2021, she added.

Stating that the international crimes tribunal has already pronounced its first verdict against a war crimes accused, Hasina hoped judgements in other cases would be delivered soon.

Trial of the war criminals, who conducted mass killings, rape, arson and other crimes against humanity during the Liberation War in 1971 would be fair, she observed.

Criticising the main opposition BNP, she said the party had handed over the national flag to the war criminals.

Hasina said Bangladesh has secured around 1.12 lakh square kilometres of sea area after winning a dispute with Myanmar. Such a case against India is pending with an international court and its judgement was due in 2014.

Mentioning implementation of huge development work in Rangunia,

the premier said people of Rangunia elected AL-nominated Hasan Mahmud as a lawmaker and she had included him in her cabinet.

Rangunia was an area of violence during the BNP rule and people of the upazila could now sleep in peace at night, she mentioned.

On development in agricultural sector, she said, "When we came to power in 2008, there was a food deficit of 30 lakh tonnes. We have met that deficit."

Hasina also cited her government's benevolent initiatives including allowances for the elderly and the widow and mentioned success in health sector.

"We have improved the upazila health complexes and elevated the job status of nurses to second class," she said.

On her party's election pledge of establishing "Digital Bangladesh," she said, "We have already done this."

The expatriates can now send money through mobile phone and internet, she said. Digitised union centres

have been established in all union parishads across the country.

Environment and Forest Minister Hasan Mahmud, Primary and Mass Education Minister Afsarul Ameen, Jute Minister Abdul Latif Siddique, also spoke at the public meeting, chaired by Khalilur Rahman Chowdhury, president of upazila unit AL.

# 22 dead in road accident in Haiti

**AFP, Port-au-prince**  
Twenty-two people were killed late Friday in a road accident in northern Haiti when a truck carrying pilgrims plunged into a ravine, hospital sources said.

Another 30 people travelling in the truck had been injured, some of them seriously, said a doctor at the hospital treating them.

"We have counted 21 people dead at the site of the accident," Doctor Rosny from the town of Saint-Marc located about 100 kilometers (67 miles) north of the capital told AFP by telephone.

# Sangsad goes into session today

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sitting of the year outlining successes of the Awami League-led government. The cabinet has approved the speech.

This will be the president's last address to the ninth parliament, which will not hold any session from October 26, the last three months of its tenure, as per the constitution. A fresh election to constitute the 10th parliament is supposed to be held by that time.

The opposition MPs, belonging to BNP, Jamaat-Islami and Bangladesh Jatiya Party, were not pres-

ent in the House when President Zillur Rahman addressed parliament in the last three New Year sessions.

Despite attending the inaugural sitting of the ninth parliament, the opposition MPs had walked out during its first New Year session on January 25, 2009, before then president Iajuddin Ahmed addressed the House.

Records show the opposition deputies returned to the House during the New Year sessions in the last three years.

On January 7, when President Zillur Rahman convened the New Year

session, BNP national standing committee member Moudud Ahmed had told The Daily Star that they were thinking of participating in parliament sessions.

"We will soon sit to make a formal decision."

As of yesterday, the main opposition could not come up with any positive decision.

"Our stance remains unchanged, as we are yet to sit to discuss joining the New Year session," MK Anwar, a member of BNP national standing committee, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Seeking anonymity,

another party lawmaker said they might join the JS any day.

The opposition MPs will need to join the New Year session at least for a day to save their memberships in parliament.

They last attended the House sitting on March 20, 2012 and went for another spell of boycott. Presently, they have been absent from the JS proceedings for the last 50 consecutive sittings.

If the New Year session holds 40 more sittings, which is possible if agreed by the treasury bench, the opposition MPs including

their leader in the House Khaleda Zia will lose membership in parliament on the ground of being absent for 90 consecutive sittings.

Usually, the New Year session does not have more than 30 sitting on an average, an official in the parliament secretariat said.

Meanwhile, the Business Advisory Committee led by Speaker Abdul Hamid sits today around 2:30pm, an hour before the House goes into the session, to fix the duration of the session and allocate time for the thanksgiving motion on the president's address.

# Back home

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true someday.

However, her existence took an unexpected turn when she injured herself by falling down the stairs of her employer's house.

"I was admitted to a local hospital," she said.

Her employer wanted to sack her as she became unable to work. But she was back to work in a few days.

Taslima worked in the house of the employer for 10 months although she was threatened with dismissal several times.

After arriving in Lebanon, she worked for 15 months at Saudia city.

"The last five months were miserable as I did not get my wages properly," Taslima said. "I had to switch from one job to another."

"My last employer, a woman who had been in the army, tortured me, confining me to her house and keeping me unfed for long as I wanted to return to Bangladesh," said Taslima. "Perhaps she did not like Bangalees."

Taslima has a baby son and a daughter whom she had left in Bangladesh.

Despite working for around 10 to 12 hours every day, her income was small and was not sufficient to support herself and her family, said Taslima with a

note of frustration.

Left without options, she decided to leave the Middle Eastern country. But it was next to impossible for an illiterate woman like her as there was no office of Bangladesh embassy there.

"First I informed my brokers in Lebanon and then my husband that I was kept in confinement

there," said Taslima.

Her brokers, who have an office in Lebanon, had offered her the job under an agreement with her employer. Therefore, they threatened her when she informed them that she wanted to return to Bangladesh.

Taslima was lucky -- unlike many such migrant workers -- that she

received financial assistance from MGH Group, a multinational company, after returning home.

"If I had failed to come by today, I would be an illegal migrant now and would have to face trial since my residence permit expired on January 24," she said.

Following a report published in Bangla daily Jugantar last year, MGH

Group contacted the Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training to repatriate her from Lebanon.

The BMET managed to repatriate her with the assistance of the Bangladesh Embassy in Jordan.

Taslima still hopes that she will work overseas, "maybe in a better country", and that her family will see a better future.

## RECRUITMENT OF PROJECT CONSULTANT

Bangladesh Development Group (BDG) seeks to recruit dynamic professionals to work as Financial and Technical Consultant to set up the following projects on Joint Venture basis:

01. Set up export oriented Sweater, Knit composite, Yarn dying, Embroidery and Garments Accessories factory.
02. Set up industrial grade paper i.e. Kraft liner, Fluting medium, Wrapping Paper Mill.
03. Operate Real Estate (Land & Apartment) business.

BDG possesses lucrative land in and around Dhaka and at Chittagong Export Processing Zone (CEPZ) incorporating all supporting facilities for setting up the above industries/businesses.

Persons/Firms having experience in rendering Financial and Technical Consultancy services and organizing investors to set up and run above mentioned projects are requested to send proposal within 10 February, 2013.

**Muhammad Enayet Ali**  
Director (Operations)

**BDG BANGLADESH DEVELOPMENT GROUP**  
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# CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

HABIB GROUP is implementing a gas base 108 MW IPP power plant at GHORASHAL, NARSINGDI through its subsidiary Regent Energy & Power Ltd. HABIB Group is looking for qualified and experienced personnel for the following positions :

- 1. MANAGER (MAINTENANCE)**  
B.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering. Minimum 10 years of working experience of which at least 5 years in operation / maintenance of power plant (preferably in IC Engine based power plant).
- 2. DEPUTY MANAGER (ELECTRICAL & CONTROL)**  
B.Sc. in Electrical Engineering. Minimum 6 years of working experience of which at least 3 years in operation / maintenance of power plant (preferably in IC Engine based power plant).
- 3. DEPUTY MANAGER (MECHANICAL)**  
B.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering. Minimum 6 years of working experience of which at least 3 years in operation / maintenance of power plant (preferably in IC Engine based power plant).
- 4. MAINTENANCE ENGINEER (ELECTRICAL)**  
B.Sc. in Electrical Engineering. Minimum 3 years of working experience of which at least 2 years in operation / maintenance of power plant (preferably in IC Engine based power plant).
- 5. MAINTENANCE ENGINEER (MECHANICAL)**  
B.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering. Minimum 3 years of working experience of which at least 2 years in operation / maintenance of power plant (preferably in IC Engine based power plant).
- 6. OPERATION ENGINEER (SHIFT)**  
B.Sc. in Electrical / Mechanical Engineering. Minimum 3 years of working experience of which at least 2 years in operation/maintenance of power plant (preferably in IC Engine based power plant).

*Interested candidates are requested to apply with resume and two copies of passport size photograph within 5th February, 2013 marking the position applied for on the top of the envelop to following address :*

**General Manager**  
Regent Energy & Power Ltd.  
Rangs Arcade, Plot # 10/A, House # 153/A (2nd floor),  
Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan-2, Dhaka-1212.

www.habibgroupbd.com

## Invitation to Bid (ITB)

### Procurement of ICT equipment on Long Term Agreement (LTA) Basis

Reference: ITB-BD-2013-001

UNDP Bangladesh seeks quotation from interested Companies for Procurement of ICT Equipment on Long Term Agreement (LTA) Basis. All interested companies may download the Bidding documents (ITB) from [http://www.undp.org.bd/proc\\_more.php](http://www.undp.org.bd/proc_more.php) through a formal registration process that will register bidders into the participants list, so any correspondence, questions regarding the bidding documents and respective answers can be sent to all bidders.

Submission of Proposal: The envelope should state the tender subject mentioned above and should be submitted to the **UNDP -Registry**, IDB Bhaban (12th Floor), Begum Rokeya Sharani, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.

The deadline for submission of quotation is **Thursday, 14th February, 2013, 12:00 Hours** local time.



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