

20KM BRT LINE DESIGN

RHD signs deal with Australian company

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Roads and Highways Department (RHD) yesterday signed a Tk 88 crore deal with SMEC International, an Australian company, for designing a 20km Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport to Gazipur intersection.

Aminur Rahman Laskar, chief engineer of RHD, and SMEC's John Thrope signed the agreement under which the Australian company will supervise the BRT route's construction work, which is expected to start next year, RHD officials said.

The two sides also signed an agreement of Tk 27 crore last month under which the Australian firm will provide engineering consultancy services to RHD during construction of the BRT line.

After the signing ceremony yesterday, Communications Minister Obaidul Quader said 4.5km of the BRT line would be an elevated lane. "Under the agreement seven flyovers will be constructed while the Tongi bridge will be made into an 8-lane bridge," he said.

In November 2012, the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecnc) approved the Tk 2,040 crore Greater Dhaka Sustainable Urban Transport project under which the BRT line would be constructed.

Asian Development Bank, France's AFD and Global Environmental Fund is providing Tk 1,651 crore as loan while the government will bear the remaining expenditure.

As per the current plan, construction of the BRT line would be completed by 2016 to ease traffic congestion on the Gazipur-airport road.

But RHD officials involved in the project said physical works of the project would begin after completion of the design which would take eight to nine months.

POLLS PREPARATION

EC briefs president

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission yesterday met President Abdul Hamid and briefed him about the preparation for holding the next parliamentary election.

"The Election Commission wants participation of all political parties in the next parliamentary polls. It will take all out measures to hold the polls free and fair and acceptable to all," said Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad.

Rakibuddin was talking to reporters after emerging from Bangabhaban, the official residence and principal workplace of the president.

Accompanied by four other election commissioners, the CEC met the president. It was first meeting since Abdul Hamid assumed the office of the presidency on April 24.

The CEC said they informed the president about the progress of different works and preparations for holding the next election which is supposed to be held any time between October 25 this year and January 24 next year.



Students of Dhaka Nursing College stage a sit-in on the college campus yesterday to press home their demands, including introduction of internship programme and stipend for them until their course ends.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

MIGRANT WORKERS OF SAARC COUNTRIES

Unified rights protection mechanism sought

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) should have a unified mechanism to protect the rights of its member states' migrant workers in labour receiving countries, said CARAM Asia yesterday.

"The migrants are being exploited and deprived of their rights for this absence," the non-government organisation's Regional Coordinator Mohammad Harun Al Rashid told the end of a three-day regional consultation in a hotel in the capital.

The receiving countries are not properly following international laws on ensuring the rights due to fierce competition among the Saarc countries in sending their workers abroad, he said.

Coordination of Action Research on AIDS and Mobility (CARAM) Asia and Oribashi Karmi Unnayan Program organised the "Consultation to strengthen regional cooperation between sending and receiving countries of migrant workers with a focus on Saarc region".

The labour sending countries put too much emphasis on migrant workers' remittance, he said. Rashid also focused on the exploitation of migrant domestic workers in the receiving countries.

Meanwhile, Malaysia's Bangladeshi Professional Workers Association, at a press conference in Jatiya Press Club, urged the government and the Bangladesh Association of Recruiting Agencies to jointly work in reducing migration costs and for workers' welfare.

VIOLENCE DURING HEFAJAT RALLY

Writ petition filed for judicial commission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court lawyer yesterday filed a writ petition with the High Court seeking its order upon the government to form a judicial commission to enquire about the incidents of killing and injuring people as well as burning the holy Quran during last week's agitation in the capital.

Hefajat-e Islam, a Qawmi madrasa-based Islamist organisation, during a post-blockade rally at Shapla Chattar on May 5 and 6 unleashed terror in Paltan and Motijheel areas.

They also allegedly set fire to a number of vehicles and burned down dozens of Islamic books, including the holy Quran.

Eunus Ali Akond yesterday submitted the petition praying to the HC for forming a five-member judicial commission to be headed by a former chief justice to find out what actually happened there on May 5 and 6.

The petitioner also sought order on the government to compensate the hawkers who were victimised during the violence.

Eunus Ali in the petition said there were anomalies between the statement of the government and media reports about the death figure in the incidents.

Eunus Ali told The Daily Star that he will place the petition before the HC within a day or two for its hearing.

ARSON CASE

Court fixes June 3 for hearing on charge framing

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday fixed June 3 for hearing on charge framing against 41 opposition leaders including BNP leader Moudud Ahmed in an arson case.

The case was filed against them with Paltan Police Station for torching vehicles and assaulting police in front of BNP's Nayapaltan office on March 6.

Metropolitan Magistrate Shahriar Mahmud Adnan of Speedy Trial court-6 set the date after completing all formalities.

Gayeshwar Chandra Roy and Barkatullah Bulu, now on bail, were present in the court while Moudud, Mirza Abbas and four others who also got bails were absent.

Swechhasebak Dal President Habibunnabi Khan Sohel, former Chhatra Dal President Sultan Salauddin Tuku and 31 others have been absconding since the case was filed.

Paltan police on March 27 submitted the charge sheet to the court against the 41 including Moudud, Abbas and Alal.

The case was filed against them also for vandalising vehicles and blasting cocktails during the party's demonstration.

Meantime, another Dhaka court yesterday rejected bail and sent Jubo Dal President Moazzem Hossain Alal to jail in another case filed over an attempt to kill a driver of a bus and its conductor by torching the vehicle on March 17.

He was produced before the court on completion of his four-day remand in the case.

Paltan police also sought a 10-day remand for quizzing Alal in yet another case filed over torching vehicles and assaulting police before the BNP office on March 11.

The court, however, rejected the bail and remand prayer in the case.

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Alliance
Supporting community action on HIV, health and rights to end AIDS
INTERNATIONAL VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Regional Advisor: Link Up Programme, Asia

The International HIV/AIDS Alliance supports community action on HIV, health and human rights to end AIDS. Our vision is a world in which communities have brought an end to HIV transmission, and secured their health and human rights. Since 1994, the Alliance and its partners have supported over 3,000 projects, in over 40 countries, reaching millions of people. The Alliance has its Secretariat in Brighton, UK, in addition to offices in: Washington DC; Delhi; Brussels; Geneva; and regional posts in: Argentina; Kenya, Morocco, Senegal; South Africa; Uganda; Ukraine and Thailand. Our current strategy, HIV and Healthy Communities voices the collective will of these Linking Organisations and the Secretariat in our vision of a world in which people do not die of AIDS. A new Alliance Strategy 2012-2020 is currently being finalised and will build on our existing strategy with an emphasis on 'sustaining the HIV response'.

Link Up is a global programme, implemented in partnership with international and national partners, designed to make a significant contribution to the integration of vital SRHR interventions in Bangladesh, Myanmar, Burundi, Ethiopia and Uganda. It will bring SRHR interventions to existing community-based HIV programmes for young key populations and will create linkages with public and private SRH providers and will generate important evidence to aid the broader SRHR/HIV integration movement.

The International HIV/AIDS Alliance is seeking a Regional Advisor to provide technical oversight and support to the delivery of the Link Up programme. The successful candidate will ensure that project-specific objectives, strategies and technical support, are relevant to the entire portfolio of Alliance HIV/SRH efforts in the region. Importantly, the Regional Advisor will be responsible for the strategic and operational oversight of the programme in their region.

The ideal candidate will be highly motivated, flexible, capable of working both independently and as part of a team. A strong commitment to HIV, Health and Human Rights is essential, along with the ability to represent the Alliance at a senior level.

Location: Bangladesh or Myanmar, subject to the successful candidate's preference

Salary: Competitive salary and benefits package

Contact Period : 2.5 years contact

How to apply:

For more details on this post, including Job Description and Person Specification please visit our website www.aidsalliance.org and click on 'Jobs'. Previous Applicants need not apply.

Application deadline : Midnight UK time on Sunday 19 May 2013
Interviews : Weeks commencing 27 May and 3 June 2013

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