

TNN, Kolkata

A controversial deal between Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Ltd (IRCTC) and Saradha Tours and Travels has stirred up a hornet's nest in Bengal politics on the eve of two crucial assembly bypolls on September 13.

The deal was signed during Mamata Banerjee's tenure as railway minister. It was part of Bharat Tirth project that Mamata announced in her railway budget for 2010-11.

The deal has come handy to Opposition parties that have gone to town with it to tear into Mamata's 'satatar pratik' (symbol of honesty) image. Pradesh Congress president Adhir Chowdhury has even demanded that Mamata resign and face an inquiry. "The deal points to the direct involvement of the then railway minister. She should step down from the CM's post and face the inquiry. She may resume office only if she comes out clean," Adhir said on Thursday.

The Pradesh Congress chief may have stepped over a line, but his offensive is not without reason. The Congress leader draws his strength from the defensive statement of Mamata's lieutenant and former railway minister Mukul Roy, who was more interested in clearing himself than defending his leader.

4 kids among six drowned across country

STAR REPORT

An infant drowned in knee-deep water on the floor of his house in the capital's Maniknagar while five more including three minors drowned in Chittagong and Pabna in last two days.

Aged about eight months, Sirajul Islam died in the capital around 12:30pm yesterday. He was the only son of rickshaw puller Nayan Sheikh.

"It was around noon when I went out of my room to collect clothes which were drying in the sun. My son was lying on the bed with his father," victim's mother Sharmin told The Daily Star.

As she returned within 20 minutes, she saw her husband asleep, but the kid was not there.

Hearing Sharmin wailing, her husband woke up and neighbours went to the house, only to find the infant drowned.

The house has been inundated by rain water for over a week. The kid just learned to crawl. He might have crawled out of the bed and fell into the water, said Sharmin.

In Chittagong, three minor boys Mohammad Sabbir, 7, Naimul Islam, 6, and Irfan, 6, of Jan Mohammad Para drowned in Jamchhari canal of Lohagara upazila, reports our correspondent.

The three were students of a local madrasa.

Kefayet Ullah, inspector (investigation) of Lohagara Police Station, said the three were playing on the bank of the canal around 1:30pm. At one stage, they got into the canal to see an excavator and drowned.

As it was the time for Juma prayers, nobody noticed them drowning in the canal, said Fiznur Rahman, upazila nirbahi officer of Lohagara.

Locals later recovered the three bodies from the spot.

Our Pabna correspondent adds: Sohel Hossain, 30, of Dilpashara village in Vangura and Liton Hossain of Tebunia village under Pabna Sadar upazila drowned in Boral river in Dilpashara area on Thursday night.

Police said the two might have been electrocuted before they fell into the river.

OC Abu Zafar of Vangura Police Station said the deceased along with their two friends took a boat on a journey at night.

Sohel and Liton who were sitting on the roof of the boat fell into the river around 10:30pm as they were came in contact with a live electric wire which hung across the river there.

Police and locals searched for the two at night, but failed to trace them. The bodies were found some 100 yards off the spot around 11:00am yesterday.

Ukraine truce pact signed

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following Nato's accusations that Russia had sent in heavily-armed troops to support a lightning rebel counter-offensive across the southeast that forced a dramatic reversal of fortunes for the Ukrainian army.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk told his cabinet that the deal required US and EU backing because Kiev could "not manage with Russia on our own".

Nato also approved a new "spearhead" force of several thousand soldiers yesterday and vowed to maintain a "continuous" presence in eastern Europe that could calm the nerves of ex-Soviet satellites that view Putin's intensions with dread.

Outgoing Nato chief Anders Fogh Rasmussen said the next "crucial step is to implement it (the deal) in good faith".

"But so far, so good," he added. "(This) could be the start of a constructive political process."

The US Department of Defence had

warned Thursday that the 20,000 Russian troops it suspects are massed on the Ukrainian border were "more lethal" than ever before.

But the Kremlin accuses Nato and Washington of concocting evidence about what some have labelled an invasion by stealth in order to expand its own presence along Russia's western frontier.

Putin's spokesman told Russian news agencies he expected the ceasefire to be "thoroughly implemented" and that all sides would continue talks to reach a "full settlement of the Ukraine crisis".

Yet the pact has done little to calm the separatist passions of insurgents who first overran government buildings across the Russified east in April, deeply mistrustful of the nationalist-leaning government that took power in February after the ouster of a Kremlin-backed leader.

The subsequent fighting has killed around 2,600 people and send at least half a million fleeing their homes.

"(The) ceasefire does not mean a change in our goal to split from Ukraine," rebel representative Igor Plotnitsky told reporters in Minsk.

The peace plan -- first detailed by Putin after telephone talks with Poroshenko earlier this week -- could leave the rebels in effective control of a region that accounts for one-sixth of Ukraine's population and a quarter of its exports.

The Kremlin account of the blueprint said it requires Ukrainian armed forces units to withdraw from positions around the insurgent strongholds of Donetsk and Lugansk.

But it also establishes a "safe zone" that one rebel negotiator said should enable the militias to hold on to territory between Russia and those key cities.

There are also doubts about whether the loose band of rebel field commanders will listen to political leaders such as the self-declared "prime ministers" of Lugansk and Donetsk who approved the pact.

Sorry state of a road

FROM PAGE 16

goes under knee-deep water, thanks to the poor drainage system there.

The road connects to the 1.8-kilometre flyover, which extends from Matikata to Airport Road at Zia Colony, easing up the traffic movement between Mirpur, Shahjalal International Airport, Uttara, Banani, Gulshan and Mohakhali areas.

But reaching the flyover through the battered Purabi-Kalshi road is not that easy for the travellers.

Many drivers of private cars told this correspondent in many cases they try to avoid the dilapidated 1.4 km road and use the alternative roads to reach the flyover.

Approximately, only 500 private cars and buses ply the road a day. The

number of vehicles was supposed to be its double, said officials of the Dhaka North City Corporation.

People are using adjacent alternative routes due to the terrible traffic gridlock and innumerable potholes on the Purabi-Kalshi road, according to locals.

"It's very difficult to sit in the back seats of the bus on the bumpy road," said Mahmuda Akhtar, a first year student of BCIC College in Mirpur-1, adding she often feels unwell after taking a ride on the road.

The under-construction 90-feet-long culvert, which replaced a 40-feet one, is part of a project to expand the 60-feet-wide road to 120 feet to ease traffic.

But the authorities responsible for implementing the project have not

taken any alternative measure so that at least two vehicles could pass through the point from both directions.

Project Director Lt Colonel Saiful Islam said they had completed only 50 percent of the work towards construction of the culvert, footpaths and drains in the area.

The work will be completed by the first week of December, he said, adding the rains and heavy pressure of traffic on the road were delaying the work.

Earlier, he had told The Daily Star that the project would end by June. He, however, had later justified the delay, saying that there had been significant changes in the components of the project.

Nat'l building

FROM PAGE 5

Mikio said Bangladesh would be more vulnerable if the building code was not followed. Reinforced-concrete buildings in Bangladesh are three to five times more vulnerable than those in Japan, he added.

The government and Jica have taken a project titled "Capacity Development on Natural Disaster-Resistant Technique of Construction and Retrofitting for Public Buildings (CNCRP)".

Additional Chief Engineer of PWD and Project Director of CNCRP Abdul Malek Sikder said, "At first, we are targeting vulnerable fire stations and hospitals for retrofitting."

The retrofitting of Tejgaon fire station has already started on a pilot basis, he said.

Man kills daughter

FROM PAGE 5

said as part of their plan, they locked Ruma's mother while she was sleeping in a room and broke open another room where Ruma was sleeping around 11:00pm on August 31.

The six offenders then carried the sleeping girl from her bed to the floor.

Then they strangled her. Later, around 1:30am they started screaming about the murder. The murderers in their confession to police also noted that they had planned the murder to frame neighbours with whom they had a dispute over land.

Tuba owner

FROM PAGE 16

rightful demands of the Tuba Group workers in exchange of our blood if necessary."

Terming himself a leader of the workers, the minister claimed that he had been working for the welfare of the workers for the last 43 years.

"A politician, [the minister mentioned his name] who has recently become a leader of the workers, is himself accused of violating the rights of the workers of his garment factory," Khan said.

The minister came down heavily on the politician, who allegedly termed Shahjahan Khan an agent of the government, and blamed him for "hatching conspiracies against Sheikh Hasina's government."

The workers of the five garment units of Tuba Group went on a hunger strike from July 28, demanding payment of arrears, overtime bills and Eid bonuses.

In the wake of the strike, the garment makers' association gave two months' salaries from its office, saying Tuba Group would pay bonuses for the Eid-ul-Fitr and rest of the arrears later.

But the Eid bonuses are yet to be paid. On August 5, Tuba Group owner Delwar Hossain was freed from jail on bail. He claimed that the insurance companies of his factories did not give him money. As a result, he could not pay his workers.

He later closed his five garment factories in the face of financial crisis.

Japanese PM's

FROM PAGE 2

In the evening, Hasina will host a banquet in honour of the visiting Japanese PM and his spouse at the Grand Ballroom of Sonargaon.

The Japanese premier is likely to visit the Institute of Fine Arts of Dhaka University before leaving for Colombo at 10:30am on Sunday.

Meanwhile, foreign ministry officials of Japan at a press briefing in Tokyo yesterday said the Japanese PM, during his visit to Bangladesh, will convey the message to Bangladesh leadership about consolidation of democratic rule in the country.

In response to a question whether Japan will ask for an early fresh election, the officials said the people of Bangladesh will decide the matter.

But Japan wants the reflection of people's aspiration in the democratic process.

Mozambique foes sign peace deal

AFP, Maputo

Mozambique's president and a rebel leader signed a landmark peace deal in Maputo yesterday, ending a two-year conflict that has rekindled memories of the country's brutal civil war.

President Armando Guebuza and Mozambican rebel Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama, who came out of hiding Thursday, signed the deal in front of around 100 diplomats and dignitaries, an AFP reporter witnessed.

The two leaders embraced promptly jubilant cries and clapping from those gathered.

For two years government forces and fighters loyal to Dhlakama have clashed, with the rebel leader accusing the state of reneging on a peace deal that ended Mozambique's brutal civil war.

Around one million died as a result of the 15-year conflict, which ended in 1992.

In the recent clashes Dhlakama's supporters attacked buses and cars on the main north-south highway and government forces raided his bush hide out, in a low-level but deadly insurgency.

The two men led a minute's silence

for those killed over the past two years.

The authorities have maintained a blanket of silence over the number of casualties, but civil society groups estimate more than 100 people have been killed.

"Today is a very important day for our people," president Guebuza said.

"Our people waited patiently for this day, knowing solutions to our problems were to be found through dialogue."

Dhlakama came out of hiding Thursday, returning to Maputo in symbolic end to the crisis, which has also spooked investors.

On Friday he hailed the deal as an "important step forward," but also accused the government of "intolerance."

"After the beautiful dream of two decades ago when peace seemed to be for always, we saw a systematic concentration of power in the hands of those in power... many are in this room," Dhlakama said drawing gasps and mutters from the audience.

He added that he hoped "today's accord can bring to an end the one party state".

Mozambique has been ruled by civil war victors Frelimo since independence.

Ramkanai Das passes away

FROM PAGE 16

and Dibyomoyee Das in Sunamganj in 1935, he was brought up in a family of music lovers.

His family has been preserving and practicing folk music for generations. His parents, grandfather Prakash Chandra Talukdar and great grandfather Ramcharan Talukdar were all renowned bards of the greater Sylhet region.

Following their footsteps, Ramkanai Das too made a remarkable contribution to Bangla music. Throughout his illustrious life, the Pandit dedicated himself to popularising folk music, especially the treasure trove of traditional Sylheti songs.

During his childhood, Das developed his sense of folk music from his parents. Later, he received classical music training from Kalimohan Chakrabarty and tabla lessons from Sri Shurendramohan Sutradhar.

In 1967, he started playing tabla and performing classical, semi-

classical, modern and Nazrul's songs at Sylhet Radio.

Bondher Banshi Baje (2004), Shuroddhonor Kinarai (2005), Raganjali (2006), Oshomoye Dhorlam Pari (2006), Pagla Majhee (2010) are some of his notable audio albums.

His biography -- Shongheet O Amar Jibon -- was published in 2010. A year later, Surer Pothik, a documentary on the life and works of this music maestro, was released.

In recognition of his contribution to Bangla folk music, he received Ekushey Padak- 2014, Bangla Academy honorary fellowship- 2012, Meril-Prothom Alo Lifetime Achievement Award- 2013 and Rabindra Padak-2000.

He left behind two sons and a daughter, grand children and a host of relatives and well-wishers. His elder sister Sushama Das too is a well-known folk artiste.

Bangladesh top

FROM PAGE 1

About 47 percent of Indian husbands of the adolescent girls take it for a right to beat their wives, 45 percent of them being satisfied with the situation.

The analysis was done by Unicef's data and research division and was funded by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

"Everyday violence may be pervasive, but it is not inevitable," wrote the division's Director Jeffrey O'Malley in the report's foreword.

Violence against children has been found to be a global phenomenon, regardless of economic and social status, religion, ethnicity and culture.

Eventually, the child victims have the process of their natural development hampered, showing poor performance at school, ultimately losing potential and ability to produce.

The report underlined social acceptability as an obstacle to eliminating the problem in the absence of stringent implementation of law and the absence of child protection measures.

A child witnessing violence in households internalises the act as a

way of settling disputes when grown up and that's how the problem remains persistence in the society, said the report.

Analysing data from 190 countries, the study also found that one in five homicide victims worldwide is a child and as many as 120 billion girls are forced to have sex before turning 20.

The report also says that in Mozambique and Tanzania boys are less willing to seek redress for violence than girls. It is difficult to address the problem as boys do not consider violence against them a problem.

In 2012 alone, homicide took the lives of almost 95,000 children and adolescents worldwide, while the number was 1,500 in South Asia.

As many as 12 children per 100,000 are victim of homicide in Afghanistan, followed by Pakistan and India with four and two respectively.

In Bangladesh, only one child per 100,000 becomes homicide victims, with many countries, including Italy, UK and Germany, remaining successful in protecting every child against homicide.

NATIONAL TUBES LIMITED

API LICENSEE AND ISO:9001:2008 CERTIFIED COMPANY
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Steel & Engineering Corporation)
131-142 Tongi Industrial Area, Gazipur-1710.

"আদমজী পাইপ" নামে খ্যাত এনটিএলের জিআই/এমএস/এপিআই পাইপ ব্যবহার করুন যা দীর্ঘস্থায়ী, পুনঃ ব্যবহারযোগ্য, নির্ভরযোগ্য ও নিরাপদ

INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE

Sealed offers are invited by Managing Director, National Tubes Ltd. for supply of Hot Rolled Steel Strips from the genuine manufacturer / principal supplier through their authorized local Agent in Bangladesh for manufacturing of API Gas / Oil Line Pipes, on CFR Chittagong / Benapole basis:

Sl No.	Reference No.	Description of goods	Earnest Money	Price of Tender documents	Last Selling date of tender document	Closing / Opening Date & time	Source of Finance
1)	COM(1) / Strips-4500/ Tender-02/14 Date: 03-09-2014	4500 MT API Grade HR Steel Strips	US \$ 60,000.00 or Tk. 46,80,000.00	Tk. 3000.00 (Taka Three thousand) only (non-refundable)	15-10-2014 (within office hour)	Closing 16-10-14 at 11-30 AM Opening on the same date at 3.00 PM	Cash/any untied credit.

Tender documents may be obtained during working hours (excepting on opening date) on cash payment from the following addresses:

- Cash Section, Bangladesh Steel & Engineering Corporation. "BSEC BHABAN", 102 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215.
- Cash Section, National Tubes Ltd., 131-142 Tongi Industrial Area, Gazipur-1710.

The Tenders / Bids will be received at the following addresses :

- Purchase Division (4th Floor), Bangladesh Steel & Engineering Corporation. "BSEC BHABAN", 102 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215.
- National Tubes Ltd., Commercial Dept., 131-142 Tongi Industrial Area, Gazipur-1710.

The Tenders / Bids will be open at the following addresses, Date & time :

National Tubes Ltd., Commercial Department., 131-142 Tongi Industrial Area, Gazipur-1710. Date : Same as receiving day, Time : 3.00 PM.

In case of unavoidable circumstances the offer will be received on the next working day and opened on the same place and time.

(AKM ANWAR MORSHED)
Dy. General Manager (Commercial)
Phone : 02-9802737

GULF OF MEXICO SPILL BP could face up to \$18bn in extra fines

THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

BP could face up to \$18bn (£11bn) in further fines after being found guilty of gross negligence for the Deepwater Horizon blow-out that killed 11 workers and led to millions of barrels of oil spewing into the Gulf of Mexico.

The oil firm had repeatedly expressed confidence it could avoid such a damning verdict over America's biggest offshore oil accident but a US district judge, Carl Barbier, ruled on Thursday that BP had been reckless as well as negligent.

The long-awaited decision from the New Orleans court hit the firm's share price – which fell by 5%, wiping more than £5bn off its stock market value – despite BP

promising to launch an appeal.

The firm has already paid out or set aside in penalties or compensation more than \$43bn as a result of the accident and has periodically been tipped as a take-over target in its weakened state.

The judge apportioned 67% of the blame for the disaster to BP, 30% with its US rig operator, Transocean, and 3% for Texan-based well expert Halliburton.

"BP was reckless," wrote Barbier in a 153-page judgment. But he will not rule until next year on how much oil was spilled, an important factor in deciding the full extent of BP's financial liability. Under the US Clean Water Act the additional penalties could reach \$18bn.

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)

PKSF Bhaban
E-4/B, Agargaon Administrative Area
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
Phone: 9126240-3, 9140056-9, Fax: 9126244
Website: <http://www.pksf-bd.org>

Tender Notice

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) invites sealed bids from the manufacturers or their authorised dealers for the supply and commissioning of one unit of Sedan Car and one unit of Microbus. Short description of the vehicles are given below:

Sl.no	Description	Quantity
1.	Sedan Car: Brand new, latest model, manufacturer original built-up, 5 seated, 4 doors, RHD, 1450c.c. to 1500c.c., petrol operated with built-in air conditioner and all other latest options.	01 unit
2.	Microbus: Brand new, latest model, manufacturer original built-up, 15 seated, 4 doors, RHD, petrol operated, 2000c.c. to 2700c.c. with built in duel Air Conditioner.	01 unit

The bid document is to be submitted for each vehicle separately in the prescribed 'Tender Schedule' obtainable from the office of PKSF during office hours from 07/09/2014 to 17/09/2014 on payment of a non-refundable amount of BDT 1000/- (one thousand) for each only in the form of bank draft or pay order in favour of Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) from any scheduled bank in Bangladesh.

Bid documents should be dropped in the tender box at the office of PKSF by 12:00 pm on or before 17/09/2014. Bid documents will be opened at 12:15 pm on 18/09/2014 in presence of the bidders or their representatives who choose to attend.

PKSF reserves all rights to accept or reject any or all the bid documents without showing any reason whatsoever.

Deputy Managing Director (Admin & Finance)