

RAILWAY SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

China offers soft loans of \$15-20b

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

China has offered Bangladesh soft loans of \$15-20 billion to help it expand railway networks across the country.

Officials of the Chinese embassy in Dhaka placed the loan proposal at a high-level meeting with Bangladesh officials at the Prime Minister's Office in January, railways ministry sources told The Daily Star.

Later that month, the PMO formed a three-member committee, headed by an additional secretary of the railways ministry, which primarily identified eight projects involving \$10.79 billion.

Railways ministry officials said they sent a list of the projects to the Economic Relations Division of the finance ministry last month for holding discussions with the Chinese government.

Wishing anonymity, a finance ministry high-up said the ministry already sent a list of four projects to the Chinese government for assistance.

The projects are Padma bridge rail link (Dhaka-Mawa-Bhanga) involving \$2.18 billion; Padma bridge rail link (Bhanga-Jessore) costing \$1.14 billion; double line (Joydevpur-Ishwardi) involving \$897 million.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

8 PROJECTS FOR CHINESE FUNDS

Padma bridge rail link (Dhaka-Mawa-Bhanga)	\$2.18 billion
Padma bridge rail link (Bhanga-Jessore)	\$1.14 billion
Dual track (Dohazari-Cox's Bazar)	\$1.18 billion
Double track (Dhaka-Chittagong)	\$3.97 billion
Double line (Joydevpur-Ishwardi)	\$897 million
Double track (Joydevpur-Mymensingh)	\$331 million
Railway workshop in Rajbari	\$200 million
Purchase of 30 DEMUs and 200 coaches	\$265 million

Rules broken in land acquisition

Says TIB report on Rampal, Matarbari projects

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has violated some rules in acquiring land for two coal-fired power plants -- in Rampal and in Matarbari -- and those evicted from their land are still struggling to get compensation, the TIB said yesterday.

In a study, the anti-graft body found that the victims had to bribe officials three to 10 percent of their recompense in advance to receive the money.

"The TIB looked into the process of environment impact assessment and land acquisition of the two projects. It was found in the survey that the victim people had to bribe

between three and 10 percent of their compensation to officials," said Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh, at a press conference.

Once in operation, each of the two projects would produce 1320MW electricity. The Rampal plant is expected to start operation in June 2019 and the Matarbari plant in June 2021.

Mohammed Hossain, deputy programme manager of TIB, presented the findings of the study, done between November 2014 and February 2015.

He said the government was supposed to

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



TOP QUOTE

"Appalled to learn about 20 women assaulted during #PohelaBoishakh celebration at #Dhaka University. Let's act to stop #ViolenceAgainstWomen."

US AMBASSADOR IN DHAKA
MARCIA BERNICAT
TWEETED ON HER OFFICIAL ACCOUNT



Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and his Pakistan opposite number Azhar Ali share a light moment during the unveiling of the three-match ODI series trophy at Mirpur yesterday. Stories on Page 18

PHOTO: STAR

'Nothing' found in footage

Claim proctor, cops over sexual assault; HC for probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With identities of the sexual offenders in Tuesday's incident on the Dhaka University campus still unknown, everyone was looking to the CCTV footage gathered from the scene for some clues about the perpetrators.

However, after scrutinising an hour-long CCTV footage recorded between

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

NEWS ANALYSIS

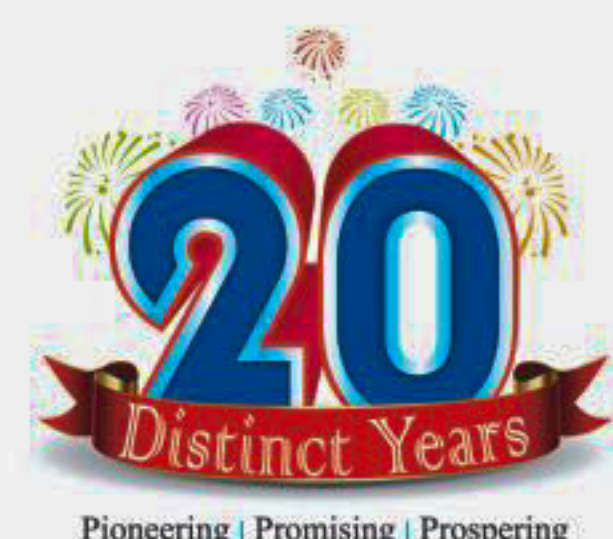
The beasts in the midst of beauty

MARTIN SWAPAN PANDEY

It was beauty all around. Fathers walking their daughters taking in the many colours of life. Mothers holding their infants trying to make sense of the world. Friends moving shoulder to shoulder. Couples hand in hand. A nation on its feet in a fury of festivities. It was that beauty of human spirit, of bonding and of celebration that makes us human. But the beasts were on the prowl. And true to their nature, they struck when dark fell.

Thus the merry celebration of the Bangalees' biggest festival was tainted when a group of 30 to 40 men preyed on some 20 women on the Dhaka University campus on Tuesday evening. Of the victims, at least two were partly stripped off, one had bite marks on her body and another

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



সাফল্যের ২০ বছর

সাফল্যের দু'দশক পাড়ি দিয়ে গ্রাইম ব্যাংক আজ এক উজ্জ্বল নাম। গ্রাহকদের ব্যাংকিং চাহিদা মিটিয়ে সুবিন্যস্ত সেবা প্রদানের মাধ্যমে আমরা অর্জন করেছি অনেক, আমাদের পাড়ি দিতে হবে আরো অনেক পথ। ধারাবাহিক উন্নত সেবার মাধ্যমে যে শক্তিশালী অবস্থান তৈরি করেছি তা ধরে রাখতে আমরা প্রতিজ্ঞাবদ্ধ।

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