

Land filling a major hurdle

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Agency (Jica)-funded project is now being implemented and as per the initial schedule, the plant is supposed to be completed by 2023.

"But after some ground work at the Matarbari site, Jica has extended the project implementation time by 19 additional months. This additional time will be needed for land development," said a high official.

Meanwhile, Chinese company CCC that submitted a proposal last year to build an independent coal terminal in Maheshkhali to facilitate coal handling for all future plants there has recently backtracked on its decision.

"After making some field trips to Maheshkhali, representatives of the CCC told us that the government should first spend around a billion dollars to develop the land in Maheshkhali. They noted that land filling was a big challenge on two grounds. First is to fill up eight to 15 metres of land in places. Then the soil needs up to two years to compact so that installing heavy machinery would be safe and reliable," said another official.

The EGCBB will float the tender for its 1,300MW power plant in June upon completion of its environment impact study (now underway) and the feasi-

bility study.

Its top official notes, "As per our initial assessment we need to fill up land by eight metres. But we are waiting for our feasibility study, which would shed light on the actual picture and how we would solve this problem."

The official pointed out that Maheshkhali is a great choice as a site for imported coal power projects considering that the coal will be transported by large ships. "But right now the government is not thinking about the problem of land development in Maheshkhali. This issue needs urgent attention," he said.

Back in February, the cabinet approved appointment of a consultant to formulate a master plan to install power plants that will produce 9,000MW in Maheshkhali.

Consulting consortium Steag of India and Germany and BCL of Bangladesh have been assigned a Tk 20.5 crore job to do a feasibility study and lay out a plan to install five large coal-fired power plants that will generate 6,000MW of electricity and one 3,000MW plant to be fired by imported liquefied natural gas.

The consortium's immediate job will be to act as the implementation consultant for the first of the five

1,200MW coal-fired ultra super critical power plant to be built jointly by the PDB and Chinese CHDHC.

The Maheshkhali site is within 10-15 kilometres of Matarbari where the coal-fired 1,200MW power project is being built with Japanese soft loan. The Matarbari plant comes with a massive \$4.5 billion price tag and it includes setting up of a deep sea port dedicated to handling imported coal.

For the power plants in Maheshkhali, the PDB has signed memorandums of understanding with Malaysia and China to set up two power plants, each with 1,320MW capacity.

In April last year, the PDB signed an MoU with Chinese company CHDHC and has finalised a joint venture agreement. In September, it signed an MoU with Malaysian Tenaga and is now preparing for a feasibility study.

Besides, the PDB is framing MoUs with Korean company Kepco and a Singaporean company for two separate power plants.

The North West Power Generation Company has also signed an MoU with Chinese company CMC last year and has appointed a consultant to conduct a feasibility study for its 1,320MW coal power project.

Govt mulls

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ary, Tk 600 in higher secondary and Tk 1,000 in higher study level.

In the last FY, 762 members of the community got stipends, 1,071 got allowance and 950 got training. In the current fiscal, the numbers are 789, 1,300 and 900 respectively, according to the ministry website.

The government recently reconised Hijras as the third gender.

The issue of bringing the transgender community into the mainstream society was raised by the social welfare ministry yesterday during an inter-ministerial meeting that discussed allocation for social safety net programmes in the next budget.

The meeting, chaired by Finance Minister AMA Muhiith, decided that all Hijras will get monthly allowance from the government, which means the total allocation for them is likely to increase.

Earlier on April 29, Rupan Kanti Shil, additional secretary for social welfare, said the government was considering appointing 14 members of the community in various government departments.

"We will provide technical training to 1,725 Hijras from 35 districts in the forthcoming fiscal year," he said, adding that they were also arranging scholarships for the students of this

Protect bloggers

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Reading out a written statement, Ranjan said many who could not express their thoughts in the mainstream media chose online platforms for doing so.

"But this is making the government and a vested quarter of the society intimidated," he said.

Three bloggers -- Avijit Roy, Oyasiquir Rahman and Ananta Bijoy Das -- were brutally murdered in the last three months for expressing their opinions. Another free thinker, Ahmed Rajib Haider, was killed in 2013.

Rajib, Avijit and Ananta were among the 84 people on the hit list of militant outfit Ansarullah Bangla Team, Bangla daily Jugantor reported on March 7. Hefajat-e Islam had given the same 84 names to the home ministry, claiming they were anti-Islam, the report said.

At yesterday's press briefing, the HRFB also demanded that an independent commission be formed to probe the killings.

"Law enforcement agencies will not

be able to investigate the killings impartially as there are allegations of negligence of duty against them in most of the incidents," Ranjan read out the statement.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad President Ayesha Khanam, Barrister Sara Hossain and Zakir Hossain of Nagorik Uddyog, among others, were present at the programme.

The HRFB is a coalition of 19 organisations including rights body Ain o Salish Kendra, anti-corruption watchdog Transparency International Bangladesh and development organisation Manusher Jonno Foundation.



IO faces music

FROM PAGE 1
Tribunal-2.

While delivering judgment yesterday, the tribunal rebuked the investigator heavily for his "grave carelessness" and his failure to identify this crucial matter in his investigation.

Dropping the charge against the duo, the tribunal also opined not to assign the investigator to probe any other war crimes case. In the face of huge criticism from the tribunal, the investigation agency's chief said it would launch an internal enquiry against the investigation officer.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Obaidul Hassan with members Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Md Shahinur Islam handed down imprisonment until death for one charge and five year imprisonment, by majority, for another charge.

Termining the IO "incompetent", Justice Hassan said, "This is absolutely a failure of the investigation officer."

On the basis of the IO's investigation, the prosecution pressed three charges against Mahidur and Afsar in November last year. The third charge was related to the killing of four people in Shibganj during the war.

However, during the trial, defence counsels of Mahidur and Afsar said one Laysuddin had filed a case in connection with the killings, and Special Tribunal-11, Rajshahi, formed under the Collaborators Act-1972,

handed down life sentence to Mahidur, Afsar and another person in 1973.

The High Court had upheld the sentence, and they served the lifetime, said the defence counsels. They also submitted the certified copy of the HC judgment.

Altafur even took statement of Laysuddin, son of one of the four victims, but he was not produced before the tribunal as a witness in the current case. During cross examination, Altafur, however, said Laysuddin had told him about the previous case he filed.

"In view of above, we must stamp our views with gross disappointment that the above facts barring subsequent prosecution of the accused persons for the criminal acts narrated in charge no 3 could have been unearthed during investigation," reads the judgment.

"Failure on part of the IO to discover this crucial issue appears to be a hefty kick to the task of investigation... Additionally we deprecate the grave carelessness of the investigation officer who failed to identify this crucial matter in his investigation."

Being a long-experienced police officer, the IO was supposed to know that no person can be prosecuted twice for the same offence based on same criminal acts, it said.

"Absence of any satisfactory clarification as to non recording of such vital information renders IO's gross slackness and inefficiency."

"The investigation done by the IO

does not reflect his due care and competence," the judgement states.

"We seriously deprecate the manner the IO has done the task of investigation as he has submitted a gravely misleading investigation report so far as it relates to the event narrated in charge no 3," it added.

The judgement further states that the investigation agency is responsible for making diligent scrutiny on the investigation done by the investigation officer.

Justice Mozibur Rahman, in his part of judgment, said it would be "wise and justifiable" if the investigator was relieved from further investigation of any case to be placed before the tribunal.

The investigation agency too cannot be absolved of its responsibility for endorsing such an incompetent and irresponsible police officer to investigate a highly important case like this for which the nation had to wait four decades.

The tribunal also rebuked the defence for not mentioning the matter when the court framed charges against the duo.

Talking to The Daily Star, Abdul Hannan Khan, coordinator of the investigation agency, said, "Definitely there were mistakes in the investigation."

"After receiving a copy of the verdict, a thorough internal inquiry will be launched on the IO and further steps will be taken on the basis of the report," he added.

Lower courts

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Another 193 posts of lower court judges will fall vacant in few months, even though around 27 lakh cases are pending with lower courts across the country. The courts currently have around 1,500 judges.

Among the vacant posts, 263 are of senior assistant judges, 89 of joint district judges, 30 of additional district judges and 17 of district judges.

The government has so far appointed 930 assistant judges and judicial magistrates through the BJSC after the body was reconstituted in 2007, sources said.

Law Secretary ASSM Zahirul Haque Dulal said the new judges were appointed only at the entry level -- posts of assistant judge and judicial magistrate.

Posts of other judges are filled through promotions, and therefore, the vacant posts cannot be filled up at a time, he said.

Criminal killed

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him to Rajnagar village in Meherpur Sadar upazila around 5:00am to recover arms and arrest his accomplices.

As soon as the law enforcers reached near a bridge in the village, the aides of Sultan opened fire on them. Police returned fire, triggering a "gunfight", the police official said.

At one stage, Sultan tried to flee but was caught in the line of fire. He died on the spot.

Police also claimed that two firearms, four crude bombs and two sharp weapons were recovered from the spot.

Brac to spend

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Brac and its North American affiliate, Brac USA, have also called on supporters to assist its emergency response for Nepal. Brac is uniquely positioned to provide emergency support due to its proximity and experience, the NGO said in its website.

Brac is a development organisation working for the world's poor. It began its journey with a limited relief operation in 1972 in a remote village of Bangladesh and has now turned into the largest development organisation in the world. Brac's work now touches the lives of an estimated 13.5 crore people.

N Korea claims nuke success

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missiles, that could eventually threaten our allies and the homeland".

Reducing the size of a nuclear warhead to the point where it can fit on a missile would be a major leap forward in establishing a genuine deterrent, and Pyongyang has claimed progress with miniaturisation before.

In January the South Korean Defence Ministry said it believed the North's ability to miniaturise a nuclear device had reached a "significant" level. The top US homeland security

commander, Admiral William Gortney, said last month the North was already capable of mounting a warhead on a missile.

But other senior officials in both countries have questioned such assessments, and independent analysts yesterday stressed that the North's claims were often overblown.

"There are differences between their statements and their actual operational reality," Daniel Pinkston, a Seoul-based senior researcher of the International Crisis Group, told AFP.

Salahuddin to be treated

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to the website of the hospital.

A medical board of the SCH in the Indian state of Meghalaya in a report said Salahuddin has been suffering from heart and kidney diseases. Besides, the patient had developed fresh urological symptoms and needed better treatment.

The report was submitted to Meghalaya police on Tuesday.

Dr GK Goswami, who attended Salahuddin at the SCH, told reporters that the patient developed kidney stones and he needed to undergo more medical examinations which were not available at the hospital.

Salahuddin expressed his gratitude to the Indian government for arranging better treatment for him, Subrata Acharya, India bureau chief of private TV station Somoy TV, told The Daily Star.

"I'm very sick. I urge my countrymen to pray to Allah for my early recovery. I thank the Indian government and the hospital authorities

for providing me with better treatment," the 54-year-old joint secretary general of the BNP told newsmen on his way to the specialised hospital in Shillong.

The former state minister was sitting on a wheel chair. Some reporters managed to talk to him before he was loaded into an SUV under police escort.

He had been receiving treatment at the SCH under police custody since May 11. Yesterday was only the second time newsmen could talk to Salahuddin since he had gone missing on March 10.

Identifying themselves as detectives, a group of men picked up Salahuddin at a residence in the capital's Uttara on that day, his family had alleged.

Meanwhile, Salahuddin's wife Hasina Ahmed met him at the SCH for the third straight day yesterday.

Talking to reporters at the hospital, she said they were putting more priority on Salahuddin's treatment rather than fighting the legal battle

to bring him back home. She reiterated her wish to take her husband to Singapore for better treatment.

Hasina yesterday met advocate SP Mahanta of Meghalaya High Court. They discussed taking Salahuddin to Singapore and defend him in the case filed for trespassing into India.

Police arrested the BNP leader on May 11 when he was "roaming" in Golf Link area of Shillong. He was sued under the foreigners act for not carrying valid travel documents.

POLICE LETTER TO HOSPITAL
In a rare move, the office of the superintendent of police in Meghalaya on Tuesday afternoon sent a letter to the SCH asking the hospital authority why it didn't inform police on Salahuddin's health on a regular basis, said hospital sources.

The law enforcers also wanted to know why the hospital authority was making delay in discharging the arrested BNP leader from the hospital.

DU VC

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eight more names with a single-line warning: "Must you will prepare for dead."

The printed letter is then signed off with "Alkaida - A. Bangla Team: 13."

Five of the eight others are prominent personalities. They are HT Imam, an adviser to the prime minister; Tarana Halim, an Awami League lawmaker; Imran H Sarkar, Gonojagoron Mancha spokesman; Prof Kaberi Gayen of Dhaka University and Prof Muhammad Zafar Iqbal of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology.

The three others are Bikash Saha, Md Iqbalur Rahim and Paltan Sutar.

The Daily Star could speak only with the DU VC, who received the

letter around 11:30am, and Prof Asim Sarker, who got it around 2:00pm. Both letters came via government post.

It was not clear if the letters were indeed sent by Ansarullah Bangla Team.

Contacted, Arefin Siddique said he personally was not worried about the threat but other teachers were.

Abu Bakar Siddique, officer-in-charge of Shahbagh Police Station, said Prof Asim Sarker, also provost of Jagannath Hall, lodged a general diary in this regard last night. "We are looking into the matter."

The letter describes HT Imam as anti-Islam, Prof Arefin as enemy of Islam, Tarana Halim as atheist and Prof Zafar Iqbal as secular.

এসেনসিয়াল ড্রাগস্ কোম্পানী লিমিটেড

৩৯৫-৩৯৭, তেজগাঁও শিল্প এলাকা, ঢাকা- ১২০৮

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ইডিসিএল নিম্নোক্ত আইটেমটি প্রকৃত প্রস্তুতকারী/সরবরাহকারীদের (সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যবসার সহিত জড়িত) নিকট হইতে সীল-মোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করছেঃ-

ক্রঃ নং	দরপত্র নং ও তারিখ	বিবরণ	পরিমাণ
০১।	ইডিসিএল/ক্রয়/লোকাল/টেভার/২০১৫/৩২৪ তারিখঃ ২০/০৫/২০১৫ইং	মেইজ স্টার্চ বিপি Maize Starch BP (সিডিউল মোতাবেক)	১০,০০০ কেজি

সিকিউরিটি/ আর্নেস্ট মনি	দরপত্র শিডিউলের মূল্য (অফেরৎযোগ্য)	দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়
২.৫%	টাকা ৭৫০.০০ প্রতি সেট	২৮/০৫/২০১৫ইং বেলা ০৩.০০ ঘটিকা	২৮/০৫/২০১৫ইং বেলা ০৩.১৫ ঘটিকা

সকল কার্যদিবসে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে উপরোক্ত কার্যালয় হইতে শর্ত ও নিয়মাবলীসহ দরপত্র শিডিউল ক্রয় করা যাইবে।
উল্লেখ্য যে, বাহাদের ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন নাই তাহাদের দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণ করার প্রয়োজন নাই।
দরপত্র খোলার দিনে কোন দরপত্র শিডিউল বিক্রয় করা হইবে না।

উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক
পানিং এন্ড প্রকিউরমেন্ট
পক্ষেঃ ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক

ঢাকা পাওয়ার ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড

বিদ্যুৎ ব্যবহারে সশ্রমী হউন

“বিদ্যুৎ বন্ধের বিজ্ঞপ্তি”

নিয়মিত বিদ্যুৎ বিল পরিশোধ করুন

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, গ্রীড দক্ষিণ-২, ডিপিডিসি।

নারিন্দা ১৩২/৩৩/১১ কেভি গ্রীড উপকেন্দ্র, মানিকনগর ১৩২/৩৩ কেভি উপকেন্দ্রের পাওয়ার ট্রান্সফরমার এবং ৩৩ কেভি ও ১১ কেভি সুইচগিয়ারসমূহের সংরক্ষণ কাজের জন্য নিম্নবর্ণিত তারিখ অনুযায়ী বর্ণিত এলাকাসমূহে বিদ্যুৎ সরবরাহ বন্ধ থাকবে।

উপকেন্দ্রের নাম	তারিখ ও বার	সময়		যে সকল এলাকায় বিদ্যুৎ সরবরাহ বন্ধ থাকবে
		হইতে	পর্যন্ত	
নারিন্দা ১৩২/৩৩ কেভি গ্রীড উপকেন্দ্র (জিটি-২ সাইড)	২২/০৫/১৫ শুক্রবার	সকাল ৮ঃ৩০ টা	বিকাল ৪ঃ৩০ টা	৩৩/১১ কেভি কাজলা উপকেন্দ্রের ৩৩ কেভি শাহরিয়ার স্টীল, ৩৩/১১ কেভি নারিন্দা, বংশাল ও কুমারতুলী উপকেন্দ্রের আওতাধীন এলাকা পর্যায়ক্রমে লোডশেডিং-এর মাধ্যমে চালু থাকবে।
নারিন্দা ১৩২/৩৩ কেভি গ্রীড উপকেন্দ্র (জিটি-১, টি-৩ সাইড)	২৩/০৫/১৫ শনিবার	সকাল ৮ঃ৩০ টা	বিকাল ৪ঃ৩০ টা	৩৩/১১ কেভি নারিন্দা, কুমারতুলী, বংশাল উপকেন্দ্রের আওতাধীন এলাকা পর্যায়ক্রমে লোডশেডিং-এর মাধ্যমে চালু থাকবে। রায়শা বাজার মোড়, গোয়াল ঘাট, দক্ষিণ মৈসুহাতি, লাল মোহন শাহা স্ট্রীট, ধোলাই খাল, শা-সাব লেন, নারিন্দা রোড, ভজহরি শাহা স্ট্রীট, হাটখোলা, লাল মোহন শাহা স্ট্রীট, পুকুর পার, উত্তর পশ্চিম যাত্রাবাড়ী, সায়োদাবাদ, সায়োদাবাদ বাসটার্মিনাল, করাটী টোলা, ডিষ্টিলারী রোড, সিটি মিশন, ধূপখোলা মাঠ, গোলাপ বাগ পুলিশ ভবন, গোলাপ বাগ, কে. এম. দাস লেন, রেল গেট, সায়োদাবাদ পালিশ পর্যায়ক্রমে এবং তৎসংলগ্ন এলাকা।
মানিকনগর ১৩২/৩৩ কেভি গ্রীড উপকেন্দ্র (জিটি-২ সাইড)	২৯/০৫/১৫ শুক্রবার	সকাল ৮ঃ৩০ টা	বিকাল ৪ঃ৩০ টা	মানিকনগর পুকুড়াপাড়, মানিকনগর বিশ্বরোডের পূর্বপার্শ্ব, যাত্রাবাড়ী চৌরাস্তা মোড়, গোলাপবাগ রেল লাইনের পূর্বপার্শ্ব, আরকে মিশন রোড, ধলপুর, সায়োদাবাদ বাস স্ট্যান্ডের পূর্বপার্শ্ব, সিটি পল্লী, সূতি খালপাড়, কমলাপুর স্টেডিয়ামের দক্ষিণপার্শ্ব, উত্তর যাত্রাবাড়ী এবং তৎসংলগ্ন এলাকা। মাদারটেক, কাজলা, খিলগাঁও ও মতিঝিল উপকেন্দ্রের আওতাধীন এলাকায় পর্যায়ক্রমে এক ঘণ্টা করে লোডশেডিং হবে।

বিদ্যুৎ বন্ধের কারণে সম্মানিত গ্রাহকবৃন্দের সাময়িক অসুবিধার জন্য ডিপিডিসি কর্তৃপক্ষ আন্তরিকভাবে দুঃখিত।