

Fifth HSBC-Star Deal signed with French

FROM PAGE 16
 Francois de Maricourt, chief executive officer of HSBC Bangladesh, said the award was a good opportunity to show some inspiring solution to environmental problems, which would encourage other people.

He said HSBC was happy to collaborate with The Daily Star in this as it was an initiative that would show the path to build a greener future of Bangladesh.

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, said the media had a great role to play by raising awareness about the effect of climate change and its solution.

He also said the initiative was taken to let people know what to do to tackle climate change.

ANM Maqsood Sinha, executive director Waste Concern, said if Bangladesh could use its own resources properly, it would be capable of tackling climate change.

Maqsood said when the climate award initiative was taken in 2010 there were not many industries that were running in an environment friendly way, but now more and more industrial units were choosing the greener path.

Talukdar Noman Anwar, country head of communications for HSBC Bangladesh, who moderated the session, said despite different environmental challenges, Bangladesh was tackling those and growing at a good pace.

The award has been gaining popularity as increasing number of firms and individuals apply every year, he said.

Elephants

FROM PAGE 16
 Sumatra has been blanketed by smoke from forest fires and land clearing, especially in peat-rich areas where flames are difficult to contain.

At the elephant conservation center in Siak district, 23 trained elephants are being used as "forest watchdogs."

Carrying water pumps and other equipment, elephants and their crews patrol burned areas in the national forest to ensure that fires don't reappear after smoldering beneath the peat lands.

Supartono, the head of the Riau Forestry Division, who uses one name, said the elephants had earlier been trained to help patrol forests to find people encroaching illegally, as well as to resolve frequent conflicts between wild elephants and people by driving the wild elephants that enter human settlements back to their habitats.

So far, Indonesia has been unable to put out the raging fires this year because of intentional burning and a rain shortage.

Much of the forest land that was burned in the past 17 years was converted into oil palm and pulp plantations.

Data from the Riau Forest Fire Prevention Taskforce show more than 10,000 hectares (25,000 acres) of forests and lands have been burned in the province.

Environment and Forestry Minister Siti Nurbaya says about 1.7 million hectares (4.2 million acres) of forests and plantation lands have been razed by fires throughout Sumatra and Borneo.

Deal signed with French

FROM PAGE 16
 Shahjahan Mahmood, chairman of Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission, and Jean Loic Galle, president and chief executive officer of Thales Alenia Space, inked the deal in the capital's Sonargaon Hotel.

BTRC officials said the satellite would narrow the digital divide, create jobs and facilitate services such as direct-to-home broadcasting facilities.

It would also help improve weather forecast system and facilitate exploration of natural resources on land and in sea.

Bangladesh's satellite-related needs are now met by renting bandwidth from different operators for almost \$14 million a year. Once launched, Bangabandhu-1 will save this annual cost, they added.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Tarana Halim, state minister for posts and telecommunication, said the government wanted to launch the commercial and broadcast satellite on December 16, 2017 to mark the 45th anniversary of the country's victory in the Liberation War.

"This contract is the final step towards fulfilling our long-cherished dream of launching the first satellite of Bangladesh -- Bangabandhu Satellite-1," she said.

After signing the deal, Shahjahan said, "We are entering the space age and it [the satellite] will create history for the country."

He said the BTRC would set up a company to run the satellite business.

In 15 years, the country would earn \$1 billion by leasing out transponders and another \$1.5 billion by selling other services to different countries.

Once the project is completed, Bangladesh will be the 57th country to have a broadcast and communication satellite, said the BTRC chairman.

Jean Loic Galle, the CEO of Thales Alenia Space, said the project could help change Bangladesh's socio-economic condition.

Under the agreement, the French company will be paid \$248 million (Tk 1,951 crore) and incentives if it launches the satellite before the deadline.

Bangabandhu-1 would be launched either from satellite launching station Ariane France or SpaceX in the USA, local representatives of Thales Alenia told The Daily Star.

Bangladesh will launch the satellite in the orbital slot at longitude 119.1 degree east with 40 transponders. Earlier this year, it bought the slot from Intersputnik, a Russian satellite company, for \$28 million for 15 years.

The French company has already started construction work at two ground handling stations at Telecom Staff College in Gazipur and Betbunia Earth Station in Rangamati, said officials.

Razzaque said the project would reach breakeven in five years. It would allow the regulator to sell excess capacity to other nations.

The satellite will be able to provide services to all South Asian countries, as well as Indonesia, the Philippines, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, if its frequency is properly coordinated, he added.

The telecom regulator floated tenders in April and received bids from four companies -- Thales Alenia Space, China's Great Wall Industry Corporation, USA's Orbit ATA and Canada's MDA.

Myanmar govt

FROM PAGE 16
 an outright majority -- but it was almost certain to smash through that marker.

Earlier, Suu Kyi sent letters to President Thein Sein, Commander-in-Chief Min Aung Hlaing as well as influential parliamentary speaker Shwe Mann, calling for "national reconciliation" talks next week.

"Citizens have expressed their will in the election," she said of the NLD's blitz of the ruling party, again in a letter circulated on Facebook in a country which has embraced social media since it began opening up in 2011.

The swift move to reach out to the army shows willingness to work with her former captors -- who kept her under house arrest for 15 years -- to cut through Myanmar's tangled politics.

Analysts say difficult months lie ahead, with the army still in charge of key levers of power, protected by a constitution gifting it 25 percent of all parliamentary seats as well as key security posts.

The document also blocks the 70-year-old Suu Kyi from becoming president despite her position as the democracy movement's magnetic force.

The NLD needs 67 percent of the contested seats to form a majority. But a bigger win will carry greater clout inside the new parliament.

The democracy figurehead, who retained her seat in Kawhmu constituency, has vowed to rule from "above the president", indicating she will use a proxy to sidestep the bar on her taking the top office.

Parliamentary speaker Shwe Mann, a former high ranking general, had been tipped as a compromise candidate for the presidency -- although his star has waned inside the USDP before he too lost his seat.

"A man slashed at the prison guard [Asaduzzaman], who was sitting at the back of the motorcycle, with a straight razor and fled," he said.

The attack came following three machete attacks on uniformed men in which two cops -- an assistant sub-inspector and a constable -- were killed on October 22 and November 4, and a military policeman was injured on Tuesday.

The IG Prisons suspected that yesterday's attack was a sequel to those incidents, and advised his men not to wear uniforms outside the jail premises.

"Though no order has been issued yet, all are being advised not to wear uniforms during the work which can be done in plain clothes, as the uniformed men are specifically being targeted at present," he told the journalists.

In wake of recent attacks on uniformed men and other subversive activities, security has been stepped up in all the prisons across the country.

Patrols have been increased inside the jails and restrictions imposed on the movement of vehicles and general people around the prison facilities, said Brig Gen Iftekhar.

Also, the jail authorities are not allowing the prisoners to carry one-band radios, which is allowed under normal circumstances, he added.

Contacted, Officer-in-Charge Nazim Uddin of Faridpur Sadar (Kotwali) Police Station said no case had been filed as of 10:00pm yesterday.

EU wants

FROM PAGE 16
 The EU condemned the crimes and expressed concern over the issue, he said.

In this regard, ERD Additional Secretary Abul Mansur Md Faizullah said, "We have informed them that these were isolated incidents. The government is determined to ensure fair trial of the killings."

Ugo Astuto told reporters the meeting was fruitful. Alongside economic issues, the meeting also discussed issues of human rights and good governance.

The implementation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord, Information and Communication Technology Act and press freedom came into discussion in the meeting, said meeting sources.

The EC stressed the need for freedom of expression in the country, they said.

At the meeting, the EU assured that its pledge of assistance to Bangladesh

Jail guard

FROM PAGE 16
 were going to Faridpur district post office on a motorcycle in the afternoon to drop some official letters, Inspector General of Prisons Brig Gen Syed Iftekhar Uddin said at a press briefing at the Department of Prisons in the capital yesterday.

MRP FOR EXPATS

Vital issues skipped in meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Officials of the home ministry and the Department of Immigration and Passport yesterday held a marathon meeting with IRIS but skipped the two key issues: paying what it owes the government and handing over passports.

During the four-and-a-half-hour meeting, which began at Agargaon passport office at 1:00pm, they discussed only issues related to machine readable passports (MRPs) in Bangladesh, meeting sources said.

No official of the ministry or the DIP tabled the matter of IRIS Corporation Berhad declining to pay about Tk 50 crore it collected as passport fees from expatriates in Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

They also did not bring up the fact that IRIS was keeping 1,075 MRPs in Malaysia for months, putting the expatriates in trouble. Over the last few months, the DIP wrote a number of letters asking IRIS to pay the money and hand over the passports.

Additional Home Secretary Mostafa Kamal Uddin chaired the meeting, also attended by Director General of DIP Zeaul Alam and Project Director of MRP Brig Gen Masud Rezwana.

"Today's meeting was the right place to ask IRIS why it is not paying the money and returning the passports," a home ministry official who was at the meeting said, requesting anonymity.

The official said the meeting focused only on the activities of the Malaysian company in Bangladesh,

not the outsourcing in Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Malaysia.

The government awarded IRIS contracts in the three countries that are considered key overseas employment destinations. IRIS' job was to enrol all the Bangladeshi expatriates there for issuing them MRPs before the ICAO deadline of November 24.

But the company's failure to do the job would risk the fate of at least five lakh expatriates who would not get the MRPs before the deadline, DIP sources said.

After the expiry of the deadline, the migrants have to face multiple problems, like losing their jobs and deportation.

DIP DG Zeaul Alam told The Daily Star on Tuesday that he would discuss the issues of IRIS paying the fees it had collected from expatriates and the handing over of MRPs in Malaysia.

He was silent at the meeting yesterday.

"I was present in the meeting for a short time. So, I could not discuss these matters with IRIS," he said.

Surprisingly, some officials said the two issues were in fact not even on the meeting agenda. One of them said, "The issues were intentionally left out to protect the Malaysian company."

Another official said IRIS did many blunders in the MRP projects and caused a lot of problems for Bangladeshi citizens at home and abroad but the meeting avoided everything. Rather, IRIS was praised for its performance, the official said.

US updates travel alert

FROM PAGE 16
 "Nothing happened in Bangladesh which may create a feeling of apprehension either for locals or foreigners," he said.

But, diplomatic sources in Dhaka consider the latest US travel alert for Bangladesh "significant" after several prominent international news agencies and media, including Associated Press (AP), Reuters, BBC, The Guardian, Press Trust of India (PTI), NDTV and The Japan Times, have run news on the matter with much importance.

Meanwhile, in response to a query about the reason for updating the alert, Nancy VanHorn, spokesperson for the US Embassy in Dhaka, told The Daily Star: "The US government assesses that the terrorist threat remains real and credible, and further attacks are possible."

"The alert does not reflect a new threat. The alert is intended to inform the public of the existing threat, given the increased numbers of foreigners expected to travel in the near future for large-scale public events," she said.

Replying on another question, she said the US is proud to continue partnering with Bangladesh as the

latter continues on its remarkable path of progress and prosperity.

Since the murder of Italian aid worker Cesare Tavella in Dhaka on September 28, the US has updated its travel alerts 7 times for Bangladesh.

The latest alert will expire on February 2, the next year, according to the website of the US Department of State.

Five days after Tavella's murder, Japanese national Kunio Hoshi was shot dead in a similar manner in Rangpur.

The Islamic State (IS) reportedly claimed responsibility for both the incidents.

But, Bangladesh government said there is no presence of the global militant outfit in the country.

THE ALERT
 The latest US travel alert says strict restrictions have been imposed on movements of US government officials and their families, prohibiting them from most public places and from attending large gatherings, including events at international hotels.

It urges other US citizens in Bangladesh to adopt similar precautions.

"The Department of State alerts US citizens to concerns about the ongoing potential for extremist violence in Bangladesh," the notice reads.

The US government assesses that further attacks are possible, says the alert.

Since September, Bangladesh has experienced violent attacks directed at individual foreigners and minority communities, including the September 28 murder of an Italian national, the October 3 murder of a Japanese national, and the October 24 bombings of a religious procession of Shia Muslims.

"The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) publicly claimed all three attacks.

"Additionally, during 2015 there has been a series of threats and terrorist attacks targeting writers, publishers, and others in the media, including the murder of a US citizen blogger," adds the notice.

According to an AP report, the US Department of State declined to provide more information on the nature of the terrorist threat, saying it does not comment on intelligence matters.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
 Local Government Engineering Department
 Office of the Executive Engineer
 Noakhali
 www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. LGED/XEN/NOA/TENDER/2015/3469 Dated: 09/11/2015

Invitation for Tenders (IFT for Works)

e-Tender Notice No-28/2015-16
 Reference No: APP ID-18602 & APP ID-14904

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following Tender ID & Schemes.

Tender ID & Package No.	Name of scheme	The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank
Tender ID-36130 CHLUMP/NOAKH ALI/NOAKHALI- S/H-9/2015-16	Construction of Housing for 05 (five Nos.) Landless & Underprivileged Muktijoddha a) Nurjahan Begum b) Md. Mostafa c) Md. Homayun Kabir d) Tofayel Ahmed e) Mukbul Ahmad under Sadar, Noakhali.	Up to 29-11-2015 at 4.00pm
Tender ID-36131 CHLUMP/NOAKH ALI/NOAKHALI- S/H-10/2015-16	Construction of Housing for 04 (four Nos.) Landless & Underprivileged Muktijoddha a) Sokina Khatun b) Monoara Akther c) Md. Hanif d) Jarina Khatun under Sadar, Noakhali.	Up to 29-11-2015 at 4.00pm
Tender ID-36132 GNP-2/NOA/COM/ 2014-15/W-150	Improvement of Mataliaghata Road from ch.1000-2000m (ID No: 475214017) under Companigonj Upazila, Noakhali.	Up to 29-11-2015 at 4.00pm

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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GD-3547

German intelligence spied on Fabius, FBI, UN bodies: report

AFP, Berlin

Germany's foreign intelligence service spied on targets including French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius, the FBI and the UN children's fund, a media report said yesterday.

The latest news report on the BND spy service fuels a debate in Germany about state surveillance that was kicked off by the revelations of fugitive US intelligence contractor Edward Snowden.

The claims are awkward for Chancellor Angela Merkel, whose office oversees Germany's intelligence activities, after she angrily told Washington in 2013 that "spying among friends isn't on" following reports the US National Security Agency (NSA) had bugged her cellphone.

The latest report, by Berlin public radio, adds to the list of targets the BND has allegedly spied on, citing the BND's "selectors" -- phone numbers, email and IP addresses -- for surveillance which has been handed over to a parliamentary oversight panel.

According to RBB Inforadio, which did not name its sources, the service has spied on Fabius, the International Court of Justice in The Hague, the US Federal Bureau of Investigation and the United Nations bodies UNICEF and the World Health Organization.

Also on the list were "many European and American companies, including weapons makers such as Lockheed of the United States," said the report.

The list also included a German diplomat who had from 2008-11 served as head of the EU observer mission in Georgia, followed by senior EU postings in Brussels and Turkey.

TENDER NOTICE

Printing and Supplying of "Annual Report" for the year 2015

Sealed tenders are hereby invited by Prime Bank Limited for printing and supplying of "Annual Report" from the bonafide printing press/firms (local) for the year 2015 :

- Interested bidder(s) must have the following eligibilities:
 - At least 5 (five) years' relevant experience in this line of business and shall be a company having national presence engaged in printing with efficient technical team to execute the work within the stipulated time.
 - Has/have executed work order of minimum Tk.20 (twenty) lac in a single transaction.
- Interested bidders, who fulfill above-mentioned requirements, may collect the Tender Schedule from Facility Management Division, Head Office, 29 Rajuk Avenue (1st floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 from November 12, 2015 to December 07, 2015 (both days inclusive) during office hours (10:00 am to 3.00 pm) on payment of Tk.1000 (one thousand) only (non-refundable) in the form of Payment Order of any scheduled Bank favoring "Prime Bank Limited".
- No tender document will be issued after last date of purchase as mentioned above.
- Proposal/Offer, in sealed envelope, to be dropped in the Tender Box kept at Facility Management Division, Head Office, 29 Rajuk Avenue (1st floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 by 03.00 pm on December 07, 2015. Envelopes to be clearly marked "Tender for Printing and Supplying of Annual Report" on the top of the envelope. Tenders will be opened at 03:30 pm on the same day in presence of the bidders or their representatives, who may remain present.
- Earnest money (refundable) equivalent to 2.5% of the quoted value of works in the form of pay order/bank draft in favor of Prime Bank Limited shall be submitted along with the tender.
- Prime Bank reserves the right to accept, modify or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.
- The Bank shall not be bound or under any obligation to accept the lowest quotation.

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Senior Vice President
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