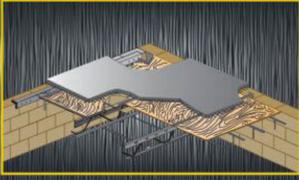


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BANGABANDHU SATELLITE Deal signed with French company



PLANNED LAUNCH ON
Dec 16, 2017

PROJECT COST
Tk 2,967.96 crore

GOVT TO PROVIDE
Tk 1,315.51 crore

FOREIGN LOANS
Tk 1,652.44 crore

MUHAMMAD ZAHIDUL ISLAM

Bangladesh yesterday signed a \$248-million deal with French company Thales Alenia Space for manufacturing and launching the country's first satellite: Bangabandhu-1.

The company has to complete the project by 2017, according to the deal. But if it fails to meet the deadline, it will have to pay fines. The total project cost will run into Tk 2,967.95 crore, with about 56 percent of the fund coming from foreign loans. The government will provide the rest, Md Golam Razaque, project director of Bangabandhu-1 satellite, told The Daily Star.

The government would have to pay back the loans in 15 years. But the interest rate for the loans was yet to be fixed, he said.

BTRC officials involved with the project said the agreement would be effective for five years but the BTRC could extend it. Thales Alenia would train Bangladeshi technicians for ground handling and maintenance of the satellite.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



FOOTBRIDGE OR A TRAP?

A gaping hole in the foot bridge between Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University and Birdem Hospital in Dhaka. Used by hundreds of pedestrians, the bridge exposes people to accidents every day. Yet the authorities concerned seem to be totally indifferent to its repairs. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

BLOGGER KILLINGS EU wants to know what steps taken

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

European Union representatives have inquired about the steps taken by the government after the killing of bloggers and publishers.

The issue was raised at a joint commission meeting at the Economic Relations Division (ERD) in the capital yesterday.

"This type of unwanted killing is never acceptable to us," said Ugo Astuto, acting managing director of the Asia and the Pacific Department of European External Action Service at a press briefing following the 7th joint commission meeting. He led the EU team in the meeting.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

CHEATING IN EXAMS Nine students jailed, four expelled

RU CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court yesterday sentenced nine students to jail on different terms in connection with resorting to unfair means in the Rajshahi University admission test.

Four other applicants were also expelled from the admission test for F and H units.

The convicts are Hasanul Bari, of Kushtia, Jamsheedul Islam, of RU Arabic department, Ashiqur Rahman, of RU Botany department, Anas Muhammad Maruf, of Ruet mechanical department, Abdullah Al Noman, of Rajshahi College Physics department, Moshirur

SEE PAGE 13 COL 8

Jail guard attacked in Faridpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A prison guard was wounded in a razor attack in Faridpur yesterday.

The guard -- Asaduzzaman, 42, son of Malek Biswash of Narail district -- came under the attack while going to a post office from Faridpur district jail for official purposes in his uniform.

He later took treatment at Faridpur General Hospital.

Shaheen Mahmud, the on-duty doctor at the hospital, said there was a wound caused by "some sharp object" on Asaduzzaman's back but it was not deep, reports a correspondent from Faridpur.

Asaduzzaman and another prison guard

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

Fifth HSBC-Star Climate Awards launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The fifth HSBC-The Daily Star Climate Awards was launched yesterday with the aim of encouraging individuals and organisations that are working towards preserving the environment and showing people a way to tackle climate change risks.

The announcement came at a press conference held yesterday at The Daily Star Centre. Like previous years, the awards will recognise five climate champions in four categories.

The categories are climate champion in green business, climate champion in green operations, climate champion in knowledge management and climate champion in community engagement.

There would be two awards in the category of climate champion in green operations -- one will be given to a local company and the other to a fully foreign-owned or a joint ownership firm.

The Daily Star and HSBC are the joint organisers of the awards while Waste Concern will work as the knowledge partner.

Nomination forms and detailed information are available at www.hsbc.com.bd and www.thedailystar.net. Applications for the awards must reach the Waste Concern's office at House-21 (Side B), Road-7, Block-G, Banani Model Town on or before December 15.

After a selection process conducted by an independent jury panel and independent verification, the winners of the awards will be announced in February 2016. So far 19 individuals and enterprises have been awarded in the last four climate awards since 2010.

Last year, around 100 individuals and firms contested for the awards.

Bangladesh is one of the worst victims of climate change but the climate award initiative shows the world that the country is not sitting idle and is working to tackle the climate change and environmental degradation, speakers said at the conference.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Elephants to douse forest fires!

AP, Siak

Officials in Indonesia are using trained elephants outfitted with water pumps and hoses to help control fires that have claimed vast amounts of forest while sending thick haze into neighboring countries.

For nearly three months, Riau province in East

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



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NOVEMBER 12

| | | | | |
|-------------|-------|------|---------|------|
| Fazr | Zohr | Asr | Maghrib | Esha |
| AZAN 5-00 | 12-45 | 3-45 | 5-22 | 7-00 |
| JAMAAT 5-35 | 1-15 | 4-00 | 5-25 | 7-30 |

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

US updates travel alert

Mentions possibility of further attacks

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The US Department of State has issued a travel alert for Bangladesh, claiming there is reliable information to suggest that terrorist attacks could occur against foreigners in the country.

In its updated travel alert issued in Washington on November 10, the US, citing "recent violent attacks", asked its citizens to exercise appropriate caution and maintain a high level of vigilance during their travel to Bangladesh.

However, Bangladesh Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal yesterday said the updated travel alert "is not based on reality".

"It's their [US] routine work and internal matter. They issue travel alerts for their citizens regularly," he told reporters at the secretariat when his attention was drawn to the issue.

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CEO of HSBC Bangladesh Francois de Maricourt, second from right, speaking at a press briefing to announce the launching of the fifth HSBC-The Daily Star Climate Award at The Daily Star Centre yesterday. Far left, ANM Maqsood Sinha, executive director of Waste Concern; Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star; and far right, Talukdar Noman Anwar, head of communications, HSBC Bangladesh were also present at the briefing.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Myanmar govt vows to 'respect' election results

Suu Kyi calls for 'national reconciliation' talks

AFP, Yangon

Myanmar's military-backed government vowed yesterday to respect the country's election result despite staring at a poll wipeout, as opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi called for talks with the president and the powerful army chief.

Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) party is on the brink of a majority after it took over 85 percent of the seats declared so far.

Although poll officials are yet to announce the NLD as winners, Myanmar's balance of power, dominated for half a century by the army and its allies, appears poised to be redrawn.

But Suu Kyi's supporters remain anxious at how the army and its allies will respond to its mauling, with memories still keen of the 1990 election -- won by the NLD but then swatted away by the junta.

In the first official reaction by the army-backed ruling party, Information Minister Ye Htut congratulated the NLD on its gains so far and vowed to "respect and obey the decision of the electorate".

"We will work peacefully in the transfer" of responsibilities to the winning party, he said in a letter posted on Facebook, adding talks with Suu Kyi could be held after the official result is announced.

By nightfall the NLD had scooped up 256 seats, 73 shy of

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4