

# Saudi Binladin Group lays off 77,000 workers



AFP/FILE

The logo of the Saudi Binladin Group is seen in their headquarters in Jeddah.

AFP, Riyadh

One of Saudi Arabia's most powerful firms, the Saudi Binladin Group, has laid off 77,000 foreign workers, a Saudi daily reported on Monday, citing an anonymous company official.

The report is the latest over the past few days alleging tens of thousands of layoffs, unpaid salaries and unrest by employees of the firm which built some of the Gulf country's landmarks.

Sources in March told AFP that

delayed receipts from the government, whose oil revenues collapsed over the past two years, have left employees of the kingdom's construction giants struggling to survive while they await their salaries.

However, Saudi Binladin Group was also sanctioned by the government after a deadly crane accident at one of its projects last September.

The firm could not immediately comment but asked AFP to submit questions in writing.

The company official cited by Al-Watan daily said that as of Sunday

77,000 Binladin Group workers had received exit visas to leave the country.

He added that they were among 200,000 expatriates employed by the company, one of the largest builders in the world.

In addition, 12,000 out of the 17,000 Saudis working for the firm as engineers, administrators and inspectors were also expected to be let go, the source said.

On Friday, Al-Watan reported that 50,000 of the group's staff were refusing to leave the country while their salaries remained unpaid after more than four months.

Another newspaper, Arab News, on Sunday cited employees of Saudi Binladin Group as confirming "massive layoffs".

An Arab News report on Monday blamed "unpaid workers" for torching several Binladin Group buses in the city of Mecca over the weekend.

After decades of thriving on lucrative government contracts, the company faced unprecedented scrutiny after one of its cranes working on a major expansion of the Grand Mosque in Mecca, Islam's holiest site, toppled in September.

At least 109 people including foreign pilgrims died, leading King Salman to exclude the firm from new public contracts.

# Halliburton, Baker Hughes call off merger

AFP, San Francisco

US oil services companies Halliburton and Baker Hughes announced Sunday they were calling off their massive multibillion-dollar proposed merger that had met strong resistance from regulators.

The deal, announced in November 2014, foresaw a \$34.6 billion takeover by Halliburton of its rival, creating a powerful competitor to global industry leader Schlumberger.

"Challenges in obtaining remaining regulatory approvals and general industry conditions that severely damaged deal economics led to the conclusion that termination is the best course of action," Halliburton's chairman and chief executive, Dave Lesar, said in a joint statement.

Earlier this month, US antitrust officials filed suit to block the proposed merger, agreed to in response to plunging oil prices, saying it would eliminate competition, raise prices and reduce innovation in the oil services business.

The Justice Department said the transaction would eliminate head-to-head competition in markets for 23 products or services, creating a virtual duopoly for key oil services such as offshore well completions and on- and offshore cementing.

It said the merger would remove the incentives for two industry leaders to improve technology and that low oil prices did not justify a bad deal for consumers.

Halliburton and Baker Hughes -- the world's number two and three oil services companies -- said at the time they would "vigorously contest" the case.

They argued that the deal would provide customers with better access to top

technology and lower the cost of producing oil.

Martin Craighead, chairman and chief executive of Baker Hughes, called the termination "disappointing."

"This was an extremely complex, global transaction and, ultimately, a solution could not be found to satisfy the antitrust concerns of regulators, both in the United States and abroad," he said.

Halliburton will pay Baker Hughes a termination fee of \$3.5 billion by Wednesday, according to the joint statement.

US Attorney General Loretta Lynch welcomed the deal's demise.

"The companies' decision to abandon this transaction -- which would have left many oilfield service markets in the hands of a duopoly -- is a victory for the US economy and for all Americans," Lynch said in a statement.

"This case serves as a stark reminder that no merger is too big or too complex to be challenged."

The Justice Department said that before it filed suit, Halliburton had offered to divest certain assets in an effort to address its concerns.

"According to the complaint, however, the proposal was inadequate because it did not include full business units, withheld many critical assets and personnel, involved numerous ongoing entanglements between the merged company and the divestiture buyer and generally failed to replicate the robust competition between the parties that exists today," it said.

In 2015, Halliburton had revenues of \$23.6 billion, while Baker Hughes had revenues of \$15.7 billion. Schlumberger's revenues were \$35.5 billion.

# Crisis-hit Venezuela sets clocks ahead to save power

AFP, Caracas

With their country gripped by an economic crisis, Venezuelans lost half an hour of sleep Sunday as their clocks were set forward to save power on President Nicolas Maduro's orders.

At 2:30 am local time, the oil-dependent South American nation shifted its time ahead by 30 minutes -- to four hours behind Greenwich Mean Time.

The move, announced in mid-April, is part of a package of measures the embattled socialist president is pursuing to cope with a crippling electricity shortage.

Maduro's government has also instituted four-hour daily blackouts across most of the country, reduced the public-sector workweek to two days and ordered schools closed on Fridays -- adding to the woes of a nation already stuck in a crushing recession.

The power cuts sparked riots and looting this week in Venezuela's second-largest city, Maracaibo.

# Iran and South Korea set to triple trade to \$18b

AFP, Tehran

Iran and South Korea have decided to triple their annual trade volume to \$18 billion, President Hassan Rouhani announced on Monday after meeting his South Korean counterpart Park Geun-Hye.

"The two sides decided to increase by three times the current trade volume of around \$6 billion (5.2 billion euros) to \$18 billion," Rouhani said in a joint televised press conference.

"We also spoke about tourism, direct flights between Seoul and Tehran, and Korean investment in Iranian tourism infrastructure, including building hotels," he added.

Park is the first South Korean president to visit Iran since the two countries established diplomatic relations in 1962, and as Seoul seeks new markets to turn around a lengthy decline in export revenues.

Her three-day visit comes just months after a historic nuclear deal with world powers lifted sanctions crippling Iran's economy in exchange for limits on its nuclear programme.

Park, who is accompanied by several ministers and a 230-strong business delegation, will also be received by Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The two countries have pledged to develop their relations in the energy sector.



M RAHMAN & CO

Officials of FG Wilson cut a cake to mark the company's 50th anniversary with the officials of M Rahman and Co, the company's dealer in Bangladesh.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Local Government Engineering Department  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
District: Sylhet  
[www.lged.gov.bd](http://www.lged.gov.bd)

Memo No. LGED/XEN/SYL/3-07/2015/1361

Date: 02/05/2016

**e-Tender Notice**

**Tender Notice No: 33/2015-16**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of Works as stated below:

Sl. No.	Package No.	Name of Works	Tender ID No.	Method of Tender
Name of Project : Important Rural Infrastructure Development Project on Priority Basis-2 (IRIDP-2)				
1	IRIDP-2/ SYL/DW-107	a) Improvement of RHD Road- Shakepara Road (Ch. 00-585m) (ID No. 691205165) b) Construction of 1No. 625mmx900mm Slab Culvert at Ch. 385m on the same road under Upazila: Biswanath, District: Sylhet.	54023	OTM
2	IRIDP-2/ SYL/DW-108	Improvement of Dashghor Masukali- Dashghor Jame Mosque Road (Ch. 00-985m)(ID No. 691205044) under Upazila: Biswanath, District: Sylhet.	54024	OTM
3	IRIDP-2/ SYL/DW-109	Improvement of Biswanath - Jagonnathpur Road to Lahari- Saroil- Market Bazar Road (Ch. 00-365m)(ID No. 691204057) under Upazila: Biswanath, District: Sylhet.	54025	OTM
4	IRIDP-2/ SYL/DW-110	Improvement of Kaligonj Bazar- Mirerchar- Chaila Road (Ch. 1750-2250m)(ID No. 691205059) under Upazila: Biswanath, District: Sylhet.	54026	OTM
5	IRIDP-2/ SYL/DW-111	Improvement of Majhgram via Kandigram GPS Gazir Mokam Road (Ch. 500-1000m)(ID No. 691205089) under Upazila: Biswanath, District: Sylhet.	54027	OTM
6	IRIDP-2/ SYL/DW-112	Improvement of RHD Sylhet Sunamgonj Road to Dighli- Mandabaj Rail Line Road (Ch. 600-1100m)(ID No. 691205091) under Upazila: Biswanath, District: Sylhet.	54028	OTM
7	IRIDP-2/ SYL/DW-113	Improvement of Munshirgow High School- Sakharikuna- Bangla Bazar Road (Ch. 00-500m)(ID No. 691204043) under Upazila: Biswanath, District: Sylhet.	54029	OTM
8	IRIDP-2/ SYL/DW-114	a) Improvement of Durjakapon Habra Road to Utpara Village Road (Ch. 00-500m)(ID No. 691205116) b) Construction of 1No. 625mmx900mm Slab Culvert at Ch. 447m on the same road under Upazila: Biswanath, District: Sylhet.	54030	OTM
9	IRIDP-2/ SYL/DW-115	Improvement of Jagdishpur- Daspaika Bazar Road (Ch. 450-950m)(ID No. 691204001) under Upazila: Biswanath, District: Sylhet.	54031	OTM
10	IRIDP-2/ SYL/DW-116	Improvement of Kahirghat Bazar- Niamatpur Road (Ch. 00-500m)(ID No. 691205095) under Upazila: Biswanath, District: Sylhet.	54032	OTM
11	IRIDP-2/ SYL/DW-117	Improvement of Dhaka Sylhet- RHD- Raigdara- Kabaripara Road (Ch. 00-500m)(ID No. 691085203) under Upazila: Balaganj, District: Sylhet.	54033	OTM
12	IRIDP-2/ SYL/DW-118	Improvement of Kashipara- Hostidurpur Road (Ch. 00-500m)(ID No. 691085016) under Upazila: Balaganj, District: Sylhet.	54034	OTM
13	IRIDP-2/ SYL/DW-24	Improvement of Borohond Primary School-Kataltoli Road (Ch. 00-500m.) (ID No. 691594123) under Upazila: Kanaighat, District: Sylhet.	54035	OTM
14	IRIDP-2/ SYL/MW-87	Maintenance of R&H (Tamabil)- Lafnaut- Ailrgow UP Office Road (Ch. 6160-7160m) (ID No. 691413004) under Upazila: Gowainghat, District: Sylhet.	54036	OTM
15	IRIDP-2/ SYL/DW-20	Improvement of Rayergoan-Lamapara Morjid Road (Ch.00-480m)(ID No. 691625118) under Upazila: Sylhet Sadar, District: Sylhet.	54037	OTM
16	IRIDP-2/ SYL/DW-35	Improvement of Sultanpur (Arfan Ali Shop) - Anowerpur Road (Ch. 00-405m) (ID No. 691085209) under Upazila: Balaganj, District: Sylhet.	54038	OTM
17	IRIDP-2/ SYL/DW-78	a) Improvement of Islampurbazar- Manshinagar GPS Road (Ch. 483-838m) b) Construction of 1x2.50mx2.50m RCC Box Culvert at Ch. 751m on the same road (ID No. 691625112) under Upazila: Sylhet Sadar, District: Sylhet.	53257	OTM
18	IRIDP-2/ SYL/DW-79	Improvement of Mirergain- Shamsudharam Mazar Road (Ch. 300-800m) (ID No. 691625214) under Upazila: Sylhet Sadar, District: Sylhet.	53258	OTM
19	IRIDP-2/ SYL/DW-81	a) Improvement of Nowagaon Masjid- Elameragaon Road (Ch. 00-400m) b) Construction of 1x2.50mx2.50m RCC Box Culvert at Ch. 125m on the same road (ID No. 691625277) under Upazila: Sylhet Sadar, District: Sylhet.	53259	OTM
20	IRIDP-2/ SYL/MW-89	Maintenance of Baroigram- Saneshor Bazar Road (Ch.344-1344m) (ID No. 691174024) under Upazila: Beanibazar, District: Sylhet.	53260	OTM
21	IRIDP-2/ SYL/DW-36	Improvement of Betory Sluice Gate-Rasulganj bazar-Moishasi Atason Pacca Road (Kamal uddin Member)- Katir Bond Road(Ch. 1000-2050m)(ID No. 691085141) under Upazila: Balaganj, District: Sylhet.	52782	OTM
22	IRIDP-2/ SYL/DW-100	a) Improvement of RHD Road (Rana Dribar House)- Barothakuri-Noyabari- Surma Dyke Road (Ch. 00-500m). & b) Construction of 1No. 625mmx600mm Slab Culvert at Ch. 30m on the same road (ID No. 691945097) under Upazila: Zakiganj, District: Sylhet.	55818	OTM
Name of Project: Sylhet Division Rural Infrastructure Improvement Project (SDRIIP)				
23	SDRIIP/Syl/ W-308	Improvement of Zakigonj H/Q-Pollysree Bazar-Kaligonj Bazar (G.C) Road (Ch. 11000-11220m) (ID No. 691942007) under Upazila: Zakigonj, District: Sylhet.	55159	LTM
24	SDRIIP/Syl/ W-311	Improvement of Bagjur-Ishakalash UP-Chattak Upazilla H/Q Road (Ch. 1600-3000m) (ID No. 691273009) under Upazila: Companiganj, District: Sylhet.	55160	LTM
25	SDRIIP/Syl/ W-330	Improvement of Internal Roads of Shah Jalal University of Science and Technology (SUST), Sylhet (Total Lenth: 1120m).	55819	LTM

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 Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited through online at any branches of registered bank up to 19/05/2016 12:30 PM.

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

The Tender Notice will be available on the website: [www.lged.gov.bd](http://www.lged.gov.bd).

(Swapah Kanti Paul)  
Executive Engineer  
LGED, Sylhet  
Phone: 0821-716116  
e-mail: [xen.sylhet@lged.gov.bd](mailto:xen.sylhet@lged.gov.bd)

**Biman** BANGLADESH AIRLINES LTD.  
HEAD OFFICE, BALAKA, KURMITOLA, DHAKA-1229, BANGLADESH, PHONES:  
8901600-14, 8901680-94, FAX: 88-02-8901558, [www.biman-airlines.com](http://www.biman-airlines.com)  
Ref: DACGO/Recruitment/2016/81 Date: 02-05-2016

## Corrigendum Career Opportunity

Biman Bangladesh Airlines Limited is looking for B737 Type rated Pilots from Bangladeshi nationals to be recruited as 'First Officer' in Boeing 737-800 aircraft on contractual basis. Please visit Biman website "[www.biman-airlines.com](http://www.biman-airlines.com)" to know the details. Interested Pilots with requisite qualifications and experience are requested to apply in the prescribed format available in the website, which must reach the following address by 22 May 2016.

**Sudip Kumar Chakraborty**  
Manager Employment  
Human Resources Department  
Biman Bangladesh Airlines Limited  
Balaka, Kurmitola, Dhaka-1229  
Email: [mgrempp@bdbiman.com](mailto:mgrempp@bdbiman.com)  
Phone: 02-8901781