



Officials of Bangladesh Railway and British firm DP Rail in the city's Rail Bhaban ink a memorandum of understanding on setting up a railway link between Dhaka and the Payra seaport in Patuakhali. Railway Minister Mazibul Hoque and UK Prime Minister's Trade Envoy for Bangladesh Rushanara Ali MP were present.

PHOTO: RAILWAYS MINISTRY

## British co to build

FROM PAGE 16

Earlier, the company proposed to invest in Bangladesh's largest railway project which, once implemented, will have an enormous impact on the export-import activities and economic development of the country.

Additional Director General of Bangladesh Railway Rafiqul Alam and Chief Executive of DP Rail Ian S Derbyshire signed the MoU at the Rail Bhaban in presence of Railway Minister Mazibul Hoque, UK Prime Minister's Trade Envoy for Bangladesh Rushanara Ali MP and UK High Commissioner in Dhaka Alison Blake.

"This is a great example of British business expertise supporting the development of Bangladesh infrastructure and future economic development," said Blake while speaking at the MoU-signing ceremony.

Rushanara Ali said, "This is a project of vital national importance to Bangladesh and I welcome the fact that this project has been proposed as a 'best of British' railway, representing a substantial export opportunity for the UK railway supply chain."

She looked forward to seeing the benefits that this project will bring to "the people and businesses of Dhaka, and to Bangladesh in general."

Terming the project an important one for the country's southern region, the Bangladesh railway minister said transportation through the Payra seaport will have vital contribution to the country's economic development.

DP Rail is working with China Railway Construction Corporation (International) Ltd as its principal civil engineering contractor. Senior representatives from the CRCC, including Vice-President Huang Jianmin, were present at the ceremony.

DP Rail expects the freight train service to start, prospectively, in 2024, and in the first full year of operation, the service is projected to handle approximately two million TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent unit).

Payra sits on the Bay of Bengal and has all the potential to become an international seaport, but its road and rail links to Dhaka and other parts of the country are poor at the moment.

Interport BD Ltd has 50 percent

share in DP Rail. The company wants to develop a freight railway linking between Dhaka, Payra and the rest of Bangladesh, and a possible link to the Seven Sisters region of India.

Interport is a specialist transport and logistics company, based in Shropshire, England, although most of its activities are currently in Bangladesh.

The company has recently completed a technical and economic feasibility study of the Payra Port as a sub-consultant to British firm HR Wallingford, and has recently secured further consultancy work in Bangladesh, according to the website of DP Rail.

Earlier, HR Wallingford & Consortium prepared a techno-feasibility study of the Payra Port, having 19 components with a total investment of \$16 billion. A shipping ministry official said the \$16 billion include government-to-government funding and FDI.

The Payra seaport became operational on a limited scale in August, after it was inaugurated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

## Suspect still at large

FROM PAGE 1

criminal in the area", and announced that security would be boosted while urging "heightened vigilance".

Investigators asked the public to send them any photos and video footage.

Twelve people were killed when the truck tore through the crowd Monday, smashing wooden stalls and crushing victims, in scenes reminiscent of July's deadly attack in the French Riviera city of Nice.

Another 48 people were injured, 24 of whom were released from hospital by late Tuesday.

The mangled truck came to a halt with its windscreen smashed, a trail of destruction and screaming victims in its wake, with Christmas trees toppled on their side.

Chancellor Angela Merkel -- who visited the scene of the carnage for a minute's silence and then joined a memorial service in the adjacent Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church -- labelled the deadly rampage a likely "terrorist" attack.

Merkel said that, if it was confirmed that the killer had been part of the

country's recent refugee influx, this would be "particularly sickening in relation to the many, many Germans who are involved every day in helping refugees".

Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere said the Pakistani being held had insisted he was innocent and had not surfaced on any terror watch lists.

The Polish-registered vehicle, which was loaded with steel beams, had cut a bloody swathe of 60-80 metres (yards) into the market in the once-divided city's innerwest.

At least six of those killed were German citizens, authorities said, while countries from Israel to Spain said their nationals were among those injured in the busy tourist spot.

A Polish man, killed with a gunshot, was found on the truck's passenger seat, said de Maiziere. He was believed to be the vehicle's registered driver.

The Polish owner of the lorry, Ariel Zurawski, confirmed Monday that the driver -- his 37-year-old cousin -- was missing, telling AFP: "We don't know what happened to him... I've known him

since I was a kid. I can vouch for him."

Survivors recounted harrowing stories of near misses and carnage as festive partying turned to death and destruction in seconds.

Briton Emma Rushton was enjoying a glass of mulled wine when the Christmas scene was shattered by a loud crash and screams.

"We heard a really loud bang and saw some of the Christmas lights to our left starting to be pulled down," she told Sky news.

"Then we saw the articulated vehicle going through people and through the stalls and just pulling everything down, and then everything went dark."

German flags flew at half-mast yesterday and mourners placed flowers and candles at the site.

As darkness fell, Berlin's landmark Brandenburg Gate was lit in the German colours black, red and gold in honour of the victims.

The government declared that the city's 60-odd Christmas markets -- after a one-day voluntary stoppage out of respect for the victims -- should con-

## Biman makes profit

FROM PAGE 16

to the UK. The company incurred a loss of around Tk 70 crore due to the ban.

The airline has been making a profit for two consecutive years after suffering huge loss for several years in a row.

Meanwhile, the Biman authorities last night filed a case against its nine staff over a technical glitch in the prime minister's flight that forced it to make an emergency landing in Hungary last month.

In the fiscal year 2014-15, Biman fetched Tk 324 crore as profit. It incurred a loss of Tk 1,435.63 crore between 2009-10 and 2013-14 fiscal years.

Talking to The Daily Star, Biman Managing Director AM Mosaddique Ahmed said the company could make the profit as it implemented major cost-cutting measures and the jet fuel prices dipped in the international market.

The UK government on March 8 had imposed the indefinite ban on

cargo flights as Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport failed to comply with some international security requirements.

Twenty-five tonnes of cargo -- mostly apparels, vegetables and agricultural products -- used to be flown to the UK on average in each Biman cargo flight. The company operates four direct passenger flights on Dhaka-London route a week.

Biman's General Manager (public relations) Shakil Meraj said the airline carried some 23 lakh passengers and 40,991 tonnes of cargo in the last fiscal year (2015-16).

Earlier in the day, Biman board of directors Chairman Air Marshal (ret'd) Muhammad Enamul Bari had a meeting with visiting UK Prime Minister's Trade Envoy for Bangladesh Rushanara Ali MP at the company's Motijheel office and requested her to lift the cargo ban as Bangladesh fulfilled all security requirements. CASE FILED AGAINST NINE

The Biman authorities filed the case with Airport Police Station against its nine staff, said Noor-e-Azam, officer-in-charge of Airport Police Station.

The nine were charged with neglecting duties and sabotage. Wing Commander (ret'd) MM Asaduzzaman, director (maintenance and engineering) of Biman, filed the case, the OC told The Daily Star early today.

The accused are Debesh Chowdhury, chief engineer (production); SA Siddique, chief engineer (quality assurance); Billal Hossain, principal engineer; engineers SM Rokonzaman, Samiul Haque, Lutfur Rahman, Milon Chandra Biswas and Zakir Hossain and technician Siddique Rahman.

The VIP flight carrying Sheikh Hasina made the emergency landing on November 27.

Biman had suspended the nine in two phases on November 30 and December 14.

## Anti-graft probe loses its way

FROM PAGE 16

conviction, as per the report.

Apart from graft cases, it also focuses on democratic governance, public sector governance, economic governance and social (health) governance.

Sultan Hafeez Rahman, executive director of the BIGD, talked about the report at Brac Centre Inn in the capital yesterday. Wahid Abdullah, research fellow of the BIGD, presented findings at the report launching programme there.

Expressing frustration over the Anti-Corruption Commission's failure in probing major scams in the banking sector, eminent economist Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud said, "I was surprised to see an ACC official interrogating the man behind Hallmark money swindling at prison gate."

It is an ancient system. Why would the ACC not use more effective methods for conducting investigations?

The ACC couldn't make any progress in investigating the scams that involve swindling of Tk 4,000 -5,000 crore, Wahiduddin said.

He also said it should be found out whether there was any qualitative change in the health sector and the corruptions taking place in it.

Transparency International Bangladesh's Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman observed that the country's development and governance cannot be ensured unless corruptions in different sectors are checked.

"Only the Anti-Corruption Commission cannot fight corruption. The state machineries-- Jatiya Sangsad, judiciary and law enforcement agencies must be strengthened and independent to curb corruption."

The report points out that the last several elections were marred by violence and that voter turnout and participation of candidates were low.

It also sheds light on a huge backlog of cases in labour courts, incapability of the municipalities to pay better service, presence of only one labour inspector against 0.8 million workers whereas a standard ratio is one for 40,000, and Bangladesh's poor tax-GDP ratio.

In labour courts, 30 to 40 percent of the cases filed are resolved each year.

In India, tax revenue accounts for 16.6 percent of its GDP whereas the ratio is only 10.2 percent in Bangladesh, one of the lowest in the region.

The report also mentions the slow pace at which projects of the annual development programme (ADP) are implemented.

"After a slow start in July, the rate of spending slightly increases during the second quarter of the fiscal year and slows down in the next quarter. The spending again records a sharp rise in the last quarter of a year," it states.

The overall picture of the implementation of Right to Information Act is bleak too, with a declining trend of people seeking information.

This might happen partly due to lack of awareness among citizens about their rights, complicated process of obtaining information from offices, particularly government agencies, lack of knowledge about government services, transport hassles, delay and fear of rejection.

## Missing student's body found in water tank

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the decomposed body of a student from a reserve water tank of an under-construction building in the capital's Baridhara area early yesterday, three days after his going missing.

The victim is Kapil Chandra Barai, 21, son of Bharat Chandra Barai of Gopalganj's Kotalipara. He was a third-year student of computer science department at Daffodil International Academy in Dhanmondi.

Getting bad smell, construction workers of the building first found the body in the reserve water tank on Monday night and informed police of the matter, said Ziaur Rahman, a sub-inspector of Bhatara Police Station.

Police recovered the body around 12:15am yesterday and sent it to Dhaka Medical College morgue for an autopsy, he added.

"The body was tied to a sack of sand," the police official said.

Pranab Chandra Barai, brother of Kapil, said they could not reach Kapil over his mobile phone as his phone was switched off since Saturday, the day after he came back from Gopalganj.

Pranab filed a general diary with Bhatara Police Station on Sunday.

After getting a phone call from police yesterday morning, they rushed to DMC morgue and identified Kapil, Pranab said.

"But Kapil's mobile phone was missing," he added.

"Kapil lived with his friends on High School road in Bhatara area. But I don't know whether there was any enmity among them," Pranab said.

Morgue sources said there was an injury mark on Kapil's head.

## Trafficking

FROM PAGE 1

Seri Mustafar Ali said a Bangladeshi man detained in the raid was believed to have had a role in managing the arrival of foreign workers and supplying them to employers.

Also arrested were two men and a woman of Bangladeshi origin who served as assistants and controlled the transit house from where the victims were sent to agents or employers.

"The victims stayed in the transit home in crowded conditions. Their mobile phones, passports and money were confiscated by the syndicate, and they were not allowed out of the house or make phone calls," Mustafar said in a statement.

Mustafar said the victims were also threatened if they did not follow instructions or tried to leave the transit house.

He said the syndicate was believed to be involved in the printing of fake immigration security stickers after a computer, printer and Bangladesh passports were found in a room on the premises.

The victims were promised jobs in Malaysia and were charged as much as Tk 3.5 lakh each to enter Malaysia through Indonesia.

They were flown to Jakarta from Bangladesh and taken to a location near a beach before put in a boat and trafficked to Malaysia.

"While in Indonesia, the victims were placed in a transit house and guarded by the syndicate.

"Victims were also not allowed out of the house and everything, including supplying of food and drinks, was managed by the syndicate," Mustafar said.

He said the victims had remained for two to seven days at the transit house until some employers were willing to pay the syndicate to secure their services.

## Yaba factory busted in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday claimed to have unveiled a secret yaba factory and seized raw materials sufficient to produce nearly four lakh pieces of the contraband drug from Demra area in the capital.

Police raided the factory on Monday afternoon at Amtola in Sarulia area of Demra and arrested the owner of the factory with a production capacity of 500 tablets a day, said Mohammad Farid Uddin, deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (Wari division), at a press briefing at DMP media centre.

During the raid, police seized 1,110 pieces of yaba tablets, around 29 kilograms of powdery substances in pink, yellow and red colours and various other ingredients stockpiled for using in the manufacturing of the drug.

"Around four lakh pieces of yaba tablets could be made with the confiscated raw materials," the DC added.

The arrested man, Nasir Ahmed, 55, relinquished his profession as a herbal medicine maker a year ago and launched his yaba production venture by procuring materials and equipment from local sources, he said, adding that Nasir had been producing 500 pieces of the contraband item per day in his house-turned-yaba factory.

The DMP came to know about the

yaba racket in Demra after they recently arrested two yaba peddlers associated with the factory and information gleaned from the two helped the police unearth the secret factory, said Farid at the briefing.

A total of eight individuals were members of the racket involved in the production and selling of yaba manufactured in the Demra factory and the police were on the lookout for one of their key members, Abdullah, who has expertise in making yaba, the DC said.

Yaba manufactured in the Demra factory were usually sold in Wari and other parts of Dhaka, he added.

Although the high-demand illicit drug is usually smuggled into the country from Myanmar through the Teknaf border, drug traders made several attempts to set up yaba factories in the capital.

In November 23 this year, detectives busted a yaba manufacturing ring and arrested five of its members who tried to set up a yaba factory at Section 2 of Mirpur in the capital.

In August 2014, detectives arrested four alleged yaba traders who tried to establish a factory in the capital's Banasree area.

In October 2007, Rapid Action Battalion arrested Amin Huda, considered as one of the top drug kingpins in Bangladesh, and sealed off his factory at Gulshan in Dhaka.

## N'ganj under security blanket

FROM PAGE 16

been deployed in the city. Besides, teams of law enforcers have been patrolling the city corporation area.

Nearly five lakh voters in the city's 27 wards will exercise their franchise tomorrow. A total of seven candidates are running for mayor.

Mayor and councillor aspirants wrapped up their two-week electioneering yesterday. Unlike most elections in Bangladesh, the polls campaign in Narayanganj was free from violence this year.

Voters are pleased that the Awami League and BNP picked mayoral candidates -- Selina Hayat Ivy and Shakhawat Hossain Khan -- with clean image and no criminal records.

For the first time in many years, an election is going to be held in Narayanganj with no contestant from the influential Osman family that dominated the local Awami League's politics for decades.

Salim Osman and his younger brother Shamim Osman are lawmakers from Jatiya Party and the AL.

The ruling party, which drew criticism from different quarters over the recent local government polls, said a free and fair election would be held in Narayanganj.

The BNP, which boycotted several elections and withdrew halfway through polling days in some others in recent times, showed a keen interest in the NCC polls.

According to an EC circular, ban on plying of motorcycles in the electoral area came into force at 12:01am today and would remain in force until 12:01am Friday. Besides, motorised vehicles will be barred from plying the city streets from 12:01am tomorrow to 12:01am Friday.

On the last day of electioneering yesterday, Ivy and Shakhawat campaigned in the city with local party leaders as the central leaders were barred from staying in the electoral area as per electoral rules.

Ivy demanded the Election Commission ensure a congenial atmosphere in the city to make sure that voters can cast their votes without intimidation.

"Security measures should be taken so that the voters can go to polling centres and cast their votes in a festive mood," she told journalists.

Shakhawat, however, expressed concern over the election atmosphere as the EC did not deploy army in the

city.

"People are worried about the election atmosphere. The government is hatching a conspiracy sensing defeat of Awami League candidate. Even then I want the election be held in a free and fair manner," he said.

Meanwhile, Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said Ivy would win the mayoral polls for three reasons -- her popularity, the government's development activities and the AL's organisational strength.

Quader hoped that the EC would hold free, fair and credible polls in Narayanganj. The government would extend its full support to this end, he told reporters at his Secretariat office.

A BNP delegation, led by party standing committee member Nazrul Islam Khan, yesterday met Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad and once again demanded deployment of army in Narayanganj city.

He urged the CEC to take measures so that voters can cast their votes without intimidation.

Talking to The Daily Star, Election Commissioner Shah Nawaz said they took necessary measures for holding tomorrow's polls in a free, fair and peaceful manner.

"We urge the voters to go to polling stations and cast their votes without fear," he said.

## Veggie stew

FROM PAGE 16

Libya, contained traces of wild grasses such as cattail or cockspur, as well as the leaves and fruit from fig trees, and the family of plants that includes cinnamon, nutmeg and star anise.


There were even aquatic plants, some of which are still consumed today.

Learning to cook was crucial to human evolution. It broadened our diet and made available new sources of energy.

Many of the plants discovered would have been poisonous or indigestible eaten raw.

No one knows exactly when our ancestors began to roast meat over an open fire, but the first heat-resistant ceramic vessels date from about 15,000 years ago.

Evidence that they were used soon after that to boil animal products -- whether meat or milk -- is abundant.



**Dhaka Power Distribution Co. Ltd.**  
(An Enterprise of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh)  
Biddut Bhabon (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor), 1 Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka - 1000  
Web site : [www.dpdc.org.bd](http://www.dpdc.org.bd)

*"শেখ হাসিনার উদ্যোগ  
ঘরে ঘরে বিদ্যুৎ"*

Memo No. : DPDC/PD(PPMS for 8 NOCS)/2016/287

Date : 19/12/2016

**Sub: TIME EXTENTION NOTICE OF DPDC'S INTERNATIONAL TENDER.**

Ref : DPDC/PD(PPMS for 8 NOCS)/2016/588, Date- 26.06.2016

The tender selling/submission/opening date of the following tender is hereby extended as below:

SI No.	Tender No	Name of the tender	Last date of Selling		Tender submission with date & Time		Tender opening date with date & Time	
			Previous	Extended	Previous	Extended	Previous	Extended
01	DPDC/PD(PPMS for 8 NOCS)/2016/588, Date- 26.06.2016	Design, Manufacture, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Pre-Payment meter with 3 years maintenance support services on Turnkey basis in 8 NOCS division in DPDC area under Deferred Payment System.	28/12/2016	30/01/2017	29/12/2016 12:00 Noon	31/01/2017 12:00 Noon	29/12/2016 3:00 PM	31/01/2017 3:00 PM

All other terms and conditions of the tender will remain unchanged.

(Md. Muzibur Rahman)

Project Director, 3 lac pre-payment meter under Deferred Payment System.