

PADMA RAIL LINK Govt working to sign a loan deal with China

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The process of signing a loan agreement with China to implement the Padma Bridge Rail Link Project is underway, Railways Minister Mazbul Hossain told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.

In reply to lawmakers' queries, he said that the physical infrastructure of the project would begin once the deal was inked.

In a scripted reply, Mazbul also said the government took up the project to construct the rail tracks from the bridge to the Padma Bridge Bhangra of Faridpur.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed with China Railway Group Ltd on January 28, 2015 to execute the G-to-G project.

The land acquisition process in the area is already completed, while the process of land acquisition was going on in four other districts, he added.

In reply to another query, the minister told parliament that a total of 7.52 acres of land of Bangladesh Railway was under illegal occupation.

"Bangladesh Railway has recovered its 169 acres of grabbed land between July 2016 and May 2017," he mentioned in a scripted answer.

He added that the railways ministry is conducting regular drive to recover the land, he added.

Answering to another query, he said that the five-star hotel on Zakir Hossain Road in Chittagong, a medical clinic and a nursing institute, Chittagong Railway Hospital and shopping complex-slash-guesthouses in Chittagong and Khulna on railway's unused land.

"Steps are being taken to construct such structures under a public-private partnership," he added.

The minister also said initiatives were under a five-star hotel on Zakir Hossain Road in Chittagong, a medical clinic and a nursing institute, Chittagong Railway Hospital and shopping complex-slash-guesthouses in Chittagong and Khulna on railway's unused land.

Plastic reefs

Researchers hope that synthetic coral reef algae reefs will offer protection to the natural reefs, as well as providing a framework for natural reefs to grow on.

They have only been in place for a month, but there are already positive signs that the project is working.

Dr. Federica Ragazzola, a marine biologist at the University of Portsmouth, joined forces with an Italian government sponsored research and development agency for the project.

Coral reef algae performs a similar ecological function to its more widely publicised namesake, corals, in the Mediterranean.

They form reefs from calcium carbonate, the main chemical in sea shells and antacid tablets, which provide shelter to a diverse range of marine life.

EPZ LABOUR ACT Draft to be placed in House soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will soon place the draft law of the proposed Export Processing Zones (EPZ) Labour Act, 2016, to the Parliament after a review in August to bring the necessary amendment as per the requirement of the ILO.

The international communities, especially the EU and the US, have been putting pressure on Bangladesh's government over the last few years to bring the necessary amendment to the EPZ laws for allowing full freedom of association.

The EU has already sent letters to the government twice, threatening the suspension of the Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP), that the country has been enjoying under the EU's 'Everything but Arms' scheme, if the EPZ law is not amended as per the stipulations of the ILO.

In a document submitted to the ILO on Tuesday, Bangladesh said that the new created Tripartite Technical Committee (TTC) for amendment of the Bangladesh Labour Act had already held its first meeting, demonstrating that work was being done to conform to international labour standards.

Both the Tripartite Consultative Council (TCC) and the newly created RMG Tripartite Committee (RMG TTC) would be supported by the ILO, according to their secretary, Bangladesh informed the ILO at the Geneva meeting.

A transparent remediation strategy with a timeline is to be developed and submitted to the Committee by the end of August 2017. Access to further funding should be facilitated and recruitment of 169 labour inspectors should be finalised by June 2018, Bangladesh said.

Bangladesh also reaffirmed the government's commitment to a better

and safer workplace for workers and to uphold their rights to collective bargaining, freedom of association and their right to strike for realising their legal demands.

Legislative amendments are ongoing and the government is also engaging with factory owners, businesses and buying houses to ensure that they follow good business practices and recognise that responsible behaviour by all stakeholders is a necessary factor for progress in the area of labour rights.

The government further reiterated its achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all by 2030, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The speaker stated that Bangladesh sought continued cooperation, support and understanding from their international friends and partners in order to achieve these goals.

In the meeting, the worker members recalled that, for the last five years, Bangladesh had repeatedly appeared before the Committee to explain why it had failed to make any progress in relation to ILO Conventions, in particular Convention No. 87 which deals with freedom of association and protection of labour rights.

Each year, the government had made claims and excuses and concluded with promises to do better the following year.

These promises were left unfulfilled and the situation worsened each passing year, the workers said.

The government had still made no progress to implement the repeated observations of the Committee of Experts, the recommendations of the 2016 high-level tripartite mission to Bangladesh and the conclusions of the Conference Committee, the worker members further observed.

The special paragraph that the Committee added in its report last year to signal the serious concern with the government's failures had no effect whatsoever, the worker member said.

Won't allow

FROM PAGE 16
addressing an iftar party organised by Dhaka city union BNP at a city convention centre.

The former PM said, "The Awami League fears elections more than anything else. They are thinking of clinging to power by other means, but they will not be allowed to do so this time."

Khalea also alleged that the AL would try to hold a one-sided election, keeping the BNP leaders out of the polls by filing cases against them.

One-sided election would not be acceptable to anyone, she said, hoping that this time election would be inclusive.

"We want to participate in the polls, but it has to be held properly. The election should be held under an election-time-assistive government," the BNP chief said.

UNB adds: Khalea said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina would join to the next polls, quitting under her. "No election will be held under Hasina. She [Hasina] will stay in the polls, but not by staying in power."

She advised the leaders and activists of Dhaka city BNP's two units to make their organisation stronger ahead of the national elections.

The BNP chief expressed deep shock at the loss of lives in land-slides in Rangamat, Bandarban, Cox's Bazar and Chittagong.

Khalea also said people were enduring immense sufferings as prices of essentials continued to rise regularly, alongside the hike of power and gas tariffs.

She also alleged that the ruling party men were indulging in widespread plundering of public money in many ways instead of working for people.

The BNP chief said the government kept on repressing her party's leaders and activists and making them disappearing even in this Ramadan.

She warned that the government would not be able to hang on to power by using law enforcers and suppressing people.

The BNP chief urged the police to serve people instead of working for any party. "Ensure public security, and stand by people. Take action against offenders from the ruling party. You'll be there fine in the end if you've planned to take various programmes for your welfare."

Can Tigers halt India's

FROM PAGE 1
turn its focus to Edgbaston when the Tigers set out for mission impossible at 3.05pm.

It is not just that India are the defending champions of the 'Champions', they also showed the Tigers a bit of their ruthless skill by winning a practice game at the Oval by a massive 240 runs. It was a game where Bangladesh were bowled out for 84, chasing India's 324.

Besides, Bangladesh have never played a competitive game at Edgbaston. They played their first practice match at the Oval of the tournament against Pakistan and lost despite scoring a huge 341.

India have won 26 of their 32 ODIs against Bangladesh, who won five and the other game produced a no-result. It had to contest Bangladesh stand little chance against a mighty India, who not only boast of an imposing batting lineup but also a very good pace battery.

Before going into the semifinal India captain Rohit Sharma says, "Everyone wants to see an India-England final."

It is quite logical for Kohli, the number one batsman in the world, to see his team in the final against England. But this is something 'everybody' would not agree. After all, Pakistan thumped England by eight wickets yesterday in the first semifinal.

And India's place in the final is also not guaranteed. They might be licking their lips looking at the Edgbaston wicket, which the groundstaff were moving in a way as if it was having a clean shave.

But they will be up against a team desperate to shed the lightweight 'tag' and the way they have adjusted to one of Bangladesh's five wins came as recently as 2015, a year in which they established their home dominance.

The Tigers have been playing fearless cricket for the last couple of years and the way they have adjusted to the English conditions in this tournament so far showed their ability to adapt to alien conditions like other big teams.

The fantastic five of Bangladesh cricket - skipper Nazmul Haque, batsman Shakib Al-Hasan, Tamim Iqbal, Mahmudullah Riyad and Mushfiqur Rahim - have already come to a halt.

The young brigade of Soumya Sarkar, Sabbir Rahman and Mosaddek Hossain might not have expressed themselves yet. And if Soumya times the ball well, Sabbir gets his act together and Mosaddek shows the maturity beyond his age, the Tigers have every chance to take the game to the Indians.

There was a time when Bangladesh's bowling was heavily reliant on spinners. But under Mashrafe it has changed refreshingly. They played with four pacers against New Zealand and the variety in the attack also impressed most. Mustafizur Rahman might not have been effective with his cutters in these conditions, but the young left-arm pace bowler can still be a potent weapon in the semifinal.

Tales of a lucky

FROM PAGE 2
Visiting the house Wednesday afternoon, this correspondent saw only the ravaged remnants.

Like Nabi, Md Mohiuddin Ziad, a class ten student, is also a victim of the same disaster. He lost all of his family members in the landslide in this area. His 2013 'Ward Cup' quarterfinal in Australia and the 2016 World T20 group stage game against the same team in India.

Similarly, when Subash Boshu Chakma, a police personnel and Jibon Mitro Chakma, a corporal of Bangladesh Army, got married to two sisters - Rupali Chakma, 30 and Sonali Chakma, 32, respectively, they never comprehended not seeing their families again. The recent landslide unfortunately killed both of their wives and children in the house they built around five years ago at Jubo Unnoyan Area at ward no-6 in Rangamati.

Rupali was living with her eight year old son Omio Chakma, a class three student and Sonali with her daughters Jibonni Chakma, 12, a class seven student and Spumjumi Chakma, 3.

She spoke to my wife on Monday night and told her that I was coming. My wife and daughters were eagerly waiting for me. I was looking forward to see them," said Jibon, who broke down in tears while talking to The Daily Star.

Subash, though, was so overcome with grief, he could not speak after hearing the death news of his wife and daughter.

Top Republican

FROM PAGE 16
Illinois, an ardent supporter of left-wing Senator Bernie Sanders. He later died of heart disease, reports AP.

Who he called was "sickened" by Sanders said a "despicable act."

Congressman Steve Scalise, the number three Republican in the House of Representatives, was wounded to recover after being shot in the hip.

Four others were wounded: a congressional aide, a lobbyist and two Capitol Police officers.

In a separate incident, at least four people, including the suspected gunman, were killed. The suspect, a disgruntled employee of United Parcel Service Inc, opened fire at a company package sorting hub in San Francisco, two local TV news stations reported.

After firing on co-workers, he turned a gun on himself when confronted by police, according to NBC Bay Area and ABC 7. He later died at an area hospital, they said, citing law enforcement sources.

San Francisco police said the building was secure but offered no immediate information on victims.

VIRGINIA SHOOTING
In an address to the nation, Trump apologized for anti-gay slurs he made during a morning assault, which came amid high political tension in the US capital after a vitriol-filled 2016 election.

Trump described Scalia as a "very good friend" and "a fighter".

FBI agent Tim Slater told news conference that investigators were still "exploring all angles" and that it was too early to tell if the Republican lawmakers were deliberately targeted.

Scalise also confirmed a report by CBS that the gunman used a high-powered semi-automatic assault rifle.



Steve Scalise

somebody on the field yelling, 'Run, he's got a gun...'

Alexandria Police Chief Michael Brown said his officers arrived at the scene within three minutes, engaged the suspect together with Capitol Police officers, and took him into custody. He later died from his wounds.

Trump praised the "heroic" acts of law enforcement in subduing the shooter.

"Many lives would have been lost if not for the heroic actions of the two Capitol Police officers who took down the gunman despite sustaining gunshot wounds during a very very brutal assault," he said.

Senator Rand Paul, also at the ceremony, said he believed the rapid intervention narrowly prevented a bloodbath.

"It would have been a massacre. And having no self-defence, the field was basically a killing field," Paul told reporters.

Scalise's office said the 51-year-old was in stable condition at a Washington hospital after being hit in the hip.

Scalise, a representative from the southern state of Louisiana elected to Congress in 2008, heads the conservative House caucus known as the Republican Study Committee.

ELECTRICITY GENERATION COMPANY OF BANGLADESH LIMITED

(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)
Unique Heights (Level-15 & 16), 117, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Eskaton Garden, Dhaka-1217, Bangladesh.
Tel: 55138633-(9x24Hrs) Fax: 8802-55138637. Email: info@egcb.com.bd, Web: www.egcb.com.bd

INVITATION FOR TENDERS (INTERNATIONAL)

1 Ministry / Division	Power Division, Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources.
2 Agency	Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh Limited.
3 Procuring Entity name	Haripur 412 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant.
4 Procuring Entity Code	N/A
5 Procuring Entity District	Mohammadpur, Bangladesh.
6 Invitation for	Procurement of Goods (Single Lot)
7 Invitation Ref No.	27/27-266.103.03.012.17/1605
	14/06/2017
8 KEY INFORMATION	
9 Procurement Method	ICT (Open Tendering Method)
10 Budget and Source of Funds	Revenue Budget (Own Fund of EGCB Ltd)
11 Development Partners (if applicable)	N/A
12 Project Programme Code (if applicable)	N/A
13 Project Programme Name (if applicable)	N/A
14 Tender Package No.	N/A
15 Tender Package Name	Procurement of Main I&C Spares (Control Card/Modulogy) for DCS (Distributed Control System) and CMS (Condition Monitoring System) of Haripur 412 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant.
16 Tender Publication Date	15/06/2017
17 Tender Last Submission Date	30/07/2017 up to 10:00 hrs (BST)
18 Tender Submission Date & Time	31/07/2017 up to 10:00 hrs (BST)
19 Tender Opening Date & Time	31/07/2017 on 12:30 hrs (BST) (Tenders or their authorized representatives, if any, are allowed to attend the opening.)
20 Name and Address of the offeror(s)	Executive Engineer (Procurement), Corporate Office, Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh Limited, Unique Heights (Level-15 & 16), 117, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Eskaton Garden, Dhaka-1217, Bangladesh.
- Selling Tender Document	Executive Engineer (Procurement), Corporate Office, Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh Limited, Unique Heights (Level-15 & 16), 117, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Eskaton Garden, Dhaka-1217, Bangladesh.
- Receiving Tender Document	Executive Engineer (Procurement), Corporate Office, Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh Limited, Unique Heights (Level-15 & 16), 117, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Eskaton Garden, Dhaka-1217, Bangladesh.
- Opening Tender Document	Executive Engineer (Procurement), Corporate Office, Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh Limited, Unique Heights (Level-15 & 16), 117, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Eskaton Garden, Dhaka-1217, Bangladesh.
21 Photo/Date/Time of the Tender Meeting	N/A

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENT

22 Eligibility of Tenderer	(a) Tenderers shall have the legal capacity to enter into the Contract, shall have fulfilled its obligations to pay taxes and social security contributions under the provisions of laws and regulations of the country in which it has a conflict of interest pursuant to a Rule 5 of the Public Procurement Rules-2008. (b) The maximum three (3) numbers of arbitration against the Tenderer over a period of last five (5) years. (c) The tenderer shall have a minimum of five (5) years of overall experience in the supply of goods and related services. (d) The satisfactory completion of supply of similar goods of minimum BDT Eight (8) million values under a single contract in the last five (5) years (i.e. years counting backward from the date of publication of IFB in the newspaper). (e) The minimum working capital of liquid asset or working capital or credit facility is BDT twelve (12) million.			
23 Brief Description of Goods	Procurement of Main I&C Spares (Control Card/Modulogy) for DCS (Distributed Control System) and CMS (Condition Monitoring System) of Haripur 412 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant.			
24 Brief Description of Related services	N/A			
25 Price of Tender Document	TK 2,000/- (Two thousand) or USD 25/- (Twenty Five) to be paid in the form of Bank Draft / Pay order in favor of "Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh Limited"			
26 Lot No.	Identification of Lot Location Tender Security Amount Completion Time			
01	Procurement of Main I&C Spares (Control Card/Modulogy) for DCS (Distributed Control System) and CMS (Condition Monitoring System) of Haripur 412 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant. Mohammadpur, Bangladesh.	Haripur 412 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant, EGCB Ltd. Mohammadpur, Bangladesh.	USD 2,150,000	Within 120 days from the date of issuance of letter of credit.
27 Procuring Entity Details				
28 Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Mohammad Noor Alam Siddiki			
29 Designation of Official Inviting the Tender	Executive Engineer (Procurement)			
30 Contact details of Official Inviting the Tender	Corporate Office, EGCB Ltd, Unique Heights (Level-15 & 16), 117, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Eskaton Garden, Dhaka-1217, Bangladesh. Tel: 880-2-55138633-36, Fax: 880-2-55138637, Email: noor.alam@egcb.com.bd			
31	If the Full Tender Document will be available in PDF format in the website of EGCB Ltd. (www.egcb.com.bd) the bidders are requested to read the tender document carefully and to take the necessary action.			
32	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or amend the Tender Document proceedings.			

Mohammad Noor Alam Siddiki
Executive Engineer (Procurement)
Corporate Office, EGCB Ltd.