

BR to set up 575km fibre optic network

UNB, Dhaka Bangladesh Railway has planned to bring its entire network under an integrated telecommunication system through setting up a 575-kilometre fibre optic network over 44 upazilas under 17 districts to build a safer and secure train communication system. "The ministry has proposed a draft in this regard titled, 'Establishing and launching optical fibre-based telecommunication system in 575 kilometres of secondary line of Bangladesh Railway' to the Planning Commission," said a Planning Commission official. The official said the railway will implement the proposed project from January 2018 to June 2020 with an estimated cost of Tk 78.13 crore to be borne from the national exchequer.

The project will soon be placed before an Ecnc meeting for its approval, the official added. It will also help boost the railway's operational efficiency and thus enhance its revenue alongside ensuring security in train operations. Talking to the news agency, an official at the Ministry of Railways said the railway had first launched an optical fibre-based integrated telecommunication system back in 1992 with a Norwegian grant under which some 1,600 kilometres of optical fibre had been set up. Then Bangladesh Railway in association with a private cell-phone operator set up another 439 kilometres of optical fibre. "The railway has recently set up some 400 kilometres of optical fibre and works are on to set up another 569 kilometres. But this was not enough to bring the entire railway under the network," the official added.



Drainage pipes have been kept on DIT Road in front of the capital's Rampura Bazar, obstructing vehicles. The pedestrians are also forced to walk on the road as the footpath remains occupied with some of the materials. It has become a common feature in Dhaka, but the authorities apparently do not pay heed. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

COX'S BAZAR RAIL LINK

Work to kickstart in a month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With Bangladesh Railway yesterday signing contracts with two joint venture companies to connect Cox's Bazar with the rail network, construction work of the much awaited project is expected to start within next month. Under the contracts, the companies comprising Chinese and local ones will construct the 102-kilometre dual-gauge single line rail track from Dohazari of Chittagong to Cox's Bazar via Ramu in three years. "Now, they [companies] will mobilise their workforce and hope the work will start within a month," Amzad Hossain, director general (DG) of Bangladesh Railway, told The Daily Star after the signing ceremony. Project Director Mofizur Rahman and representatives of CT Joint Venture

and CCECC-MAX Joint Venture signed contracts at Railway Bhaban in the capital. CT Joint Venture -- CREC of China and Toma Construction and Company Ltd -- will work for Lot-1, under which they will construct the rail track from Dohazari to Chakaria and the route's signalling and telecommunication systems. Their contract value is Tk 2,687 crore. CCECC-MAX Joint Venture -- CCECC of China and Max Infrastructure Ltd of Bangladesh -- will work for Lot-2, where they will construct rail track from Chakaria to Cox's Bazar via Ramu and the Cox's Bazar Railway Station. The contract value is around Tk 3,502 crore. They will build 39 major and 145 minor bridges, nine stations, platforms and sheds among others.

Railways Minister Mazibul Hoque said Dohazari to Cox's Bazar via Ramu rail track is the first phase of the Tk 18,034.47 crore project. The second phase -- Ramu to Gundum -- will be built later. The minister, however, did not say why the crucial part of the project -- constructing track up to Gundum near Myanmar border to link with the planned Trans Asian Railway (TAR) has been left out in the first phase. About the reason, the railway DG said some works including land acquisition have not been completed yet. Though, it is a three-year contract, the minister requested the companies to complete the work within December next year. "Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has set December 2018 as deadline for the

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Online media boom threatens print media

CU seminar told

CU CORRESPONDENT

The online media is becoming more popular day by day, which can be a threat to the print media, said speakers at a seminar in Chittagong yesterday. "The print media will have to struggle for ensuring their existence in the future," said Chittagong University (CU) Vice-Chancellor Prof Iftekhar Uddin Chowdhury, who was the chief guest at the seminar. The Research Institute of CU's social science faculty organised the seminar titled "The Mass Media of Bangladesh in 21st Century: Transition and Prospect" at the Fine Arts Institute. At the event, lawmaker Rezwan Ahmed Taufiq said people are losing interest in buying newspapers as they can easily get the news of home and abroad instantly using the internet. Alamgir Hossain, editor-in-chief of news portal banglanews24.com, mentioned that most of the cases which were filed against reporters under the ICT (information and communication technology) act were lodged in exchange for money with an ill-motive to harass them. A question-answer session was held where several teachers and students participated.

NEWS IN brief

Schoolgirl beaten by 'stalkers' in Savar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar A 14-year-old schoolgirl was beaten allegedly by stalkers in Savar's Bank Colony area, outside the capital, on Friday night. The eighth grader is now out of danger, said doctors at Savar Upazila Health Complex. Victim's family alleged that Aminul, 20, used to stalk her on her way to and from school every day. On Friday evening, Aminul along with his two friends hit her with sticks in the head and face near her house as she rejected his romantic advance. Savar model police detained Aminul. A case was filed.

Dhaka condemns North Korea's missile launch over Japan

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT Dhaka has strongly condemned North Korea's firing of a ballistic missile over Japan on Friday which has caused "grave security concerns around the world". In a statement yesterday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said, "We find it equally disconcerting that within a span of a month North Korea in defiance of the international community has launched such tests. Through this unilateral act, North Korea has clearly undermined regional peace and security," it said. The foreign ministry said Bangladesh would like to align itself with the recent resolution of the UN Security Council that has strongly condemned the highly provocative ballistic missile tests conducted by North Korea. North Korea should clearly demonstrate through its acts that it is willing to work for reducing tension in the Korean Peninsula, it added.

KSA extends amnesty deadline for Bangladeshis

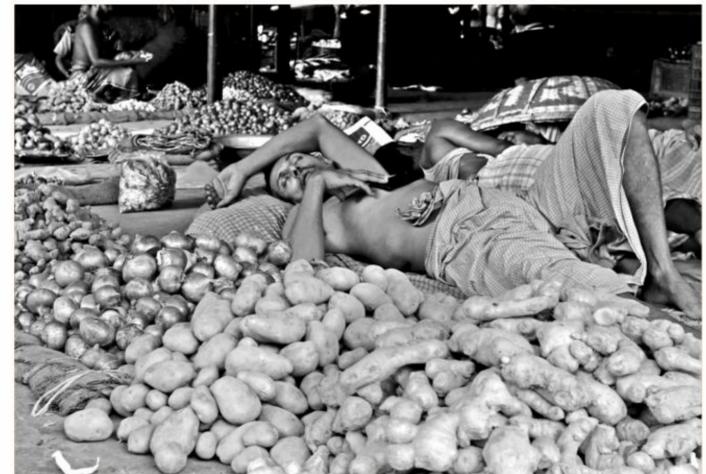
UNB, Dhaka The Saudi Arabian authorities have extended the deadline of general amnesty by 30 days for the Bangladesh expatriates. The extension is from September 16, 2017 to October 15, 2017, said a press release of Bangladesh embassy in Riyadh. The Saudi Arabian government has urged all Bangladeshis who had not received travel permit under the previously announced general amnesty to utilise the opportunity, said the release. However, legal passport holders can leave Saudi Arabia having an exit seal directly for Jawazat and those who do not have legal passport can get the exit seal from the Bangladesh embassy. This extension is also applicable for those who had received travel permit in the previous general amnesty period but could not leave the country.

Govt targets 30pc enrolment

FROM PAGE 5 The orientation function was arranged for 349 students who got scholarships on technical education from the Chinese government. Director General of Directorate of Technical Education Ashok Kumar Biswas and Chairman of Bangladesh Technical Education Board Md Mostafizur Rahman, among others, addressed the function with Secretary of Technical and Madrasa Education Division Md Alamgir in the chair. Referring to different developed countries, Nahid said technical education enrolment rates of those countries were above 60 percent. "We have also set a target to reach the 20 percent mark in technical education enrollment by 2020," he added. Nahid said government polytechnic institutes would be set up at 23 districts while polytechnic schools would be set up in each upazila of the country. "We are promoting knowledge-based education to develop skilled human resources to turn Bangladesh into a middle-income country. Education without skills will create a burden for the family as well as the nation," he said.

Look into 'game of money'

FROM PAGE 3 alongside holding dialogue with civil society, media and political parties, the EC has to hold talks with police and deputy commissioners of the districts. It has a lot of tasks to do for holding the upcoming parliamentary election peacefully, he said, adding, "We hope the EC will overcome the challenges successfully." Reading out a keynote paper, Sujan Central Coordinator Dilip Kumar Sarker recommended that the EC should include five more points with existing eight in the affidavit form. Those are: a candidate's age, his/her foreign nationality, details of the candidate's income source, details of those dependent on the candidate, and whether the candidate has business link with the government. Chaired by former caretaker government adviser M Hafizuddin Khan, the roundtable was also addressed by former state minister for foreign affairs Abul Hasan.



With no customer around, a trader falls asleep in his shop at the capital's Karwan Bazar kitchen market amid hot weather yesterday noon. According to Met office, the highest temperature in Dhaka was 36 degree Celsius with a mild heat wave sweeping over it on the day.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

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Request for Proposal

In this notification JSC ASE EC informs about open invitation to tender for the right to enter into agreement for construction and erection works performance under the lot: 10491-7-RUP-17 "Construction and erection works for the lot: "Rooppur NPP. Vertical leveling of site: Plot 8" (Lot 19)". The documentation is available at the official web site of Rosatom State Corporation at the link: http://zakupki.rosatom.ru, procurement No. 170915/0536/1883.

Request for Proposal

In this notification JSC ASE EC informs about open invitation to tender for the right to enter into agreement for civil and erection works performance under the lot: 10491-29-RUP-17 "Rooppur NPP. Unit No. 1.Reactor auxiliary building (10UKC); Arrangement of the lightning protection grid, waterproofing and foundation slab" (Lot 14). The documentation is available at the official web site of Rosatom State Corporation at the link: http://zakupki.rosatom.ru, procurement No. 170915/0536/1882.

Death in septic Eight parties for army

FROM PAGE 5 On Thursday, the body of one Jahangir Hossain, 15, was found in the septic tank a week after he had gone missing from nearby Kristopur area, said Kotwali Police Station Sub-inspector Rokon Islam Khan. Till yesterday, one person was arrested as Jahangir's family filed an abduction case against four people on September 10, said the SI, also investigation officer of the case.

FROM PAGE 3 under the authority of EC during the polls. The rest two parties -- Islamic Front Bangladesh and Kalyan Party -- did not place any opinion in this regard. The three parties that suggested non-partisan election-time government are Bangladesh Muslim League, Khelafat Majlish and Jatiya Gonotantrik Party (Jagpa). They are components of the BNP-led 20-party alliance. The five parties that recommended bringing some key ministries under the Commission are Muktijot, Biplabi Workers Party, Bangladesh Islamic Front, Islami Andolan Bangladesh and Bangladesh Khelafat Majlish. Talking about the electronic voting machines (EVMs), the five parties asked the EC to refrain from its use. Two of the parties proposed introducing the electronic machines in the local government election on a pilot basis. But one party -- Islamic Front Bangladesh -- wanted introduction of EVMs in the next national election, while four others did not place any proposal over it. Biplabi Workers Party and Islamic Front Bangladesh proposed that the Commission restore "No Vote" provision in the parliamentary elections. Besides, most of the participating parties suggested ensuring a level-playing field for all. Islami Front proposed that the Commission scrap a legal provision that obliges the registered political parties to keep at least 33 percent positions reserved for women in their all committees by 2020. Also, Khelafat Majlish sought extension of the deadline for political parties to reach the target of ensuring 33 percent women in their committees. Earlier, the EC held dialogues with civil society members on July 31 and media persons on August 16 and 17. Most of them also suggested that the EC deploy the army, while many proposed restoration of "No Vote" provision in the polls. Besides, they recommended the Commission to earn people's trust through making their activities visible as an independent body.

জাতীয় গ্রন্থকেন্দ্র
সংস্কৃতি বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়
৫/সি, বঙ্গবন্ধু এভিনিউ, ঢাকা-১০০০
ফোন: ৯৫৫৫৭৪৩, ফ্যাক্স: ৯৫৭২২১১
Email: granthakendro.org@gmail.com, Web: www.nbc.org.bd

পুস্তক ক্রয়ের জন্য তালিকা আহ্বান

সংস্কৃতি বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়ের ২০১৭-২০১৮ অর্থবছরের অনুময়ন খাতে নির্বাচিত বেসরকারি গ্রন্থাগারসমূহকে জাতীয় গ্রন্থকেন্দ্রের মাধ্যমে অনুদান হিসেবে সরবরাহের নিমিত্ত গ্রন্থ ক্রয়ের উদ্যোগ গ্রহণ করা হয়েছে। পরিশেষে "বেসরকারি গ্রন্থাগারে অনুদান বরাদ্দ এবং বই নির্বাচন সরবরাহ সংক্রান্ত নীতিমালা ২০১৪" অনুযায়ী গ্রন্থ সরবরাহ করতে আগ্রহী প্রকাশনা প্রতিষ্ঠান/লেখক-প্রকাশককে নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তাদি অনুসরণে গ্রন্থ-তালিকা আগামী ৩০/১০/২০১৭ তারিখের মধ্যে পর্যালোচনা, জাতীয় গ্রন্থকেন্দ্র (৫/সি, বঙ্গবন্ধু এভিনিউ, ঢাকা-১০০০) এর দপ্তরে জমা প্রদানের জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

শর্তাবলি/নিয়মাবলি

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পরিচালক (উপসচিব)
জিডি-১৮৮৬