

Guidelines

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As per the project document, which Ecneec passed in September, the authorities will build the axle load control centres for Tk 1,630.28 crore within June 2022.
The chief engineer said the way they are proceeding, overloading will be controlled soon.
Asked about poor DPP that often escalate project cost and time, he said there are several agencies involved in mega projects. Land acquisition, service line relocation and some other works, which are not in RHD's control, are often responsible for the delay and that ultimately escalate cost, he added.

Chandan Kumar Basak, an additional chief engineer of RHD, said the Planning Commission asked them to prepare a three-year project, where foreign investment is also involved.

But it is not often possible to complete a mega project within three years as it takes around a year for the project to be approved at Ecneec. So they have to change the deadline, he added.
Abul Kamal Azad, superintending engineer (maintenance circle) of RHD, said RHD got Tk 2,500 crore against the demand for Tk 10,670 crore in 2019-20 fiscal for maintenance.
He said they have to maintain 40 to 45 percent roads under the network annually and the allocation is not enough. He, however, said there is a shortage of planning too.

Asked about the prime minister's directives to collect toll from four-lane highways, Azad said they have prepared a draft in this regard and will send it to the ministry soon.
Rowshan Ara Begum, additional secretary to Road Transport and Highways Division, and several RHD additional chief engineers also spoke at the programme.

No air

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International environmental organisations Greenpeace and AirVisual prepared the report, based on last year's data collected from public monitoring sources.
According to the report, air pollution will cause around 7 million premature deaths globally next year, and has a major economic impact.



Poet Mondira Esh receives Mahbubul Hoque Shakil Award 2019 from National Professor Anisuzzaman. From left, poet and Bangla Academy Director General Habibullah Siraji and Shakil's father Jahurul Haque, and publisher Osman Gani. Shakil Sangsad announced the award to mark Shakil's 51st birth anniversary. The ceremony was held at Bangla Academy in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

BIWTA staffer, wife sent to jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent a computer operator of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) and his wife to jail after rejecting a bail petition in connection with a graft case.

The accused are Emdadul Haque Mollah and his wife Naznin Jahan Shilpi.

Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of the Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka passed the order after the couple surrendered before the court seeking bail.

During yesterday's hearing, their lawyer told the court that the couple had secured bail for an eight-week period from the High Court.

On expiry of this period, the couple were

asked to surrender before the trial court, adding that the trial court will be at liberty to consider the bail petition in accordance with the law, said the HC.

The prosecution, however, opposed the bail petition -- by pointing out that Emdad's huge earnings do not match his salary and asked for the couple to be sent to jail.

On September 11, ACC Deputy Director Md Nur Alam Siddique filed a case against the couple at the Integrated District Council.

According to the prosecution, the couple earned an amount of Tk 23,33,593 between September 2012 and September 2019 through allegedly illegal means.

Indian govt trying to divert

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"Impact of the current Indian government's religious bigotry is already evident in cities across the country. The genuflecting policy of Bangladesh government will only courage them," he claimed.

Bangladesh in already under terrible pressure over "12 lakh Rohingyas", he said.

"We won't be able to tackle a crisis centring Indian refugees," Dr Zafrullah added.

He suggested arranging a march towards the Indian High Commission in Dhaka and rejecting Indian products, as part of a stance against India's NRC.

Prof Sayeed Ferdous of Jahangirnagar University presented a concept note on the CAA and NRC crisis where he said the issue will be catastrophic for India in the long run as well as a big blow for Bangladesh.

Due to Bangladesh government's "subjugated attitude" towards India, statement of Ducus VP Nur makes them uncomfortable and he is being attacked, Prof Sayeed said, criticising the comments of Awami League leader Tofael Ahmed on Nur's activity.

Noted photographer Shahidul Alam urged all to take to streets in protest of India's NRC.

The event was presided over by Chief Coordinator of Ganosamhati Andolon Zonayed Saki.

Two crushed under train in Tejgaon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two people died in an accident on the rail tracks of Dhaka's Tejgaon area yesterday morning.

The deceased were identified as Taslima (38), a housewife, and Nadim (28), helper of a bus driver.

They were crushed under the Brahmanbaria-bound Titas commuter train while crossing the tracks around 10:30am. Both died on the spot, said sub-inspector Aminul Islam of Dhaka Railway Police Station.

The bodies were handed over to their families, he added.

Tk 58.38CR SCAM

Chisty's spouse, daughter denied bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday rejected bail petitions of wife and daughter of former chairman of Farmers Bank Audit Committee Mahabubul Haque Chisty, better known as Babul Chisty, in two separate corruption cases.

The HC also directed Babul Chisty's wife Rozi Chisty and daughter Rimi Chisty to surrender before the lower court concerned in two weeks in the cases.

The bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Sardar Md

BGB-BSF conference begins today

Citizens' safety, trans-border crimes to be discussed

STAR REPORT

Killing, injuring or opening fire on innocent Bangladeshi citizens in the border area will dominate the five-day director general (DG) level conference between Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and Indian Border Security Force (BSF), scheduled to begin in New Delhi today, said a BGB press release yesterday.

The conference will be held at BSF's Chhawla Complex, and will formally end on December 29.

BGB DG Maj Gen Md Shafeenul Islam will lead an 11-member delegation to the talks, while a 19-member BSF delegation -- headed by its DG Shri Vivek Johri -- will take part in the conference, reports our staff correspondent.

During the conference, smuggling of drugs, alcohol, firearms and ammunition into Bangladesh from India, and border management will also be on the agenda. Information centring different narcotics,

including Phensedyl factories and storehouses in India, and their smugglers will be shared at the conference.

Illegal trespassing of border by BSF, issues regarding Indian nationals and Myanmar citizens will also be discussed, said the BGB release, signed by its Public Relation Officer Md Shariful Islam.

The BGB DG is likely to meet with India's Home Affairs Minister Amit Shah during the programme. The conference will end formally through signing of a "joint record of discussions" by the two sides on December 29.

The BGB delegation will leave India for Dhaka on December 30, added the press release.

According to a BSF press release, 20 issues, including illegal migration, human trafficking, "preventing attacks on BSF and Indian civilians by Bangladeshi miscreants", and joint efforts to prevent trans-border crimes will be discussed, reports our correspondent in New Delhi.

Rashed Jahangir issued the order after hearing two separate petitions filed by Rozi and Rimi seeking anticipatory bail.

Earlier in the day, the petitioners also appeared before the HC bench for bail.

Anti-Corruption Commission's (ACC) lawyer Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star the commission filed the cases with its coordinated district office in Dhaka on December 15 against Rozi and Rimi on charges of amassing illegal wealth worth Tk 37.38 crore and Tk

21 crore respectively.

Advocate Abdul Matin Khasru appeared for Rozi and Rimi while Deputy Attorney General AKM Amin Uddin Manik represented the state.

Meanwhile, the same HC bench yesterday refused to grant bail to Halima Khatun, a deputy director of directorate of social welfare, in a corruption case involving Tk 1.4 crore and ordered her to surrender to the lower court in two weeks.

The bench passed the order in response to a bail petition filed by Halima.

Dr Sofia Jahan Ali's 23rd death anniv

CITY DESK

Today is the 23rd death anniversary of Dr Sofia Hasna Jahan Ali, former professor of economics at Dhaka University.

She served as the vice president of Bangladesh Economic Association and was president of Lioness Club of Dhaka East. She was also a renowned sportswoman.

Sofia's children and grandchildren request all to pray for her departed soul.



Vacancy Announcement

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Established in 1972 with the motto 'Help to Learn, Skills to Earn', UCEP Bangladesh is a non-governmental organization which provides Second Chance to Education for out-of-school children and Decent Work to youth through Technical Vocational Education & Training (TVET) and Skills Development. It has a special focus on social inclusion and therefore gives priority to females, children and youth from poor and underprivileged families. Currently, we are seeking applications from qualified candidates to fill up the following vacant position:

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Review of applications will begin immediately, and will continue until the position is filled. Prospective candidates are encouraged to submit applications by email to: hrd@bracu.ac.bd on or before **5 January 2020**.

Applications should include a cover letter, a curriculum vitae, and the names and contact information of five professional references.

Foreign nationals are also encouraged to apply.

BRAC University
66 Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh

Swiss-Bangladesh Expo in Basel next year

CITY DESK

The Switzerland-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SBCCI) is set to organise the first "Swiss-Bangladesh Expo-2020" in Congress Hall of Basel, Switzerland on April 14 and 15, 2020, a press release said.

Switzerland-Bangladesh Chamber Of Commerce and Industry announced the event in a press conference on Sunday at Dhaka University's Faculty of Business Administration Academic Building. SBCCI president Naquib Khan and secretary general Shibli Rubayatul Islam attended the press conference, along with the other executive committee members of SBCCI.

Business entities from different industries of Bangladesh will participate in the expo, exhibiting their products and services in front of the Swiss investors and businessmen, said the press release.

Money and muscle

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also a close aide of Tajuddin Ahmed during and after the Liberation War.

Eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain said Tajuddin's life is a source of inspiration. "He used to think about ways how to change to society and state for the betterment of people," he added.

"It is our failure that we could not portray Tajuddin Ahmad in due manner," Astatic Society of Bangladesh President Mahfuza Khanam said while presiding over the lecture.

Barrister Amir-Ul Islam, another close aide of Tajuddin during the Liberation War; Tajuddin's daughters Sharmin Ahmad and Simeen Hussain Rimi; and Asiatic Society of Bangladesh convener Abdur Rahim -- called on all to uphold the spirit and philosophy of Tajuddin and follow his footsteps.

Eminent historian Professor Sirajul Islam, rights activist Hameeda Hossain, political scientist Rounaq Jahan, CPD executive director Prof Mustafizur Rahman, and a number of Dhaka University teachers were present at the lecture.

Female-friendly toilets

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unhygienic toilets and sanitation facilities found across many educational institutions in the city.

This makes it necessary to provide schools and colleges with adequate and hygienic toilet facilities and safe water, she added. She lauded the role of DSK and other NGOs in raising awareness among people on hygiene related issues.

Among others, Sanjoy Das, unit manager, DSK, Chattogram; CCC councillors in reserved seats for women Farzana Parvin and Anjuman Ara Begum also spoke at the event. CCC ward-32 councillor (Anderkilla) Jaharlal Hazari chaired the session.

Dr Sabur Khan board member

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accelerate technology transfer around the world.

"I will be able to serve my nation and the youth for the economic development of the country," said Dr Sabur. "It is a prestigious achievement for the nation. Now, innovators around the world in science and technology will be able to connect more easily with the global investors' market, which will in turn open up splendid opportunities for the world economy."

The other board members are Prof Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, sixth president of Mauritius; Prof Inderjit Singh, former

parliament member of Singapore and co-president of World Entrepreneurship Forum; Noomane Fehri, former ICT and digital economy minister of Tunisia; Dr Narong Sirlertworakul, president of National Science and Technology Development Agency of Thailand; Dr Paul Doany, former CEO of Turk Telekom; Josep Piqué, 17th president of International Association of Science Parks and Areas of Innovation; Marie-Christine Ogghy, world president of World Association of Women Entrepreneurs; and Paolo Sironi, global thought leader and IBM senior advisor for fintech.

Amend law to stop

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The lawmaker urged various NGOs to submit proposals to stop torture on children.

Jesmin Ara begum, a member of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), said laws should be introduced in line with the socio-economic circumstances of the

country.

With BLAST legal adviser SM Rezaul Karim in the chair, the meeting was addressed, among others, by former NHRC member Nurun Nahar Osmani, advocate Khurshid Alam and Social Welfare Ministry Deputy Secretary Khadiza Nazneen.



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Foreign nationals are also encouraged to apply.

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