Railway mulls anti-collision

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matter came to the fore again after a fatal train accident in Brahmanbaria last year.

The Dhaka-bound Turna Nishita rammed Chattogram-bound Udayan Express at Mandobagh Railway Station in Kasba early on November 12, 2019, that left 17 passengers dead and many others injured.

Probe committees found negligence of the driver, his assistant and the guard of Turna Nishita Express was responsible for the fatal accident.

In their reports, probe committees recommended the introduction an "Automatic Train Stop" system to avoid any head-on collision between two trains.

Jahangir Hossain, the project director of construction of Khulna-Mongla Port Rail Line, has prepared the draft study proposal titled "feasibility study, technology selection, specification finalization and detail design of Automatic Train Protection System for Bangladesh Railway".

Speaking to The Daily Star yesterday, Jahangir said developed counties like the US, Japan and European countries have already introduced ATPS and India also introduced it recently.

Once the system is introduced, a train would be automatically stopped if it overshoots danger or red signal due to failure of designated staffers, and thus head on collisions can be avoided, he said.

He said under the study, consultants would determine the best possible suited ATPS in the BR and design it through the existing signal system and according to the fleet of locomotives.

At the initial state, they have chosen the Joydebpur-Iswardi duel-gauge double line section, which is supposed to be developed between January 2019 to December 2024, to introduce the ATPS first and the same would be deployed all over the BR networks in phases, he said.

"However, the selection of the first rail line for ATPS's use would be determined following consultant's suggestion," he added.

The BR has a service network of a 3,018 kilometres route and five types of signalling system are followed here.

Replying to a question, Jahangir, who is an official of the signalling and telecommunication wing of BR, said the ATPS can be used as a computer-based interlocking system.

Till June 2019, there were 112, out of 353 signalling stations, followed computer based interlocking system, according to the BR's Information Book-2019.

Asked when the system can be introduced, Jahangir said it would take some time because the study has to be completed first.

BR Director General Md Shamsuzzaman could not be reached over phone to comment in this regard.

Covishield 'safe'

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is being unfairly maligned," ANI quoted SII as saying.

The man had served a legal notice on SII, claiming to have suffered a virtual neurological breakdown and impairment of cognitive functions, seeking Rs 5 crore in compensation and a halt to the trial.

The SII has collaborated with Oxford University and AstraZeneca Plc in testing Covishield, the vaccine candidate they developed.

Along with SII, the man also named Indian Council of Medical Research, one of the sponsors, and Chennai-based Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research, which administered the vaccine to the man.

The man, according to the notice, suffered acute encephalopathy, a disease that affects the brain, following vaccination and all tests confirmed that the setback in his health was because of the vaccine candidate.

The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) had deployed an institutional ethics committee at the implementation site to investigate the adverse event.

In Europe, the European Commission is likely to give the final authorisation for the roll-out of Covid-19 vaccines days after the EU drug regulator approves them, a spokesman for the EU executive said.

JS body for home wants to see process

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the committee on whether the respective ministries organised such foreign trips with the ministry's fund.

The government has several times given its opinion against the parliamentary committee's foreign tours with the ministry's funding.

At a meeting held in late August, the parliamentary standing committee on home affairs ministry had recommended the respective ministry to organise a foreign tour.

The committee made the recommendation to get a better idea on how to make the activities of the agencies under the ministry and the UN missions in different countries more dynamic and effective.

In another meeting held in late November, the ministry informed the standing committee about the progress in this regard.

The committee was informed that passport and visa related activities are underway in 15 Bangladesh missions.

Employees of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Department of Immigration and Passports are working in the Passport and Visa Wing in these missions, the ministry informed the committee.

Once the Covid-19 situation is normal, a plan can be made to inspect the passport and visa issuance activities at those missions, the ministry told the standing committee.

According to the ministry, the nine countries these 15 missions are situated in are: the United States, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, Malaysia, Italy, Kuwait, Singapore and Qatar.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Md Shamsul Haque Tuku, chairman of the standing committee, said the committee in its meeting had discussed this issue, but no decision was not finalised.

"I told the meeting that such tours were not necessary at this moment," he also said.

The ruling Awami League MP from Pabna-1 also said they actually wanted to get a first-hand experience how different foreign missions are delivering services to our expatriate Bangladeshis.

"We could get that information over telephone. But sometimes first-hand experience becomes useful," he also said.

According to the Jatiya Sangsad's Rules of Procedure, the function of the Parliamentary Committees under the Ministry is to review the activities of the respective ministries, to investigate irregularities and serious allegations and to examine the Bills or any matter sent by the Parliament.

The government often discourages such visit of the parliamentary standing committee members with the funding of the respective ministry.

In a letter to the Speaker in 2016, the then Finance Minister AMA Muhith had said, "The financial discipline of the government is being ruined due to the foreign tours by the parliamentary committee with the money of the ministry."

In 2016, the Prime Minister's Office opined that the Parliament Secretariat may bear the cost of foreign trips of MPs following the parliamentary standing committee on expatriate welfare and overseas employment ministry's recommendations to arrange a foreign trip.

Parliament affairs expert Nizamuddin Ahmed, also a former professor of Chattogram University told The Daily Star, that the recommendation of the parliamentary committee on the home ministry was not reasonable.

"The parliamentary committee does not have any moral basis to hold the ministry accountable for its activities after traveling abroad with the money of the ministry. If the visit was in the interest of an investigation or in the interest of state security, then it would be logical," he said.

He said MPs can definitely travel abroad if necessary. But for this, a separate budget should be allocated in the budget of parliament.

Bangladeshi

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MRCP(UK) Part-2 Written and MRCP(UK) Part-2 Clinical (PACES).

Mahmudul appeared in the first part examination in May last year while the examinations for Part-2 were held on October 27 this year.

The results were published on November 27 UK standard time.

"I never thought I would secure the highest number. I had a feeling that I had answered questions to my best ability in the examination," said Mahmududl Hoque Jassy, who is now working as a medical officer at Jazira Upazila Health Complex in Shariatpur district.

About his extra-ordinary success, he said, "I am not a genius. I have just studied a lot. I had a habit of reading the main books since my second year of medical studentship. Those were not helpful for previous exams. This time, that habit helped me."

The youngest of five siblings, Mahmudul was born in and is from Dhaka's Keraniganj area.

After completing his Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) in 2007, he was admitted to Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) in 2008.

"My father -- now around 75 -- was a businessman. He had a desire to raise one of his children to be a doctor. Besides, I had an interest in medicine anyway. So, when I appeared for medical admission tests, I got selected," Mahmudul said.

Dr Abdullah-Al-Murad, civil surgeon of Shariatpur district told The Daily Star, "It is really a great achievement. We congratulate him. We knew Dr Mahmud as a bookworm and he proved it!"

Globe Biotech

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their homegrown mRNA vaccine. "We had nine meetings with icddr,b during the last three months. They agreed and signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on October 14. Yet another one and a half months have passed, but they cannot make satisfactory progress. So, we sent them a letter yesterday [Monday] informing of our decision to cancel the contract," Md Mohiuddin, manager of quality and regulation operation at Globe Biotech Ltd, told The Daily Star yesterday.

The International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b) refused to make a comment at this time.

On October 5, Globe Biotech announced that its first vaccine candidate had passed in the pre-clinical trial on mice and was ready for a clinical trial.

On October 17, Bancovid, along with two other vaccine candidates developed by the Globe Biotech Ltd, were included in the draft landscape of the World Health Organisation (WHO).

World's loneliest

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rights groups launched a campaign to save him from the substandard conditions there, boosted by spirited social media support from US actress and musician Cher.

He arrived in Cambodia on Monday to much fanfare -- including a welcome from Cher herself, who not only travelled to see him off from Pakistan, but also arrived ahead of him at Siem Reap airport.

Yesterday saw Kaavan settling into his enclosure at Kulen Prom Tep Wildlife Sanctuary, where he was seen touching trunks with another elephant, captured in images provided by rights group Four Paws.

"First contact with an elephant in eight years -- this is a huge moment for Kaavan," said Martin Bauer, a spokesman with the Austria-based group that worked for months to get him ready for the flight.

SC yet to settle CHT

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Following the two writ petitions filed by Bangalee settler M Badiuzzaman and the SC's pro-Jamaat-e-Islami lawyer Tajul Islam on April 13, 2010, the HC declared the CHT Regional Council Act 1998 illegal and unconstitutional.

In the verdict, the HC said the unitary character of the state, which is the basic feature of the constitution, has been hampered due to its formation. The council can now run since the HC verdict has been halted following a stay order from the Appellate Division.

In 2011, the government and the CHT Regional Council filed two separate appeals with the SC challenging the HC judgment, saying that the CHT Regional Council is a statutory authority to facilitate the functions of three hill district councils and was formed in line with the constitution.

The provisions of the CHT Regional Council Act 1998, which have been declared unconstitutional by the HC, are actually protected by the constitution, as it provides for affirmative action in favour of a disadvantaged section of the population, they said in the appeals.

On March 3, 2011, the Appellate Division upheld its chamber judge's stay order and allowed the government and Santu Larma to move separate appeals before it against the HC verdict.

The appeals had come up in the cause list of the Appellate Division on March 6, 2018, for their hearing.

The same day, a four-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain adjourned hearing of the appeals for four weeks after the then Additional Attorney General Murad Reza prayed for time to take preparation for placing arguments on the issue.

Later, the appeals were not heard by the apex court as none of the parties took any move for hearing the matter.

Murad Reza resigned from his post on October 11 this year.

Contacted, Attorney General AM Amin Uddin, who was appointed to the post on October 8 this year, told this paper on November 29 that his office would place arguments before the Appellate Division in support of the appeals when these would come up before the apex court serially.

The attorney general said his office would not take any initiative for hearing of the appeals at this moment as the apex court is not hearing and disposing of the old cases due to the pandemic.

SC lawyer Tajul Islam, one of the writ petitioners, said they would not take any initiative for hearing the appeals as the government, which is the main respondent to the case and has filed the appeal against the HC judgment, is not so serious about quick hearing and disposal of the appeals.

The government should take steps for hearing the appeals, he added.

Vaccine coming

FROM PAGE 12

Referring to findings of the World Health Organization (WHO), the secretary said, "Global studies showed that anybody can stay safe, even up to 95 percent if he/she wears a protected mask. So everyone, including children and adults, has to wear masks. Other health regulations, including social distancing, have to be maintained accordingly."

He also said the government has continued the "no mask no service" campaign countrywide and the hospitals are preparing themselves for tackling the possible second wave.

On Monday, Cabinet Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam said in a press briefing at the secretariat that the government would initially distribute three crore doses of Oxford-AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine among people for free.

A proposal to buy the vaccine from Serum Institute of India has been sent by the health ministry to the cabinet committee on economic affairs for approval. The committee will sit today to discuss the matter.

"Approval from the Economic Affairs Committee is required as per section 76 of the Public Procurement Rules since it will be bought from a single source," he said.

On November 5, the government signed a trilateral MoU with the Pune-based Serum Institute of India (SII) and Bangladesh's Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd for buying three crore doses of the vaccine.

The finance ministry on November 16 initially allocated some Tk 735.77 crore for the Health Service Division to procure the Covid-19 vaccine.

Apart from the vaccine from SII, Bangladesh will buy 68 million doses from the Gavi under a global arrangement called COVAX. The first shipment of vaccine doses from Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, is likely to be delivered between February and June next year, said officials of the health directorate.

Meanwhile, 31 people were reported dead from Covid-19 in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, according to a press release issued from the DGHS.

With this, the total number of deaths rose to 6,675 while the death rate stood at 1.43 percent. Another 2,293 cases were recorded in the same 24 hours taking the total number of positive cases to 4,67,225 added the release.

Against a number of 15,501 tests conducted in those 24 hours throughout the country, the positivity rate was 14.79 percent, while the overall positivity rate stood at 16.76 percent.

At least a total of 2,513 Covid-19 patients have recovered in the same 24 hours.

With this, the total number of recoveries rose to 3,83,224 while the recovery rate stood at 82.02 percent.

Among the 31 deceased yesterday, 17 were males.

Two were aged between 21 and 30 years, two between 31 and 40, one between 41 and 50, seven between 51 and 60 and 19 were above 60 years old, added the release.

Bhutto envisages

FROM PAGE 12

each other so that there could be another summit and several more towards normalisation of relations.

BANGABANDHU REACHES JHALKATHI

Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who left Dhaka on November 29 on a visit to the coastal areas, arrives at Jhalkathi today. The prime minister is on a three-day visit to the coastal areas to see for himself the coastal embankment projects, arrangements for the conservation of coastal forests and preservation of wildlife. At Jhalkathi the PM is received by Awami League leaders and workers and local people.

Out of a total of 2,500 miles of coastal embankment proposed under the first phase, 2,150 miles have already been completed. The remaining 350 miles of embankments would be completed by early next year when the second phase of the project would be taken up. This is told to the Bangabandhu by the chief engineer in charge of the project when the PM visited the coastal areas today.

SOURCES: December 3, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District: Cox`s Bazar.
www.lged.gov.bd

শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি
গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি

Memo No. 46.02.0022.000.14.001.20-4191

e-Tender Notice-10/2020-21

Dated : 01/ 12 /2020

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 System portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents of following Packages from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks' branches up to Date and Time given below.

Sl No.	Package No	Name of Works	Tendering Method	Tender ID	Last Date & Time of Selling Documents	Last Date & Time of Submission Documents
1.	GSIDP/COX/SDW-149	Improvement of Baitun Nur Jame Mosque Union Eidgah Latitude 21.74194 Longitude 92.63444 Under Sadar Upazila Dist Coxs Bazar.	LTM	512216	20-12-2020 17:00	21-12-2020 15:00
2.	GSIDP/COX/SDW-155	Improvement of Hamidullah Mohoripara Jame Mosque Union Kayerbill Latitude 21.784049 Longitude 92.067133 Under Chakaria Upazila Dist Coxs Bazar.	LTM	513683	20-12-2020 17:00	21-12-2020 15:00
3.	GCHDP-WD-UNR-CHT-COX-SADA-20/04	Development of Pokkhali UP office - Palakata Bazar Palakata- Mohanvila Road by BC at Ch. 00-1000m Under Sadar Upazila Dist Coxs Bazar. [Road ID 422243010] [Salvage Cost Tk. 2541318.00]	LTM	516390	20-12-2020 17:00	21-12-2020 15:00
4.	LGED/Cox/VRRP/Re-hab/20-21/W-1464	Rehabilitation of Kutubdia Azam roadR&H - Sonua UP at Banskhali via Samadia ghat kutubdia part Road from Ch. 00m-1308m under Kutubdia upazila Dist Coxsbazar. Road ID 422454027	LTM	517802	20-12-2020 17:00	21-12-2020 15:00
5.	LGED/Cox/VRRP/Re-hab/20-21/W-1465	Rehabilitation of Mogdail Rumi para Road from Ch. 00m-1075m under Kutubdia upazila Dist Coxsbazar. Road ID 422454012	LTM	517803	20-12-2020 17:00	21-12-2020 15:00
6.	IPCP/COXS/SADAR/P/19-20/3.02	1 Re-excavation of Khruskul UP Pond . b Conustruction of 01 Nos. Ghatla 12.80 x 5.00 x 4.50m at Khruskul UP Pond . 2 Re-exacavation of Coxs Bazar Gov. College Pond. b Conustruction of 01 Nos. Ghatla 15.20 x 5.00 x 5.40m at Coxs Bazar Gov. College Pond. 3 Re-exacavation of Naikkhon dia STD Dhakhil Madrasha Pond. b Conustruction of 01 Nos. Ghatla 13.40 x 5.00 x 4.80m at Naikkhon dia STD Dhakhil Madrasha Pond. 4 Re-exacavation of Chowfal Dondi Adorso High School Pond . b Conustruction of 01 Nos. Ghatla 13.40 x 5.00 x 4.80m at Chowfal Dondi Adorso High School Pond. 5 Re-exacavation of Nomania Madrasha Pond .b Conustruction of 01 Nos. Ghatla 13.40 x 5.00 x 4.80m at Nomania Madrasha Pond. 6 Re-exacavation of Kalo Pokir Para Pond All Under Sadar Upazila Dist Coxs Bazar.	LTM	509953	20-12-2020 17:00	21-12-2020 15:00
07.	IPCP/COXS/KUTUB/P/20-21/4.01	1 Re-excavation of Dokkhin Dhurang Union Porishad Pond . b) Protective Work (RCC Palisading). 2 Re-exacavation of Kobi Jashim Uddin High School Pond. b) Conustruction of 01 Nos. Ghatla13.40m x 5.00m x 4.80m at Kobi Jashim Uddin High School Pond . c Protective Work (RCC Palisading). 3 Re-exacavation of Uttar Dhurong Union Parishad Pond. b) Conustruction of 01 Nos. Ghatla 15.20m x 5.00m x 5.40m at Uttar Dhurong Union Parishad Pond Under Kutubdia Upazila Dist Coxs Bazar.	LTM	515722	20-12-2020 17:00	21-12-2020 15:00
08.	IPCP/COXS/UKHIY/P/20-21/5.01	1 Re-exacavation of Goyalmara Dakhil Madrasha Pond. b) Conustruction of 01 Nos.RCC Ghatla 15.20m x 4.00m x 5.40m at Goyalmara Dakhil Madrasha Pond.c Protective Work (RCC Palisading) Under Ukhiya Upazila Dist Coxs Bazar.	LTM	515726	20-12-2020 17:00	21-12-2020 15:00
09.	IPCP/COXS/CHAKA/P/20-21/6.01	1 Re-excavation of Dighor Pankhali Darul Ulom Marasha Pond-2 Under Fashiakhali Union. 2 Re-excavation of Dighor Pankhali Darul Ulom Marasha Pond-3 Under Fashiakhali Union. 3 Re-excavation of Rajar Bill Jame Mosques Pond Under Fashiakhali Union. b) Conustruction of 01 Nos. RCC Ghatla 15.20m x 4.00m x 5.40m at Rajar Bill Jame Mosques Pond . 4 Re-exacavation of Pachim Bara Vheula Parishad Pond. b) Conustruction of 01 Nos.RCC Ghatla13.40m x 4.00m x 4.80m at Pachim Bara Vheula Parishad Pond Under Chakaria Upazila Dist Coxs Bazar.	LTM	515728	20-12-2020 17:00	21-12-2020 15:00
10.	IPCP/COXS/CHAKA/P/20-21/7.02	1 Re-excavation of Dighor Pankhali Darul Ulom Marasha Pond-1 Under Fashiakhali Union. b) Conustruction of 01 Nos. RCC Ghatla17.30m x 4.00m x 6.00m at Dighor Pankhali Darul Ulom Marasha Pond-1 . 2 Re-excavation of BM Char Union Parishad Pond. b) Conustruction of 01 Nos. RCC Ghatla 15.20m x 4.00m x 5.40m at BM Char Union Parishad Pond. 3 Re-excavation of Surajpur Ajmatsharif Majar Pond.b) Conustruction of 01 Nos. RCC Ghatla17.30m x 4.00m x 6.00m at Surajpur Ajmatsharif Majar Pond Under Chakaria Upazila Dist Coxs Bazar.	LTM	515730	20-12-2020 17:00	21-12-2020 15:00
11.	CBU-100/Purto-252	Construction of 72.00m Long RCC Grider Bridge Over Chara Khal on Patabari Madrasha Road at Ch.1500m Under Ukhiya Upazila Dist Coxs Baza. Road ID 422945015.	OSTETM	507630	03-01-2021 17:00	04-01-2021 15:00
12.	CW-24(b)/RCIP/COX	01. Improvement Of Harbung Baraitali Road at Ch. 00m to 6500m under Chakaria Upazila [Road ID 422163001] & 02. Improvement of Pekua to Arabshah Bazar via Rajakhali Sabuj Bazar Road at Ch. 00m to 8552m under Pekua Upazila [Road ID 422952002] [Total cost of salvage materials Tk. 5443028.00]	OTM	516392	03-01-2021 17:00	04-01-2021 15:00

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

(Md. Anisur Rahman)
Executive Engineer
Local Government Engineering Department
District: Cox`s Bazar.

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