

BR probing if those can be used

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[contract] deviations ... We have formed the [new] committee to determine whether the locomotives can be used even after the deviation ...” BR Director General Dharendra Nath Mazumder told The Daily Star yesterday.

Asked whether any action was taken against the companies, he said, “We will take our next action after receiving its [the new committee’s] report.”

The metre-gauge diesel electric locomotives -- bought under a project worth around Tk 300 crore -- arrived at a railways workshop in Chattogram’s Pahartoli after they were unloaded at the Chattogram port in September last year.

In its report, the commissioning committee said the technical specifications of four key components -- engines, alternators, compressors, and traction motors -- of the supplied locomotives did not match the specifications mentioned in the agreement, showed railway documents obtained by The Daily Star.

The project authorities halted payment for the locomotives and the railways minister in October ordered a probe. The locomotives have been sitting in a workshop since then.

A probe committee, led by Farukuzzaman, additional secretary (law and land) of the ministry, submitted its report on February 25. The Daily Star obtained a copy of the report.

The committee recommended actions against Hyundai for supplying locomotives in deviation from the contract and CCIC Singapore Pte Ltd for failing to carry out its duties.

The probe committee report shows that Hyundai supplied alternator model TA9-12CA9SE, but the agreement sought alternator model TA12-CA9.

Railways officials said the two models are different in terms of power output.

Besides, as per a government plan, all rail lines in the country would be converted into dual gauge within a few years. The government had instructed the BR to purchase locomotives which could be used on both metre-gauge and broad-gauge by changing the undercarriages.

But with the TA9-12CA9SE alternator, the locomotives will not run on broad-gauge, said officials.

Hyundai supplied Engine model 8-710G3B-ES instead of 8-710G3B-TI as mentioned in the contract, saying that the engines they provided are “superior” to the one mentioned in the contract, documents show.

They also supplied different traction motors.

NEW COMMITTEE

On March 3, the railways ministry held a meeting over the report of the probe committee led by Farukuzzaman and it was chaired by Railways Secretary Salim Reza.

At the meeting, a representative of

the Central Procurement Technical Unit said that as the locomotives were not supplied as per the contract, it should be scrutinised whether those can be received as per the Public Procurement Rules, reads the meeting minutes.

As per his suggestion, the meeting directed BR’s director general to form a technical committee to settle the matter.

The BR on March 21 formed the four-member committee, led by Prof Muhammed Mahbubur Razaque, but a circular in this regard did not mention the deadline for the work, sources said.

The BR issued another circular yesterday mentioning the deadline, they said.

Apart from Prof Muhammed Mahbubur Razaque, who was member of the previous probe committee, Abdul Matin Chowdhury, additional project director (mechanical) of Dhaka Mass Rapid Development Project (Line-5, Northern Route), Azizul Haque, additional chief engineer (mechanical) of Bangladesh Water Development Board and Borhan Uddin, chief mechanical engineer (east) of BR are members of the new committee. Contacted, Prof Mahbubur Razaque yesterday said he received a letter regarding the formation of the four-member committee and that they would take the next step after talking with other committee members.

Titas, RHD trade blame

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Lalmatia, parts of Dhanmondi, Jhigatola, Razabazar, Indira road, Pirebgh, Hajiribagh, and Eskaton suffered due to a shortage of gas.

Unable to get gas at home, those people bought food from restaurants. Some used electric cookers.

Rumana Sharmin, a housewife who lives in Lalmatia, said she woke up around 7:00am and found that they had no gas.

The woman had to buy breakfast from a nearby restaurant. She also had to buy lunch and other meals for her family from outside.

Mousumi Sumi, a resident of Mohammadpur, was in a similar situation. “I got up at 6:30am and saw that the gas pressure of my stove was extremely low. Although cooking with it was extremely tough, I managed to boil an egg and cook some rice. But it took hours,” she said, adding that

everybody in the building she lives was in trouble due to the sudden gas crisis.

Surovi Rozario, a resident of Razabazar, said she had to use an electric cooker to make breakfast for their family.

BLAME TRADE

Talking to this daily, Mohammed Shamim Al Mamun, RHD executive engineer (Dhaka division), said they did not know the gas line was there.

“Even Titas was initially not sure whether the gas line was there. They confirmed it around two to three hours after the incident,” he said.

“They [Titas gas authority] were supposed to take permission for installing a gas line on RHD’s land. But as far as I know, they did not take any such permission,” he said.

“Even if they have the permission, the gas line should be installed at the right place. But it was installed right beside the main road,” he added.

Shafiqul Islam Khan, the Titas

director, said the road of the RHD was constructed around 20 years back and all installations were done in government land.

He said they obtained permission from the authorities concerned during the installation of the gas pipeline. He added that the allegation that the line was installed at the wrong place was not true.

“When a project is taken, other relevant organisations send proposals to their planning divisions. If there is any issue, then a particular entity implementing the project either changes the project plan or others shift their utility lines. But in this case, they [RHD] did not submit any such proposal,” he said.

Shafiqul said they would demand compensation from the RHD for the damage of their gas line connection. They will send a letter to the RHD following the assessment of the financial loss, he said.

The telephone call that never came

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back and they were united. Any decision, if forced on them, would not be accepted in any way. He asked people to be vigilant against attempts of creating communal tension.

FACE-OFF AND FIRING

From March 23 to the morning of March 24, the Pakistan army surrounded and held the Saidpur cantonment and neighbouring Botlagari, Golahaat and Kundul villages and used excessive force, killing almost a 100 people and leaving 1,000 injured. Curfew was imposed in the city. The army along with non-Bangalees carried out arson and carnage in the houses of Bangladeshis.

In Rangpur, a curfew was imposed

following a clash between army and general people. In Chittagong, people resisted the offloading of MV Swat which was carrying 7,000 tonnes of ammunition. The army opened fire on the people and dozens were killed. In Mirpur also, tensions were rising.

Referring to these incidents, Tajuddin Ahmad said in a press statement tonight, “We would like to emphasise once again that any attempt to frustrate the efforts of arriving at a political solution would be reckless. The awakened people of Bangladesh would not allow this to be done.”

Major General Farman and Major General Khadim, two planners of “Operation Searchlight”, boarded two helicopters to pass the instruction

of the military action to the brigade commanders outside Dhaka.

“WE ARE MAKING SOME PROGRESS” Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, talking to newsmen on his return to the hotel after a brief talk at the President’s House today, said progress was being made at the talks. Replying to a question, Bhutto said a joint session of the advisers of the president, Awami League and his party would have expedited the arrangement. But at the moment it was not possible, he said.

Bhutto further added, “I am passionately devoted to one Pakistan.”

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Tensions

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commanding officer could not be reached on his mobile phone despite repeated attempts.

When our Sylhet correspondent last spoke to the BGB commanding officer around 5:00pm, the two forces were holding their respective positions.

The mosque is inside Bangladesh territory but right beside the border. The need for its reconstruction was evident, said Abdul Salam, chairman of Dubag union in the upazila.

“At a flag meeting last year, the matter was discussed and the then BSF Commanding Officer cleared way for the construction and it was progressing normally. But as the previous CO has been transferred, the new CO stopped the construction work,” he said.

The locals of the bordering area are safe, the chairman said.

I’ll commit

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wife,” said Quader Mirza.

“If the similar thing happens to me, I will commit suicide,” he said this in a Facebook live yesterday.

On December 4, 2018, then JP chairman HM Ershad was admitted to CMH. The 11th national election was held on December 30.

About the ongoing political situation in Noakhali’s Companiganj, Quader Mirza yesterday said, “Everybody, except some of my dedicated party men, keeps avoiding me since I started telling the truth about the politics of Noakhali and Feni. But I’m not afraid about it.”

“Conspiracy is going on to kill me,” reiterated Quader Mirza, who is the incumbent mayor of Basurhat municipality of Companiganj.

“Nobody likes me as I tell the truth. Police are harassing my supporters following the directives of Obaidul Quader and his wife,” he added.

Quader Mirza came to limelight as he has been making comments against corruption and misdeeds committed by AL men in Noakhali and Feni for the last few months.

On multiple occasions, he even came down heavily on government officials for their alleged involvement with corrupt politicians. He also repeatedly criticised his brother Obaidul Quader and his wife for patronising corrupt politicians.

This made political situation of Companiganj upazila volatile. Even, two deadly clashes took place there between two groups of AL over establishing supremacy in the area.

One group was led by Quader Mirza and another by Mizanur Rahman Badal, organising secretary of upazila unit AL, also a follower of lawmakers Ekramul Karim Chowdhury and Nizam Uddin Hazari.

The first clash took place on February 19 when both the groups used firearms in the clash and police also fired around 10 to 12 bullets to bring the situation under control.

Local journalist Borhan Uddin Muzakir, 30, who was hit by bullets while covering the incident, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital a day later.

The two groups again clashed on March 9, leaving CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver Alauddin, 22, dead and 30 others injured.

Meanwhile, Badal, who was arrested on March 11 in cases filed in connection with the violence, was released on bail yesterday.

Man murders wife, son

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She also said Rubel tortured her regularly and it became unbearable, Hashi’s brother quoted her as saying at the mediation.

As Hashi and Rubel kept arguing, sitting on a bench at a yard inside the slum, Hashi’s family members and the mediators went back to their huts. The couple was last seen around 1:00am yesterday.

Around 8:00am, Mehedi got the call from Rubel over his mobile phone.

“Rubel came to our house on Monday afternoon. He behaved well. He even brought fruits... If we had sensed trouble, we would not have allowed him to enter our house,” Mehedi lamented.

“My sister wanted to live but her husband did not let her.”

Mehedi said his sister married

Rubel five years ago. Things between the couple went from bad to worse two years ago.

In the first week of this month, Hashi came to her mother’s house at Korail slum to save herself from Rubel’s torture. A week ago, Rubel took her back to his Cumilla house. But she returned to her mother’s house with her son after a day as Rubel again tortured her, according to her family members.

Nur-E-Azam Mia, officer-in-charge of Banani Police Station, said they suspect that Rubel had killed his wife and son.

“We are trying to arrest him.”

The bodies were sent to Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Morgue sources said both the mother and the child were strangled.

14 Huji men get death

FROM PAGE 1

They killed Gangabandhu and his family members at one stage and the conspirators tried to assassinate his daughter Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina 20 times following her return to the country in 1981, the court said.

The judge said the militants decided to kill Hasina and topple the legitimate government in July 2000.

Judge Kamruzzaman observed that it would be possible to prevent the recurrence of such atrocities by ensuring exemplary punishment to the accused.

If it is not possible to publicly execute them by the firing squad, they will be executed in accordance with the law, the verdict said.

The convicts are: Mofizur Rahman alias Mohibullah, Mahmud Azhar alias Mamunur Rashid, Rashed Uzzaman alias Shimul, Tarek Hossain alias Marfat Ali, Abdul Wadud Mollah, Sarwar Hossain Miah, Anisul Islam alias Anis, Azizul Haque alias Shahnur, Lokman, Yusuf alias Mochhhab Morol, Sheikh Enamul Haque, Mosahed Hasan, Maulana Amirul Islam alias Jinnat Munshi, and Maulana Rafiqul Islam.

Of them, Azizul, Lokman, Enamul, Mosahed and Yusuf are on the run.

The punishment of the fugitives will be effective the day they surrender or get arrested, the judge added.

The verdict was pronounced around 12:15pm with nine of the convicts on the dock. They were taken to the courtroom amid tight security at 12:10pm with their hands cuffed behind their backs.

A large number of police members surrounded them when they were on the dock in helmets. An archway metal detector was placed at the entrance of the block that houses the tribunal.

Special Public Prosecutor Abu Abdullah Bhuiyan expressed satisfaction over the judgement.

Three cases were filed after the 76kg bomb was recovered: one for the bomb, one for the attempted assassination of Hasina and the other

under the Explosive Substances Act.

According to the prosecutors, on July 20, 2000, Mufti Hannan, his two brothers, and 14 others in a pre-planned manner with a common intent had tried to create chaos in the country and worsen law and order.

The sedition case was filed with a Gopalganj court on September 13, 2000. On November 15, the next year, the Criminal and Investigation Department (CID) of police pressed charges in the case.

The charges were framed against 15 accused, including the prime accused Mufti Hannan on November 21, 2004.

Hannan’s name was dropped after he was hanged on April 12, 2017 at Kashimpur High-Security Prison for killing three people and injuring a British high commissioner in Bangladesh and a dozen others in Sylhet.

Thirty-four prosecution witnesses out of 50 gave their depositions before the court.

On August 20, 2017, the Speedy Trial Tribunal-2 of Dhaka sentenced 10 Huji members to death, one to life term imprisonment and three others to 14 years of rigorous imprisonment for attempting to assassinate Hasina by planting the bomb in Kotalipara.

On February 17 this year, the High Court observed that had the perpetrators been successful in implementing their plan in Kotalipara, an episode similar to the August 15 massacre would have taken place.

The HC said the 76kg bomb was recovered on July 21, 2000, and two days later, the 40kg bomb was recovered.

If the 76kg bomb exploded, everyone and everything in a one kilometer radius, would have completely been damaged, the HC bench of Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim and Justice Md Badruzzaman observed, citing a report from a military team that examined the bombs.

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১৬	দরপত্র আহবানকারীর নাম, পদবী ও যোগাযোগের বর্ণনা
১৭	বিশেষ নির্দেশনা

Natural

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prior research in the area, which was mostly carried out in lab or hospital settings with sounds played to volunteers by headphones.

Seven of the 36 studies examined traditional health outcomes, including heart rate, blood pressure, perceived pain, skin conductance -- which is linked to emotional arousal -- levels of the stress hormone cortisol, and t-wave amplitude, a measure of heart health.

The rest measured potential precursors along the pathway to health, including metrics of perception, mood, and cognitive performance.

Overall, there was an 184 percent improvement in health and other positive affect outcomes in the groups exposed to natural sounds relative to comparison groups.

The natural sounds also led to a 28 percent decrease in stress and annoyance.

Among the natural sounds played to the volunteers, the sound of water had the highest impact, followed by birdsong, then a mix of both.


The team also examined audio recordings from 68 US national parks recorded over the past 15 years at 221 different locations.

Germany

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Easter. Only grocers will be allowed to open on Saturday April 3.

“The situation is serious. Case numbers are rising exponentially and intensive care beds are filling up again,” said Merkel.

Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
LGED, Madaripur
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শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি
গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি।

Memo No: 46.02.5400.001.07.002.17 (Part-4)-1013 Date: 23/03/2021

e-Tender Notice
Tender No. e-Tender Notice : 2020-21/23

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Location	T-ID /Method	Name of the Work	Tender Closing
MADARIPUR SADAR	560506 (LTM)	(GSIDP/MDR/SDW-118) Improvement of Algi Munshibari Jame Mosque, Union: Bahadurpur [Latitude: 23.21815, Longitude: 90.1297].	12-Apr-2021 Within 12:30 PM
	560507 (LTM)	(GSIDP/MDR/SDW-119) Improvement of Pachim Chilarchar Akhon Bari Grave Yard, Union: Chilarchar [Latitude: 23.2182, Longitude: 90.13].	
	560508 (LTM)	(e-APP/LGED/MAD/GOBM/20-21/W-49) Periodic Maintenance of Bhuruapa-Ary Para Road from Ch: 00m-2685m (Road ID No: 354545124)	
KALKINI	560509 (LTM)	(e-APP/LGED/MAD/GOBM/20-21/W-50) Periodic Maintenance of NHW, Gopalpur GC-Madaripur Kalkini R&H Road (Kalgionj Bazar) via Tumchar Road from Ch: 2970m-3766m (Road ID No: 354402008)	
	560510 (LTM)	(e-APP/LGED/MAD/GOBM/20-21/W-51) Periodic Maintenance of DK Ideal College-Mridha Rice Mill via Paschim Dasar Jame Mosque Road from Ch: 00m-360m (Road ID No: 354404218)	
	560512 (LTM)	(MSRDP/M/20-21/BC-Maint/13) Maintenance of Udayon Club to Sayod Nurul Alam Girls School via Sayod Abul Basar House road at Ch: 00m-200m (Road ID No-354404218)	
SHIBCHAR	560511 (LTM)	(e-APP/LGED/MAD/GOBM/20-21/W-52) Emergency Maintenance of UZR-12, (Utrail Munshikandi RINGPS)-Bablatola Bazar road via 8 no. Char Nurania Madrasa & Char Tajpur RINGPS Road from Ch: 90m-4100m (Road ID No: 354875071).	


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Interested persons can communicate with the undersigned during office hours.



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