Tourists come back to St Mark's Square as Italy lifts quarantine restrictions for travellers arriving from European Union countries, Britain and Israel and begins offering Covid-free flights in a bid to revive the tourism industry amid the coronavirus disease pandemic, in Venice, Italy yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

Indira writes to Nixon

FROM PAGE 12

Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in a letter to US President Richard Nixon on May 13, 1971 shared her government's concern over the influx of refugees from East Pakistan.

"The influx of refugees constituted a grave security risk which no responsible government could allow to develop," she asserted.

The Indian prime minister informed that until the May 12, 1971, the number of refugees who were registered upon crossing the border into India was 2,328,507.

"We believe that there is a fair number who have avoided registration. Refugees still continue to pour in at the rate of about fifty thousand a day," added Indira Gandhi.

"We are doing our utmost to look after them, but there is a limit to our capacity and resources. Even the attempt to provide minimum facilities of shelter, food and medical care is imposing an enormous burden on us. The rains have begun in the Eastern region and soon the fury of the monsoon will be unleashed and vastly complicate the problem of providing shelter to the evacuees."

She alleged that the rulers of Pakistan would wish the refugee problem in India to result in an aggravation of social tension and religious strife. The Pakistan government probably had a vested interest in this, added the Indian prime minister.

Apprehensive of possible rise in extremist politics, Indira Gandhi said, "Since the expressed will of the people is being stifled, extremist political elements will inevitably gain ground. With our own difficulties in West Bengal the dangers of a link-up between the extremists in the two Bengals are real."

The Indian prime minister requested the US president to use the power and prestige of the United States to persuade the military rulers of Pakistan to recognise that the solution they had chosen for their problem in East Pakistan was unwise and untenable.

"It is our earnest hope that the Government of the United States of America will impress upon the rulers of Pakistan that they owe a duty towards their own citizens whom they have treated so callously and forced to seek refuge in a foreign country," she added.

Indira Gandhi also expressed her deep concern about the personal safety of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who was in the custody of the Government of Pakistan, and requested Nixon to take up the issue with Pakistan President Yahya Khan.

PAKISTAN CLAIMS CHINA HAS OFFERED $20M LOAN

Pakistan government sources reported on May 15, 1971 that China had offered an interest-free loan of $20 million not tied to the purchase of Chinese products.

The Islamabad government said this was the first such loan it had been offered by China. Government sources and Pakistani newspaper editorials drew critical comparisons between the reported Chinese offer and the United States aid, which had been suspended since March 25, when the Pakistan army moved against Bangalees of East Pakistan.

Shamsuddoza Sajen is a journalist and researcher. He can be contacted at sajen1986@gmail.com

Govt delays toll collection

FROM PAGE 12

--Tk 10 per kilometre -- proposed by the division for the expressway.

A per the rate, a medium truck would have to pay Tk 550 for using the entire 55km expressway along with the toll for using the Padma Bridge once it is open to the public in June 2022.

The toll for a bus would be Tk 495 and for a car (sedan) Tk 138 as per the toll rate. There would be four exits and entrances to the expressway and the toll would be according to the exit a vehicle takes.

In September 2019, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at an Ecnec meeting instructed the authorities concerned to collect toll from long-haul vehicles on national highways.

The move gained momentum after she inaugurated the 55km expressway in March last year.

Earlier, the authorities had decided to start collecting toll on the expressway once the Padma bridge was open to the public. The authorities have not yet finalised the toll for the bridge.

However, in February this year, the RTHD decided to start toll collection from the expressway from July.

THE NEW DEVELOPMENTS

At the meeting held on May 11, the RTHD's Secretary Nazrul Islam expressed discontent as the RHD could not complete construction of the necessary infrastructure required for collecting toll, meeting sources said.

RHD officials said they could not provide the necessary amount of money to the contractor as around Tk 500 crores, allocated for this purpose, have not been released yet.

The meeting decided to send a letter to the finance ministry to immediately release the fund.

RHD officials also told the meeting they were hopeful about completing all necessary structures within September this year. However, it may take up to December to complete a roundabout at Pacchar area on the expressway.

The meeting also gave a go-ahead to the RHD's plan to collect toll from two Dhaleshwari bridges.

The RHD will be outsourcing workers in this regard and has already floated tender for it, sources said.

"Yes, we will collect toll from Dhaleshwari bridges of our own accord from July until new a vendor is appointed to collect toll from the expressway," RHD's Chief Engineer Abdus Sabur told The Daily Star on May 11.

Asked when they would start toll collection from the expressway, Sabur said, "The date has not been fixed as the necessary structures have not been readied yet."

Bangladesh Bridges Authority (BBA) has already hired the Korean Expressway Corporation and the meeting opined that it would be easier if the same vendor could be employed for toll collection on the expressway, meeting sources said.

In May 2016, the government had taken up a project to widen the 55km two-lane Dhaka-Mawa-Bhanga road into a four lane one with a budget of Tk 6,252 crore. The deadline for implementing the project was April 2019.

Later, the authority took up another project to implement toll booths on the expressway at the cost of Tk 11,003 crore – making it the most expensive road (considering per kilometre expenditure) in the country, officials said.

Still, there is some work to be completed, they said.

Biman

FROM PAGE 12

uncertainty the return of several thousand Bangladeshi migrant workers to their workplaces in Saudi Arabia, sources at Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (Baira) and the Association of Travel Agents of Bangladesh (ATAB), said.

Earlier, from April 14, the government had suspended international flights to and from Bangladesh to contain the spread of Covid-19 in the country.

Amid protests by several thousand Saudi returnee migrant workers in the capital, the government allowed special flights to five countries including Saudi Arabia.

Meanwhile, Biman has extended suspension of all flights on the Dhaka-Manchester route till June 30 due to travel restrictions following the Covid-19 surge in the country.

On its website, Biman also said it has extended cancellation of all international flights for Madinah, Kuwait and Bangkok till May 31 as these countries have suspended flights from Dhaka.

The airlines also said all Kolkata, Delhi, Muscat, Kathmandu, and United Arab Emirates flights are suspended until further notice.

Sources at Baira and ATAB said the UAE, Oman, and Kuwait are the three major destinations, after Saudi Arabia, where Bangladeshi migrant workers are recruited in large numbers.

In a latest move, on May 10, Kuwait's civil aviation department announced a ban on direct commercial flight operations with Bangladesh and three other South Asian countries amid the Covid-19 pandemic, creating uncertainty over the return of several thousand Bangladeshis to their workplaces in the Gulf country.

The three other countries are Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Nepal.

Top leaders of different manpower recruiting organisations said the return of at least 25,000 Bangladeshi expatriate workers to their workplaces in the UAE, Oman and Kuwait is uncertain due to suspension of flights from Bangladesh to these countries.

Earlier, the UAE, a major destination of Bangladeshi workers, suspended entry for travellers from Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka from May 12.

Late last month, Oman, Thailand and Singapore also announced suspension of regular flights to and from Dhaka to contain the Covid-19 spread in their respective countries.

UN seeks $943m to deal

FROM PAGE 12

visits to Bhashanchar, appreciated its strong infrastructure but, the JRP has not made any announcement of funding for Bhashanchar.

"The JRP says that the funding can be done if Bangladesh government, donors and UN agree on certain issues, including protection, education etc," said a UN official.

Meanwhile, local NGOs have demanded aid transparency and efficiency in the Rohingya crisis management and involving local government and local NGOs in implementing the projects. The UN and international aid agencies should play technical assistance and monitoring roles, they said.

At a press conference organised by the Cox's Bazar CSO-NGO Forum (CCNF), they said that the Rohingya crisis appears to be protracted, and funding in the future may dwindle.

Therefore, it is high time that the government takes measures to ensure aid efficiency and better coordinate the crisis management.

Mohammed Arifur Rahman, chief executive of Young Power in Social Action, said a study by CCNF in October last year found that per Rohingya family in Cox's Bazar is supposed to get $428, but they get only $132.

"This means the overhead cost of the international aid agencies is very high," he said, adding that local NGOs get only four percent of the aid coming for the Rohingyas.

CCNF Co-chair Abu Moreshed Chowdhury said a single authority comprising Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner, the UN, and Cox's Bazar DC should supervise the refugee management activities.

"Now, we don't know the details of the sectors where the fund is used. All should be accountable," he said.

Mukti Executive Director Bimal Dey Sarker said the UN has prepared the Localization Task Force in 2019 to prepare a localisation road map, but it has not been made public yet.

"Following the international obligations, we want localization at the quickest possible time."

COAST Executive Director Rezaul Karim Chowdhury said during the preparation of JRP, they provided written comments and organised a webinar where local MPs, local government, and the UN representatives took part.

"But opinions of the locals have a little reflection in the document," he said.

Britain to treble tree planting by 2024 to fight climate change

REUTERS, *London*

Britain said it planned to treble tree planting rates over the next three years to help reach its target of net zero carbon emissions by 2050, as part of efforts to fight climate change.

The UK wants to push ahead with its environmental plans and encourage other nations to do the same ahead of its hosting of the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, known as COP26, in November.

George Eustice, UK environment secretary, is set to announce on Tuesday that woodland creation rates will treble by May 2024, with around 7,000 hectares of woodlands planted per year.

"We will make sure that the right trees are planted in the right places and that more green jobs are created in the forestry sector," Eustice is due to say, according to a government statement published yesterday.

India's Covid-19 2nd wave

FROM PAGE 12

rise in more than three weeks.

Federal health officials warned against interpreting a "plateauing" in the rise as a sign for complacency, however, and urged states to add intensive care units and strengthen their medical workforce.

The warning comes after the World Health Organization issued a grim warning that the second year of Covid-19 was set to be "far more deadly".

Even though India is the world's largest vaccine-producing nation, it has fully vaccinated only 2.9% of its population of 1.35 billion, or just over 40.4 million people, health ministry data shows.

Vaccines were resulting in milder infections and preventing loss of life, worst affected states told Health Minister Harsh Vardhan yesterday, according to the statement.

New species

FROM PAGE 12

University of Mexico, began in 2013 with the discovery of an articulated tail in the north-central Mexican state of Coahuila, where other discoveries have been made.

"Once we recovered the tail, we continued digging below where it was located. The surprise was that we began to find bones such as the femur, the scapula and other elements," said Alejandro Ramírez, a scientist involved in the discovery.

Later, the scientists were able to collect, clean and analyze other bone fragments from the front part of the dinosaur's body.

The palaeontologists had in their possession the crest of the dinosaur, which was 1.32 meters long, as well as other parts of the skull: lower and upper jaws, palate and even a part known as the neurocranium, where the brain was housed, INAH said.

The Mexican anthropology body also explained the meaning of the name - Tlatolophus galorum - for the new species of dinosaur.

Tlatolophus is a mixture of two words, putting together a term from the indigenous Mexican language of Nahuatl that means "word" with the Greek term meaning "crest". Galorum refers to the people linked to the research, INAH said.

Stalker stabs

FROM PAGE 12

Contacted, Zabed Masud, officer-in-charge of the police station, said the victim's brother filed a case against Saizuddin, who has been absconding since the murder.

Police are trying to arrest him, added the OC.

Dhaka Power Distribution Co. Ltd.

ঢাকা পাওয়ার ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানি লিমিটেড (ডিপিডিসি)

(An Enterprise of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh)

বিদ্যুৎ ভবন (৩য় তলা), ১ আব্দুল গণি রোড, ঢাকা-১০০০।

Web site : www.dpdc.gov.bd

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শেখ হাসিনার উদ্যোগ ঘরে ঘরে বিদ্যুৎ

Time Extension Notice of International Tender

The time of the following International Tender is extended as below:

Item	Description					
Invitation Ref. No.	87.106.315.00.00.397.2021.1248; dated: 08/03/2021					
Tender Name	Procurement of 33kV Single Core 800 sq.mm. XLPE Underground Copper Cable.					
Important Date and Time of Tender	Last Selling Date and Time		Closing Date and Time		Opening Date and Time	
	Extended 1st Time	Extended 2nd Time	Extended 1st Time	Extended 2nd Time	Extended 1st Time	Extended 2nd Time
	16/05/2021 05:00 pm	30/05/2021 05:00 pm	17/05/2021 12:00 noon	31/05/2021 12:00 noon	17/05/2021 02:00 pm	31/05/2021 02:00 pm

All other terms and conditions of the tender will remain unchanged.

(Salek Mahmud)
Superintending Engineer
Contract and Procurement Circle
Dhaka Power Distribution Company Ltd.
Email: secp@dpdc.org.bd

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
রেঞ্জ ডিআইজির কার্যালয়
রাজশাহী।
Website: www.digrajshahirange.gov.bd

স্মারক নং-রাজঃরেঞ্জ/প্রশাসন/ ৬৫৪৬ তারিখঃ- ১৬/০৫/২০২১খ্রি

উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

দি পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন, ২০০৬ ও পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা, ২০০৮ এবং তৎপরবর্তীতে সংশোধীত আইন/বিধিমালা মোতাবেক ২০২১-২০২২ অর্থবছরে রাজশাহী রেঞ্জ ডিআইজি'র কার্যালয়ে বিভিন্ন প্রকার (বিজ্ঞপ্তির ১৯নং ক্রমিকে বর্ণিত) সরবরাহ কাজের জন্য যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন ঠিকাদার/সরবরাহকারীদের নিকট হইতে সীলমোহরযুক্ত খামে উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র আহবান করা যাইতেছে।

১।	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয় (বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ)
২।	সংস্থা	রেঞ্জ ডিআইজি'র কার্যালয়, রাজশাহী।
৩।	দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারী প্রধান	ডিআইজি, রাজশাহী রেঞ্জ, বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ ,রাজশাহী।
৪।	দরপত্রের বিষয়	ক্রমিক নং-১৯ এ বর্ণিত লট নং-ক হইতে ঝ পর্যন্ত বর্ণিত আইটেম সমূহ সরবরাহ।
৫।	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নম্বর ও সূত্র নম্বর	-
৬।	দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (OTM)
৭।	বাজেট ও অর্থনৈতিক খাত	রাজস্ব বাজেটের আওতায় পুলিশ বাজেটের সংশ্লিষ্ট কোড।
৮।	দরপত্র আহবান/প্রকাশের তারিখ	১৯/০৫/২০২১খ্রিঃ এর মধ্যে
৯।	দরপত্র সিডিউল সর্বশেষ প্রাপ্তির তারিখ	০৯/০৬/২০২১খ্রিঃ (সরকারি ছুটির দিন ব্যতীত)
১০।	দরপত্র জমা প্রদানের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১০/০৬/২০২১ খ্রিঃ বেলা ১২.০০ঘটিকা
১১।	দরপত্র খোলা তারিখ ও সময়	১০/৬/২০২১খ্রিঃ বেলা ১২.৩০ঘটিকা
১২।	দরপত্র আবহানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম/পদবী/অফিস ও ঠিকানা	মোঃ আব্দুল বাতেন বিপিএম, পিপিএম, ডিআইজি, রাজশাহী রেঞ্জ, টেলিফোন নং-০৭২১-৭৭২৩০৯
১৩।	দরপত্র প্রাপ্তির স্থান	রেঞ্জ ডিআইজি'র কার্যালয়, রাজশাহী।
১৪।	দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান	রেঞ্জ ডিআইজি'র কার্যালয়, রাজশাহী।
১৫।	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	রেঞ্জ ডিআইজি'র কার্যালয়, রাজশাহী।
১৬।	দরপত্র মূল্যায়নের তারিখ ও সময়	১৩/০৬/২০২১ খ্রিঃ বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা।
১৭।	দরদাতার যোগ্যতা (প্রাক-যোগ্যতা)	"The public procurement Act-2006 & The public procurement Rules-2008" অনুযায়ী (ক) ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, আয়কর ও ভ্যাট সনদ, আর্থিক স্বচ্ছলতা সংক্রান্ত মূল সনদপত্র (তথ্যাবলি)/ভোটার আইডি কার্ড, দরপত্র দলিল ক্রয়ের পূর্বে প্রদর্শনপূর্বক দরপত্র সিডিউল ক্রয় করা যাইবে।
১৮।	দরপত্রের সহিত যে সকল কাগজ জমা প্রদান করিতে হইবে	সত্যায়িত পার্সপোর্ট সাইজের ১কপি ছবি, হালনাগাদ ব্যাংক স্বচ্ছলতার সনদপত্র, ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সার্টিফিকেট, আয়কর সনদপত্র, নমুনা স্বাক্ষর, ভোটার আইডি'র ফটোকপি ও বিডি দাখিল করিতে হইবে। (বিস্তারিত তথ্যাদি শর্তাবলী সিডিউলে বর্ণিত আছে)

১৯। লট নং	কাজের বিবরণ	দরপত্র দলিলের মূল্য (প্রতি সেট)	টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটি পরিমাণ(ফেরৎযোগ্য)	কাজের সময়সীমা
ক.	অন্যান্য মনিহারি সামগ্রী সরবরাহ	৫০০/-	১৫০০০/-	জুলাই/২০২১ হইতে ৩০জুন/২০২২ পর্যন্ত
খ.	কম্পিউটার ও কম্পিউটার সামগ্রী সরবরাহ	৭৫০/-	৩০,০০০/-	
গ.	ব্যবহার্য দ্রব্যাদি সামগ্রী	৭৫০/-	৫০,০০০/-	
ঘ.	স্বাস্থ্যবিধান সামগ্রী	৩০০/-	১০,০০০/-	
ঙ.	ক্রীড়া সামগ্রী	৩০০/-	৭,০০০/-	
চ.	আসবাবপত্র	৭৫০/-	৩০,০০০/-	
ছ.	যানবাহনসমূহের কাঁচামাল ও খুচরা যন্ত্রাংশ সরবরাহ ও মেরামত	৭৫০/-	৫০,০০০/-	
জ.	গাড়ী ভাড়াকরণ	৭৫০/-	৫০,০০০/-	
ঝ.	আউট সোর্সিং এ- জনবল নিয়োগ	৭৫০/-	৫০,০০০/-	

২০। বিশেষ জ্ঞাতব্যঃ
(ক) ব্যাক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠানের স্বত্তাধিকারীর স্বাক্ষরযুক্ত প্যাডে আবেদনপূর্বক নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর কার্যালয় হইতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত দরপত্র সংগ্রহ করা যাইবে।
(খ) দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য তথ্যাবলী দরপত্র সংগ্রহকালে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর কার্যালয় হইতে জানা যাইবে।
(গ) অনুমোদিত বরাদ্দের আলোকে কার্যাদেশ/বিল পরিশোধ করা হইবে। এতদসংক্রান্তে কোন আপত্তি গ্রহণযোগ্য হইবে না।
(ঘ) দরপত্রে উল্লিখিত সময়ের মধ্যে কার্য সম্পাদন করতে হইবে।
(ঙ) অভিজ্ঞ সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান/ঠিকাদারকে অগ্রাধিকার প্রদান করা হইবে।
(চ) কোন কারণবশতঃ দরপত্র জমা/খোলার দিন সরকারী বন্ধ থাকিলে পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে একই সময়ে ও যথানিয়মে দরপত্র জমা প্রদান ও খোলা হইবে।
(ছ) দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন সময় কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতীত দরপত্র বাতিলের ক্ষমতা রাখেন।
(জ) কোন কারণবশতঃ দরপত্র কার্যক্রমের তারিখ পরিবর্তন হলে তা যথাসময়ে রেঞ্জ ডিআইজির কার্যালয়ের নিজস্ব ওয়েব সাইটে (www.digrajshahirange.gov.bd) প্রকাশ করা হইবে।

মোঃ আব্দুল বাতেন, বিপিএম, পিপিএম
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