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CONTRACT BREACH OVER 10 LOCOMOTIVES

Technical body recommends accepting those

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

A technical committee has recommended taking delivery of the 10 locomotives South Korean Hyundai Rotem Company (HRC) has supplied to the Bangladesh Railway (BR) that did not meet the specifications agreed in the contract, said BR officials.

The locomotives, which cost about Tk 330 crore, have been sitting idle since they arrived in Bangladesh in September last year.

As per the technical committee, the locomotives can be accepted in their present format, according to Dharendra Nath Mazumder, director-general of the BR.

The locomotives, which were procured under a Tk 733.6 crore-project in 2015, were supposed to have the TA12-CA9 alternator model, as per the contract signed with Hyundai. But the South Korean automotive manufacturer provided the locomotives of the TA9-12CA9SE alternator model.

The two models are different in terms of power output, according to BR officials.

Besides, as per a government plan, all rail lines in Bangladesh would be converted into dual gauge within a few years, so the BR was instructed to purchase locomotives that 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, according to BR officials.

After the metre-gauge diesel-electric locomotives reached Bangladesh, the BR commissioning committee found that the technical specifications of four key components --

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A mother Indian pitta feeding a chick near Nuhash Polli in Gazipur. Usually, this beautiful bird visits Bangladesh in the summer and the females lay two to four eggs. This very mother pitta is taking care of three chicks.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF ASKER IBNE FIROZ

Woman cop files rape case against SP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A female police inspector yesterday filed a case against a superintendent of police, accusing him of raping her several times, including four occasions after the accused promised to marry the complainant.

The accused superintendent is currently posted at Bagerhat.

The 43-year-old complainant filed the case with the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-7 of Dhaka, Special Public Prosecutor Afroja Farhana Ahmed told The Daily Star.

After the hearing, Judge Mosammat Kamrunnahar took the case into cognisance and recorded the complainant's statements, she said.

The judge also directed the OC of Uttara East Police Station to draft a first information report, Afroja added.

According to the case
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Neo JMB planned to make bombs with chloroform

Claim CTTC officials; buses, classrooms were targets

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

The IS-inspired militant outfit Neo JMB was planning to make chloroform bombs for carrying out attacks in buses, classrooms, and at public places, claimed Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) officials.

The outfit's plan was to "kill silently" and it even conducted tests on frogs, which swelled up and died, the officials said.

The military wing of the outfit had started work to make the chloroform bombs with the blessings of Neo JMB ameer Mahadi Hasan Jon. The outfit's bomb expert Jahid Hasan alias Ismail Hasan Furkan was coordinating it.

The CTTC unit claimed to have unearthed the plans following the arrests and interrogation of several Neo JMB bomb makers, including Furkan.

Rahmat Ullah Chowdhury, in-charge of the bomb disposal unit of CTTC, told The Daily Star yesterday, "The outfit is planning to use the chemical for silent killing. But we are aware of it and have already intensified vigilance."

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ROAD TO FREEDOM
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

'Yahya a power maniac'

AUGUST 13, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

DOCKER'S BLOCK PAK SHIP

A Pakistani freighter due to dock in Philadelphia was forced to change its course and head for Baltimore after pickets supporting the cause of Bangladesh -- backed by a non-violent fleet of small craft -- occupied the shore and the inlet.

About 50 members of the peace group -- which espoused a complete halt to arms and military shipment to the Government of Pakistan -- grouped at Pier 80 on the Delaware River.

The group launched seven canoes and a kayak in the docking area. It was the group's second action in a week against Pakistani shipping. Earlier, on August 6, 1971, it prevented the freighter Padma from docking in Baltimore.

APPEAL TO INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

Describing Pakistan President Yahya Khan as a "power maniac", Awami League leader Abdus Samad Azad charged him today with the guilt of waging a war against the unarmed and defenceless 75 million people of Bangladesh.

In a statement appealing to the international community and the UN to exert pressure to save the life of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Azad said he was convinced "the language of reason and persuasion would not prevent Yahya, now turned into a power maniac, from enacting the tragedy".

MASSIVE DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST BANGABANDHU'S TRIAL

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CTG POWER PLANT Missing Chinese worker's body found in ditch

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police recovered the body of a Chinese citizen in Chattogram's Banskhali upazila yesterday, a day after he went missing from his workplace SS Power Plant.

The deceased, Xie Qingwen, 49, was a worker at the power plant, said police, adding that his passport number is EC0415633.

Shafiqul Kabir, officer-in-charge of Banskhali Police Station, said the man worked for a sub-contractor agency at the plant.

On-duty security guards last saw him fishing in a nearby ditch around 10:30am on Wednesday. But he did not return for lunch and snacks during the break, the police official said.

Later, workers at the factory found his body in the ditch yesterday and informed police, he added.

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Chinese scientists develop world's strongest glass



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Scientists in China have developed the hardest and strongest glassy material known so far that can scratch diamond crystals with ease.

The researchers, including those from Yanshan University in China, noted that the new material -- tentatively named AM-III -- has "outstanding" mechanical and electronic properties, and could find applications in solar cells due to its "ultra-high" strength and wear resistance.

Analysis of the material, published in the journal National Science Review, revealed that

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COVID PANDEMIC Russia posts record daily death toll

AFP, Moscow

Russia yesterday reported its highest daily coronavirus death toll since the start of the pandemic, as rising cases in parts of world fuelled by the Delta variant continued to cause havoc.

A Russian government tally reported 808 fatalities over the past 24 hours -- the first time Russia has crossed the 800-mark for daily virus deaths -- and 21,932 new infections.

Russia, the fourth worst-hit country in the world in terms of cases, according to an AFP tally, has been swept with an unrelenting third wave since mid-June that has been driven by the Delta variant.

Authorities have faced a vaccine-sceptic population, with a poll by the independent Levada Centre this week showing that 55 percent of Russians do not plan on getting a jab.

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A huge surge of vehicles is seen on city streets as Covid restrictions are eased. There were traffic congestion at different points in the capital. This photo was captured in Banani Chairmanbari area around 12:30pm yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

ATTACK ON KHULNA TEMPLES

Indian minister seeks Modi's intervention

STAR REPORT

Indian State Minister and Lok Sabha MP Shantanu Thakur has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seeking his intervention to safeguard the "Matua Hindu community members whose shrines and properties have been attacked in Bangladesh".

In his letter on Wednesday, Shantanu, lawmaker from Bongaon and a leader of Matua Mahasangha, wrote that the Hindu temples of Ganesha, Shiva and Harichand Thakur -- founder of Matua sect -- have been vandalised and shops and households

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PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 13

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-25 12-30 4-45 6-41 8-00
JAMAAT 5-00 1-15 5-00 6-44 8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Star HEALTHLINE

Covid not going away soon
STAY SAFE TO STAY ALIVE

PROF MAMUN AL MAHTAB

As we are faced with a pandemic which is showing little or no signs of regression, Bangladesh -- like other countries -- is preparing for a long coexistence with the unseen menace called SARS-CoV-2.

As the virus started its journey from China's Wuhan one and a half years ago, we were initially complacent, assuming that it will never invade our boundaries. It took us three months to realise that the reality did not match our expectations.



Hyginex
instant hand sanitizer

BEACON Pharmaceuticals Limited

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