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NO FEASIBILITY STUDIES DONE Ministry returns 4 railway project proposals

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The Railways Ministry has sent back four development project proposals (DPP) prepared without any feasibility study.

The ministry also directed the Bangladesh Railway (BR) to prepare DPP and take investment projects after carrying out feasibility studies by a third party.

Feasibility study is a must for any development project costing over Tk 25 crore. But these project proposals were prepared without it, which is a violation of the directives, the ministry wrote in a letter.

The Development and Planning Wing of the ministry sent the letter in this regard to the BR director general on Sunday, sources said.

The four projects are: development of outdated bridges in BR's West Zone; development of outdated bridges in BR's East Zone; building of BR's West Zone headquarter complex; and rehabilitation of rail lines under East Zone.

BR sent the DPP for these projects to the ministry between June and July this year, sources said.

This development came at a time when failing to meet deadlines and raising the costs of development projects have become a major cause for concern for the government. Poor feasibility studies and its total absence have been considered as major reasons behind the issues.

Most of the 37 projects being implemented by the BR are behind schedule. Some of them were taken up without feasibility studies. The BR sought revision of 19 projects in the last fiscal year.

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The Bijoy Nagar canal in the capital's Madina Mugdapara is blocked completely by trash mindlessly dumped by locals. The flow of water there has been disrupted due to obstruction by the heavy amount of garbage collected in it. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO:
SK ENAMUL HAQ

Jamaat secy general, 8 others held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police detained nine leaders and activists of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami,



including its Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar, who is also a former lawmaker, in Dhaka's Bashundhara residential area yesterday evening.

Police were informed that the group gathered in a flat in the area's D block Block-D to plan subversive activities. A team of law enforcers then raided the house and detained the nine men, Md Asaduzzaman, deputy commissioner of Gulshan Division Police, told The Daily Star.

The arrestees include two assistant secretary generals -- Rafiqul Islam Khan and former lawmaker Hamidur Rahman Azad -- and Islami Chhatra Shibir's former president Yeasin

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ShopUp
raises \$75m
in investment
Records biggest startup
fund injection in
Bangladesh

MAHMUDUL HASAN

The country's largest business-to-business (B2B) e-commerce platform, ShopUp, yesterday said it raised \$75 million or nearly Tk 640 crore in its latest round of fund-raising as it looks to ramp up its operation by bringing small neighbourhood groceries and small retail shops online.

The latest round, termed B financing round, was led by Peter Thiel's Valar Ventures. It also included investments from Prosus -- the investment arm of Naspers, Pierre Omidyar's family office, as well as existing investors Sequoia Capital India, VEON Ventures, and Flourish Ventures.

Series B financing is the second round of funding for a company that is past the initial startup stage and met certain milestones.

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Taliban in 'full control'

Promise formation of govt 'soon' after winning key battle for Panjshir Valley

AGENCIES

The Taliban yesterday claimed total control over Afghanistan, saying they had won the key battle for the Panjshir Valley, the last remaining holdout of resistance against their rule.

Following their lightning-fast victory in mid-August over the former Afghan government's security forces and the withdrawal of US troops after 20 years of war, the Taliban turned to fighting the forces defending the mountainous Panjshir Valley.

As the Islamist hardliners claimed victory, their chief spokesman warned against any further attempts to rise up against their rule while urging former members of the security forces to join their regime's ranks.

"With this victory, our country is completely taken out of the quagmire of war," chief spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said.

"Anyone who tries to start an insurgency will be hit hard. We will not allow another," he later added at press conference in Kabul.

The Taliban published a video of their flag being raised over the governor's house in Panjshir -- underscoring a historic win that has seen the anti-Taliban bastion defeated for the first time during 40 years of conflict.

It remained in the hands of resistance fighters during Soviet rule, a subsequent civil war and the Taliban's first regime of the late 1990s.

The National Resistance Front (NRF) in Panjshir -- made up of anti-Taliban militia and former Afghan security forces -- on Sunday acknowledged suffering major battlefield losses and called for a ceasefire.

But yesterday the group said in a tweet that its fighters were still present in "strategic positions" in the valley.

Ali Maisam Nazary, head of foreign relations at NRF, said the Taliban's

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Why shouldn't HC order to close illegal news outlets?

Apex court asks govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court has asked the government to explain why it should not be directed to take necessary steps to block unregistered news portals, internet protocol television and Facebook pages containing false and fake news.

The court also asked the authorities concerned of the government to show cause why they should not be ordered to formulate rules determining the educational qualifications of journalists of the country.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman sought the explanation from the respondents issuing a rule upon them on September 1.

Information and home secretaries, and

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

ROAD TO FREEDOM
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Bangladesh wants to join UN session

SEPTEMBER 7, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJAN

BANGLADESH
PLANNING TO
SEND TEAM TO UN
SESSION



The Government of Bangladesh wants to send a delegation to the UN General Assembly session in New York which is due to begin on September 21. Bangladesh's Foreign Secretary Mahbub Alam discussed such a proposal today with the officials of the Indian external affairs ministry. The Bangladesh foreign secretary earlier had a meeting with the Indian Foreign Secretary TN Kaul, during which the issue of Bangladesh's presence in the upcoming UN session was discussed.

INDIA TO RAISE GENOCIDE ISSUE AT KL CONFERENCE

India would raise the issue of West Pakistani genocide in Bangladesh at the session of the Commonwealth Parliament Conference at Kuala Lumpur in a new bid to rouse the conscience of the world community through selected representatives of 27 countries around the globe.

The Indian delegation to the 17th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference,

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Special drive for 2nd dose starts today

Daily Covid cases
jump slightly

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of new cases increased slightly with 2,710 infections recorded in the 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday.

The previous day, the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) reported 2,430 new cases.

Yesterday, the positivity rate was 9.82 percent against 27,595 tests, up slightly from the previous day's rate of 9.66 percent.

Over the duration, a total of 65 Covid-19 patients died across the country, five fewer than the number recorded the previous day.

The total number confirmed cases has now risen to 15,17,166 and the total number of deaths to 26,628.

The overall death rate is 1.76 percent and the positivity rate .16.69 percent.

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CASE FILED BY PORI Savar cops press charges against 3

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Savar police yesterday pressed charges against three people, including Uttara Club Limited's former president Nasir U Mahmud and his associate Tuhi Siddiqui Omi, in an attempted rape and murder case filed by actor Pori Moni.

The name of the other accused, Shah Shahidul Alam, was included in the charge sheet after police found his involvement in the incident during investigation, the law enforcers said.

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A car struggles to negotiate a road narrowed by a trench dug by the Dhaka South City Corporation for development work in the capital's AHM Kamruzzaman Sarani Banga Bazar. City dwellers have long been suffering due to this situation. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO:
RASHED SHUMON

Star HEALTHLINE

Ear blocked with wax WHY IT HAPPENS AND WHAT TO DO

STAR HEALTH DESK

Think of ear wax, or scientifically known as cerumen, as a defense mechanism for our ears to keep out foreign particles. We produce just the adequate amount of ear wax to keep things under control, but sometimes our ears can produce more than required. If your ear is prone to producing more wax than normal, inserting Q-tips or your fingers can lead to the wax being pushed deeper inside your ear canals and may at times cause a blockage.



Hyginex
instant hand sanitizer

BEACON
Pharmaceuticals Limited

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PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 7

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:35 12:45 4:30 6:20 7:45
JAMAAT 5:10 1:15 4:45 6:25 8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION