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BR's 10 LOCOMOTIVES Impasse over payment not over yet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although the Bangladesh Railway has started operating 10 locomotives that the South Korean company -- Hyundai Rotem -- supplied in breach of contract, the impasse over payment to the supplier is yet to be over.

Rather, the state-run transport agency may be in trouble as they will have to pay the Korean company if the Asian Development Bank (ADB), financier of the project, does not release the fund within this month -- the deadline set for winding up the previous payment, officials said.

The Manila-based multilateral lender is yet to give concurrence to a BR decision over the matter till yesterday, over a month after BR sent it to ADB, they said.

Meanwhile, at least two incidents were recorded in the last 20 days when the new locomotives failed during operation.

Incumbent Project Director Mohammad Hassan Mansur, however, blamed problems in carriages for the failure.

The BR started operating the locomotives from October 4, after more than one year of their arrival, following the opinion of an "independent reviewer."

Earlier, three committees found that the locomotives, supplied by Hyundai Rotem Company, did not meet some of the specifications mentioned in the contract. One committee even suggested punitive action against Hyundai.

But instead, the BR accepted the locomotives and asked

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A metro rail coach being loaded onto a lorry from a ship in the Turag river to be taken to Diabari metro rail depot in the capital's Uttara yesterday. Twelve coaches of two metro rail sets have arrived in the country from Japan, bringing the total number of coaches to 42.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

PORI MONI'S REMAND 2 judges given one week for explanation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday gave two lower court judges one more week to submit proper explanations for placing actor Pori Moni on remand for the second and third time in a narcotics case.

The two judges are Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrates Debabrata Biswas and Atikul Islam.

The HC bench of Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam and Justice ASM Abdul Mobin delivered the order after the two judges' lawyer Abdul Alim Miah Jewel sought an extension as the judges were unable to prepare the written explanations, Assistant Attorney General Md Mizanur Rahman told The Daily Star.

He added that the HC will pass an order on this issue next Sunday after the judges submit the explanations.

On September 29, the bench ordered the two judges to submit further explanations before it about their conduct over granting the remands and had fixed yesterday to pass further orders on this issue.

Attorney General AM Amin Uddin, representing Debabrata and Atikul, on

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ROAD TO FREEDOM
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Indira bars provocation

OCTOBER 25, 1971
SHAMSUDDOZZA SAJEN

INDIA WILL DO NOTHING TO PROVOKE WAR: INDIRA
Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi praised the Indian people for showing utmost restraint and said, "India would do nothing to provoke war". She was addressing the Royal Institute for International Relations in Brussels today.

Asked how she could leave home amid this war-like situation, the Indian premier said, "Because I have full confidence in the Indian people and that they will not do anything to provoke a conflict or to increase tension."

Referring to the Bangladesh crisis Indira Gandhi said it was not a civil war in the conventional sense. It was a genocidal pogrom of civilians.

Indira Gandhi said a political solution must be found to this problem, and, to be effective, it must be acceptable to the elected representatives of the peoples of Bangladesh.

"To hold elections for seats, which are not vacant, in the present conditions of repression and chaos, has no meaning or purpose," she added.

Her official tour to six western countries including the USA and Britain began on October 24, 1971.

In a speech at the National Defense College in New Delhi, The Indian Defence Minister Jagjivan Ram said today that as long as the Pakistani threat existed India would not pull her troops back from the border.

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United Nations shouldn't be a mouthpiece for a few: FM

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday said the United Nations should be a voice of all the countries, not just the mouthpiece of a few countries.

"There's a need for a change in this situation," he said while addressing a discussion at the Jatiya Press Club marking the UN Day.

He said Bangladesh will be the candidate for UNGA president in 2026 and insisted that the next UN general secretary, if it is from Asia, should be from Bangladesh.

Momen said it is regrettable that there is no significant number of Bangladeshis in the UN leadership positions. "Now, time has come for increasing our representation in the UN."

He appreciated the UN role in many areas saying that there was no third

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Picasso artworks in Las Vegas fetch more than \$100m



REUTERS

Eleven Picasso paintings and other works that helped turn Las Vegas into an unlikely destination for art were sold at auction on Saturday for more than \$100 million.

The Sotheby's auction was held at the Bellagio hotel in Las Vegas, where the works had been on display for years, and took place two days before the 140th birthday of the Spanish artist on October 25.

Five of the paintings had hung on the walls of the Bellagio's fine dining restaurant, Picasso. The restaurant will continue to display 12 other Picasso works.

The highest price was fetched by the 1938

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US urges N Korea to stop missile tests

AFP, Seoul

The US yesterday urged North Korea to stop "counterproductive" missile tests, but expressed hope Pyongyang would respond positively to Washington's call for dialogue.

It comes after North Korea fired a submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) on Tuesday, prompting an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council.

US special representative on North Korea Sung Kim met his southern counterpart Noh Kyu-duk after a meeting with their Japanese counterpart in Washington.



PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 25

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:50 12:45 4:00 5:32 7:15
JAMAAT 5:25 1:15 4:15 5:35 7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

SCHOOLCHILDREN China passes law to cut homework pressure

REUTERS, Shanghai

China has passed an education law that seeks to cut the "twin pressures" of homework and off-site tutoring in core subjects, the official Xinhua news agency said on Saturday.

Beijing has exercised a more assertive paternal hand this year, from tacking the addiction of youngsters to online games, deemed a form of "spiritual opium", to clamping down on "blind" worship of internet celebrities.

China's parliament said on Monday it would consider legislation to punish parents if their young children exhibit "very bad behaviour" or commit crimes.

The new law, which has not been published in full, makes local governments responsible for ensuring that the twin pressures are reduced and asks parents to arrange their

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Motorcyclists are on a footpath in the capital's Karwan Bazar area yesterday, disrupting movement of pedestrians. Such a scene is quite common in the city.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Turkey to expel US envoy, 9 others

Says Erdogan amid row over release of jailed civil society leader

REUTERS, Istanbul

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said that he had told his foreign ministry to expel the ambassadors of the United States and nine other Western countries for demanding the release of philanthropist Osman Kavala.

Seven of the ambassadors represent Turkey's Nato allies and the expulsions, if carried out, would open the deepest rift with the West in Erdogan's 19 years in power.

Kavala, a contributor to numerous civil society groups, has been in prison for four years, charged with financing nationwide protests in 2013 and with involvement in a failed coup in 2016. He has remained in detention while his latest trial continues, and denies the charges.

In a joint statement on October 18, the ambassadors of Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Finland, New Zealand and the United States called for a just and speedy resolution to Kavala's case, and for his "urgent release". They were summoned by the foreign ministry, which called the statement irresponsible.

"I gave the necessary order to our foreign minister and said what must be done: These 10 ambassadors must be declared persona non grata (undesirable) at once. You will sort it out immediately," Erdogan said in a speech in the northwestern city of Eskisehir on Saturday.

"They will know and understand Turkey. The day they do not know and understand Turkey, they will leave," he

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