





Proposed rules may discourage investment

Says US envoy about BTRC's draft for digital platforms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

US Ambassador Peter Haas yesterday said the proposed regulation on data protection and governing online contents could force digital businesses to reconsider investment plans in Bangladesh.

At an event at the InterContinental Dhaka titled "US-Bangladesh Business Forum: Building on 50 years of friendship", he asked, "Can Bangladesh say it fully understands the impact on business of proposed regulations?"

"For example, does the Bangladesh Telecommunications Regulatory Commission understand how its proposed rules governing data protection and online content will force digital businesses to reconsider investing in Bangladesh?"

The event was organised by HSBC Bangladesh in partnership with the US-Bangladesh Business Council (USBBC).

The comments came as the BTRC framed a draft of Regulation for Digital, Social Media and OTT Platforms-2021 and published the draft of the regulations in February this year for comments from stakeholders.

Haas also questioned whether Bangladesh could

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Smoke rises following Russian shelling in an oil refinery near Lysychansk, eastern Ukraine on the 75th day of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

PHOTO: AFP

HIDING WEALTH INFO ACC challenges Haji Salim's acquittal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An appeal was filed with the Supreme Court yesterday challenging a High Court verdict that acquitted Awami League lawmaker Haji Md Salim of the charge of concealing information about his wealth in which he was sentenced to three years' imprisonment by the trial court.

The Anti Corruption Commission appealed though its lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan seeking to uphold his three-year jail sentence.

The lawmaker left for Bangkok on April 30, raising questions on the legality of his travel abroad despite being sentenced to jail for 10 years in another charge of the graft case filed by the ACC.

He returned home on May 5.

Citing the appeal, Khurshid told The Daily Star that the HC verdict did not properly consider the offence of Salim by scrapping his jail sentence.

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COMPANY-RUN TRAINS

It's costing BR dearly

JS body on railways unhappy over scanty information

RASHIDUL HASAN

For every kilometre an individual travelled by train operated by private firms, the Bangladesh Railway spent Tk 2.43 and earned Tk 0.62, incurring a loss of Tk 1.81, according to the last three years' data presented before the parliamentary body on railways ministry.

The cost of transporting each tonne of goods per kilometre was Tk 8.94, incurring a loss of Tk 5.76, said the statistics by the railways ministry yesterday.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Railways discussed the information at its meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.

The parliamentary watchdog expressed dissatisfaction over the way the data was presented and asked for income and expenditure of each train.

According to the working paper submitted by the ministry to the parliamentary committee, the ministry has said that they do not prepare train-based expenditure accounts.

Forty trains in the eastern and western parts of the railway are operated by different private firms. The data did not mention how much losses these trains make every year.

The committee members also expressed dissatisfaction that the data mentioned the trains earn over Tk 98. 61 crore a year, but did not say how much was being spent to operate the trains.

According to a press release issued by the Parliament Secretariat, the committee asked the ministry to provide the details of annual income and expenditure of 40 privately run trains.

Contacted, ABM Fazle Karim Chowdhury, chairman of the parliamentary committee, declined to comment on the matter.

A member of the committee, speaking on condition of

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Death toll 'thousands higher' than reported

Says UN rights official on Ukraine war; Russia pounds Odesa; US pledges fresh arms for Kyiv

AGENCIES

Thousands more civilians have been killed in Ukraine during nearly 11 weeks of war there than the official UN death toll of 3,381, the head of the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission for the country said yesterday.

The United Nations team, which includes 55 monitors in Ukraine, has said most of the deaths were caused by explosive weapons with a wide impact area such as missile and air strikes.

"We have been working on estimates, but all I can say for now is that it is thousands higher than the numbers we have currently given to you," Matilda Bogner told a news briefing in Geneva, when asked about the total number of deaths and injuries.

"The big black hole is really Mariupol where it has been difficult for us to fully access and to get fully corroborated information," she added, referring to the port city in southeast Ukraine that has seen the heaviest fighting of the war.

Bogner was speaking following a trip to Ukraine last week where she visited areas around Kyiv and Chernihiv previously occupied by Russian forces.

Her team has reports of over 300 unlawful killings in settlements north of Kyiv, including Bucha, she said and expected this number to rise.

They met a 70-year-old man who hid for more than three weeks in a basement that was so crowded he had to sleep standing up, tying himself to wooden rails to prevent himself falling over.



Bogner also voiced concern that both sides were using schools as army bases.

Her team was also investigating what she described as "credible allegations" of torture and executions by Ukrainian forces against the Russian invading forces and affiliated armed groups.

Meanwhile, Russian forces pounded away at the vital port of Odesa, as part of an apparent effort to disrupt supply lines and weapons shipments. One person was killed and five people were injured when seven missiles hit a shopping centre and a depot in the port city.

On the other end of the southern coast, they hammered Azovstal steel plant in Mariupol where Ukrainian fighters are denying Moscow full control of another critical port, reports Reuters.

Air raid sirens could be heard across several regions of Ukraine early yesterday including Luhansk, Kharkiv and Dnipro. The governor of Luhansk said the region was attacked 22 times in the past 24 hours.

US President Joe Biden said he was worried Putin "doesn't have a way out right now, and I'm trying to figure out what we do about that".

Sources say US Democratic lawmakers have agreed on a \$40 billion aid proposal for Ukraine, including a massive new weapons package.

Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines said yesterday US believes that Putin is preparing for a long conflict in Ukraine and a Russian victory in the Donbas in the east of the country might not end the war.

More than eight million people are estimated

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Farewell to the sultan of strings

Pandit Shivkumar Sharma leaves behind his soul in twinkling melodies



ASHLEY SHOPTORSHI SAMADDAR

Giving a voice to the twinkling stars above us with his santoor, Pandit Shivkumar Sharma always echoed the beauty of his home state Jammu through his music.

Born to singer Uma Dutt Sharma on January 13, 1938, the Dogri-speaking music legend started his journey with vocal and tabla lessons at the mere age of five, under the tutelage of his father. By the time he was 12, he had started performing for the local radio station in Jammu.

The santoor maestro passed away yesterday at his residence in Mumbai at the age of 84 of a cardiac arrest.

Shivkumar had been suffering from kidney-related issues for the last six months and been on dialysis. Despite suffering from renal alignment and undergoing regular dialysis, he was due to perform in Bhopal next week.

He picked up the santoor, originally a folk instrument resembling a dulcimer, at the age of 13 and went on to give his first public performance in Mumbai in 1955. Despite his performance stirring up criticism from

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SWADHINATA PADAK

Goyt to take action against Khulna Zila Parishad CEO

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

The cabinet division has asked the public administration ministry to take departmental action against Khulna Zila Parishad Asaduzzaman CEO Asaduzzaman for concealing information in the application for Swadhinata Padak (Independence Award) 2022, said sources.

Seeking anonymity, an official of the public administration ministry said, "As the Cabinet has asked for taking action,

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A homeless man takes shelter under a footbridge on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue to shield himself from the driving rain. The capital yesterday saw intermittent showers.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company (Pvt.) Ltd.
(A Joint Venture Company of BPDB and NTPC Ltd.)
Borak Unique Heights (Level-17), 117 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Eskaton Garden, Dhaka-1000.

IFT Ref No: BIFPCL/HO/VEHICLE/ 862 Date: 11/05/2022

Tender Notice for Hiring Vehicles

1. BIFPCL invite tender from interested tenderers with the following details:

Name of the tender	Hiring of Vehicles on monthly rent basis for Dhaka office for 2 years.
Brief scope of service	Hiring 08 Nos. of Vehicles (06 Nos. Sedan car & 02 Nos. Microbus) on monthly rent basis for Dhaka office for 2 years.
Tender fee	Nonreturnable Tk.500/- by Pay Order from any schedule bank of Bangladesh to the "Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company (Pvt.) Ltd"
Tender Security	Tk. 2,40,000.0 (BDT Two Lakh Forty Thousands only)
Tender document sell date and time	From 11.05.2022, 09:00 Hrs. to 31.05.2022, 17:00Hrs.
Last Date of Pre-Bid Query submission	18.05.2022, 17:00Hrs.
Last date for submission of Bids	01.06.2022, 12:00 Hrs.
Opening the Technical proposal	01.06.2022 ,12:30 Hrs.

Interested tenderers having service facility to perform the required service may participate in the tendering process.

2. Tender document shall be collected within office hours from Office of the Chief Procurement Officer (CPO), BIFPCL, Unique Heights (Borak), Level-17, 117 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Eskaton Garden, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh. e-mail: cpo@bifpcl.com.

3. For any information bidder may contact to the office of the CPO mentioned above.

Md. Mofijul Islam, Chief Procurement Officer (CPO), BIFPCL.