

Licence to be mandatory for bike registration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

From September 14, the government will not register motorcycles unless their owners have a driving licence, the BRTA has said. Bangladesh Road Transport Authority sent a circular in this connection to all its field offices yesterday.

The vehicle regulatory body made the decision as the number of road crashes and deaths involving motorcycles saw a sharp rise in recent times.

Around three years ago, the BRTA had suggested making driving licence mandatory for buying bikes.

They, however, had to take a step back following strong opposition from motorcycle importers and manufacturers.

Citing safety concerns, the government has taken a series of measures against the two-wheelers over the last two weeks.

Bangladesh Bridge

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5



Motorcyclists in Khulna protesting the government's decision of banning motorcycles on highways during the Eid-ul-Azha holidays. They submitted a memorandum to the deputy commissioner yesterday after the protest.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

DEATH OF BUSINESSMAN Henolux MD, wife held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rab last night arrested Henolux Group Managing Director Nurul Amin and Director Fatema Amin at a flat in the capital's Uttara on charges of instigating a businessman to die by suicide.

Earlier in the day, the brother of Gazi Anisur Rahman, who died yesterday morning of burn injuries, filed a case against the couple with Shahbagh Police Station.

The 50-year-old businessman from Kumarkhali, Kustia, set himself on fire in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital Monday afternoon after losing the money he had invested in a company owned by Amin.

He died yesterday morning at Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery where he was taken with 90 percent of his body burnt.

The complaint filed by Gazi Nazrul Islam mentioned that the accused took a large amount of money from Anisur but did not return the money, causing him to be utterly frustrated, said Sub-Inspector Golam Hossain of Shahbagh Police Station.

Nazrul said that his brother invested Tk 1.26 crore in the company of the accused.

On May 29, Anisur told a press conference at Jatiya Press Club that Nurul Amin and Fatema Amin got him to give them the money with promises of making him a business partner.

Anisur also said the couple promised that he would get Tk 3 crore with dividends in December

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Digitalisation saved time, money Finds IMED study

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and DWAIPAYAN BARUA

The digitalisation of 66 percent of the services offered by six ministries/divisions has saved both time and money of the ordinary people and also ensured service delivery, found a recent study by the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division.

The study, which comprised of interviews with service recipients and providers, found that 92 percent saved money, 96 percent saved time and 70 percent were relieved of the hassle they faced at government offices for the digitalisation of the services.

One such beneficiary is Ramjan Ali, a farmer from Chuadanga.

The 70-year-old previously had the worst experience in land mutation as it took an inordinate amount of time, money, documents and hassle on his part.

But his quest to get the service became exponentially easier once the government digitalised the 10 services under five departments of the land ministry, according to the report, which was released last week.

Since July 1, 2019, e-mutation can be requested and in seven days land mutation can be obtained. Previously, it took at least 28 days.

At present, the services that can be requested online include e-mutation, mutated ledger, payment of land development tax, and collection of e-leaflets.

So far more than 3 crore people got land registration by paying the land development tax online without spending additional money.

Half of the people surveyed by IMED said their sufferings have reduced for the digitalisation of the land ministry's services.

As many as 161 services out of the 244 provided by 28 agencies under six ministries and divisions have been digitalised.

The ministries and divisions are: the directorate of secondary and higher education and technical and

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

BHULTA FLYOVER

Poor planning jacked up cost by 47 percent

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

About nine years back, the government approved a project to build a 613-meter-long four-lane flyover at Bhulta on Dhaka-Sylhet Highway to reduce traffic congestion and road crashes.

The project at Bhulta where Dhaka-Sylhet Highway crosses Dhaka Bypass Road was supposed to be completed by June 2015 at a cost of Tk 239.7 crore.

When the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) moved to implement the project, it found that the flyover's length was too short to be effective enough to help reduce tailback. And the project was revised accordingly in November 2016.

But soon after the construction of the flyover started, the project was again revised in July 2018 as the RHD decided to construct another flyover on Dhaka Bypass Road for better traffic management.

When the project was completed in July 2020, the cost stood at Tk 353.36 crore.

"The project required 250 percent extra time and 47.36 percent additional funding to implement because the project was prepared on the basis of preliminary information, without feasibility study," reads a IMED report.

Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) of Planning Ministry released the Impact Evaluation Study report recently.

Time and cost overrun of development projects have become a major concern in recent times, with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on several occasions

giving directives to stop the malpractice.

The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) recently said the government is making significant investments in public infrastructure projects (PIPs), but a lack of good governance in project implementation undermines their efficiency.

The think tank identified weak feasibility studies, coordination failure, delays in land acquisition, and frequent changes of project directors as some of the key reasons behind the poor governance in PIPs implementation.

The Daily Star called RHD Chief AKM Manir Hossain Pathan over his mobile phone yesterday evening, but he didn't pick up.

Later, he sent a text message, saying he was sick.

BHULTA FLYOVER

Dhaka Bypass Road crosses the Dhaka-Sylhet Highway at Bhulta Bazar. Due to frequent movement of a large number of vehicles on both roads, the Bhulta Bazar area regularly saw long traffic congestions and the risk of accidents was also high, reads the IMED report.

Considering this, the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) in October 2013 approved the project to build a four-lane flyover though no feasibility study on the project was carried out, it mentioned.

The Development Project Proposal (DPP) was prepared on the basis of "preliminary information" but it was later found that the design of 613-meter-long flyover would not fulfil the project's purpose. And the design was eventually changed.

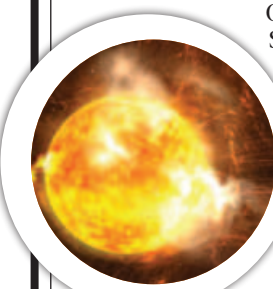
But immediately after the flyover's construction

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Solar storms causing satellites to drop from orbits

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Scientists believe that solar weather could be causing satellites to drop out of their orbits.



Over the past year, the European Space Agency's Swarm constellation – which measures magnetic fields around Earth – started dropping in the atmosphere ten times faster than before.

"In the last five, six years, the satellites were sinking about two and a half kilometres [1.5 miles] a year," Anja Stromme, ESA's Swarm mission manager, told Space.com.

"But since December last year, they have been

SEE PAGE 6 COL 7

UGC clamps down on rag day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The University Grants Commission put restrictions on celebrations of rag day, a day on which university students usually take last class and hold different programmes amid fanfare.

In letters to all the public and private universities, the commission asked the authorities concerned to stop all kinds of obscenity, nudity, DJ party, indecent and cruel behaviour, banned activities and bullying in the name of rag day celebrations.

"We place some

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

RECRUITMENT OF BANGLADESHIS

Malaysian ACC starts probe on 'syndication'

PORIMOL PALMA

Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has started investigation into the allegations of syndication in the recruitment of Bangladesh workers in the Southeast Asian country.

A source in Kuala Lumpur told The Daily Star yesterday that an MACC team visited the office of Bestinet, a Malaysian IT firm involved in the manpower recruitment process, and talked to its officials on the syndication.

The move comes a day after the youth wing of Malaysian political party, People's Justice Party (PKR), submitted a complaint to the MACC amid allegations that the Malaysian

government selected a syndicate of 25 Bangladeshi agencies for recruiting Bangladeshi workers.

Civil societies in Malaysia and Bangladesh and most of the recruiting agencies in Bangladesh have been opposing the idea of syndicated system for labour recruitment, arguing that it would increase the recruitment cost like that in 2016-18.

During that time, a syndicate of 10 recruiting agencies controlled the labour recruitment from Bangladesh, and the cost for a worker went up to Tk 4 lakh, which was initially set by the government at Tk 39,000 and then increased to Tk 160,000.

The then Malaysian government

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company (Pvt.) Ltd.
(A JOINT VENTURE OF BANGLADESH POWER DEVELOPMENT BOARD (BPDB), BANGLADESH, AND NTPC LIMITED, INDIA)

INVITATION FOR BID FOR
PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF 8.0 MMT OF IMPORTED COAL AT PLANT JETTY (CDP) FOR
2X660MW MAITREE SUPER THERMAL POWER PROJECT
AT RAMPAL, DISTRICT-BAGERHAT, KHULNA DIVISION, BANGLADESH
(International Competitive Bidding)

IFB No.: BIFPCL/MSTPP/COAL/8.0MMT/886
DATED : 04.07.2022

Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company (Pvt.) Limited (BIFPCL) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders in Single Stage Two Envelopes (Envelope-1: Technical Proposal and Envelope-2: Financial Proposal) for Procurement and Delivery of 8.0 MMT of Imported Coal at Plant Jetty (CDP) for the aforementioned Project.

Bidding Document shall be available for sale and download from **06.07.2022, 10:00 Hrs. (BST) to 07.08.2022, 17:00 Hrs. (BST)**. Pre-Bid Meeting shall be held on **08.08.2022** commencing at **11:00 Hrs. (BST)**.

Last date for submission of Bids shall be **27.09.2022** upto **11:00 Hrs. (BST)** and Technical Proposal shall be opened at **11:30 Hrs. (BST)** on **27.09.2022**.

Cost of bidding document is BDT 50,000 or USD 550 and shall be payable in the form of Demand Draft or Pay Order or through Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT).

For Qualifying Requirements, Scope of Work, availability of Bidding Document, and other details, please refer to detailed Invitation for Bid available at www.bifpcl.com; www.bpdb.gov.bd; www.ntpc.co.in; and www.cptu.gov.bd or may contact the office of the undersigned. For all other details, may please visit the website www.bifpcl.com.

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