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SC allows Ashiyan housing project on 33-acre area

But scraps 2016 HC verdict that declared the project legal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday allowed Ashiyan City Development Ltd to carry on with its housing project on 33 acres of land near the Dhaka airport.

The SC's Appellate Division, however, scrapped a 2016 High Court verdict that, in a review petition, had declared the Ashiyan City's housing project was legal.

A six-member bench of the Appellate Division, led by Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan, disposed of two appeals filed by the government and eight rights organisations against the HC verdict.

The SC did not disclose its observations yesterday. Those will be known after the full text of the judgement is released.

The five other judges of the bench are Justice Burhanuddin, Justice M Enayetur Rahim, Justice Md Ashfaqul Islam, Justice Md Abu Zafar Siddique and Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim.

Additional Attorney General Sk Md Morshed said that while Ashiyan City can run its housing business, it cannot go beyond the 33 acres of land as per the SC verdict.

Ashiyan City's lawyer Raghib Rauf Chowdhury told this correspondent there is no legal bar for his client's company to carry on with the project in line with the judgement.

Meanwhile, rights organisations' lawyer Minhal Haque Chowdhury told The Daily Star that Ashiyan City can now run its housing project

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

IRI, NDI to send US team to observe polls violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Republican Institute (IRI) and the National Democratic Institute (NDI) will deploy a joint team to Bangladesh to conduct a limited technical assessment of electoral violence conditions before, during, and after the country's January 7, 2024 parliamentary elections.

The team will include five long-term analysts who will stay in Bangladesh for six to eight weeks, according to a press release of NDI issued yesterday.

This deployment follows a joint pre-election assessment mission (PEAM) that IRI and NDI conducted from October 8 to 11, 2023. The observations from the PEAM informed the structure and scope of the technical assessment, which will be conducted in accordance with the laws of Bangladesh and consistent with the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation, which was endorsed in 2005 at the United Nations.

The technical assessment will include a thematic analysis of different types of election violence, including inter and intra party violence, violence targeting women and other marginalized groups, and online harassment and threats, as well as the role of state institutions in addressing these types of violence.

The assessment will seek to evaluate the drivers and implications of election

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

Israel, Hamas agree to four-day truce

Hostages, Palestinian prisoners to be freed under deal; aid flowing into Gaza to be ramped up

AGENCIES

Israel's government and Hamas yesterday agreed to a ceasefire in Gaza for at least four days to let in aid and release at least 50 hostages captured by Hamas fighters in exchange for at least 150 Palestinians jailed in Israel.

The first truce in a brutal near seven-week-old war, reached after negotiations mediated by Qatar, was hailed around the world as a sign of progress that could ease the suffering of Gaza's civilians and bring more Israeli hostages home.

Israel said the ceasefire could be extended further, as long as more hostages were freed. The official start time for the truce is expected to be announced within 24 hours, with the first hostages to go free today.

A statement by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said 50 women and children would be released over four days at a rate of at least 10 per day. Beyond that, the truce could be extended as long as an additional ten hostages were freed per day.

It made no mention of the release of Palestinian detainees, but Israel's justice ministry published a list of 300 names of Palestinian prisoners who could be freed.

Hamas said the initial 50 hostages would be released in exchange for 150 Palestinian

women and children held in Israeli jails. The truce deal would also allow hundreds of trucks of humanitarian, medical and fuel aid to enter Gaza, the Palestinian group said in a statement.

US President Joe Biden, French President Emmanuel Macron, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, British Foreign Secretary David Cameron and UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, among others, welcomed the deal.

"We welcome the temporary ceasefire agreement reached by relevant parties," China's foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning told a regular briefing. EU chief Ursula von der Leyen said she has ordered her European Commission to step up aid deliveries to Gaza.

Qatar's chief negotiator in ceasefire talks, Minister of State at the Foreign Ministry Mohammed Al-Khulaifi, told Reuters the truce meant there would be "no attack whatsoever. No military movements, no expansion, nothing".

Since the Israeli offensive began on October 7, over 14,000 Gazans have been killed, around 40 percent of them children, according to medical officials in the territory.

Meanwhile, Israeli military yesterday said it intercepted a cruise missile fired towards the south of the country.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Foreign secy to discuss polls with 90 ambassadors

Leaves for Delhi today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen has said he will discuss the upcoming national election with ambassadors of 90 countries stationed in India during his visit to New Delhi tomorrow.

The secretary told reporters at the foreign ministry yesterday that he would travel to the neighbouring country to hold the Foreign Office Consultation (FOC) with his Indian counterpart Vinay Kwatra.

The 90 ambassadors will be informed of Bangladesh's commitment to a free and fair election and the preparations of the Election Commission, he said.

Besides, he will also let them know that the deadline for applying to be election observers has been extended for foreigners, he said.

It will be a scope for us to campaign for Bangladesh's candidature on the International

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

SHIP BREAKING
Bangladesh accounts for half the world's total



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh scrapped nearly half of the ships scrapped worldwide over the last quarter, according to a report by NGO Shipbreaking Platform.

All shipbreaking accidents, which happened between July and September this year, also took place in Bangladesh.

The quarterly report published yesterday said 111 ships were dismantled across the world during this period, including 54 in Bangladesh.

India was a distant second, having broken 29 ships, while Turkey scrapped 14 ships.

Four accidents occurred globally in the last quarter, and all those happened in Bangladesh. Three of those resulted in deaths.

On September 19, Nazam Uddin, 33, a worker of NB Steel, died after he fell from a ship, said the report. The ship named Adriatic Energy was owned by South Korean company Sinokor.

On September 17, Harunur, 39, died after

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6



Cops search the backpack of a woman at the entrance to the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court in Old Dhaka yesterday. Security has been stepped up in and around the court after a crude bomb went off in the area on Monday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

MORE NEWS

BCB sees activity but plans still cloudy

P11

Pak top court accepts Imran's plea for bail

PAGE 7

FBCI demands extension of tax return filing deadline

B1

BANGLADESH-INDIA FRIENDSHIP POWER COMPANY (PVT.) LIMITED
(A JOINT VENTURE OF BPDB, BANGLADESH AND NTPC LIMITED, INDIA)

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INVITATION FOR BID
OPEN TENDER ENQUIRY (Domestic Competitive Bidding)

Date: 22/11/2023

Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company (Pvt.) Ltd. (BIFPCL) invites bids from eligible bidders in Single Stage Two Envelopes (Envelope-1: Technical Proposal and Envelope-2: Financial Proposal) for the following package and details:

IFB No	BIFPCL/OTM/Site C&M/2023/110
Name of Package	PROCUREMENT OF DOUBLE LAYERED SAFETY NET REQUIRED FOR 2X660 MW MSTPP, RAMPAL, BAGERHAT.
Tender Fee	BDT 1000/- (BDT One Thousand only)
Tender Security	BDT 34,700.00 (Taka Thirty-Four Thousand and Seven Hundred only)
Tender document Sale Period:	From 23.11.2023 (Thursday) (10:00 Hrs. (BST) to 07.12.2023(Thursday) (17:00 Hrs. (BST)
Last Date for submission of pre-bid Query	On 04.12.2023 (Monday) (at 17:00 Hrs. (BST)
Last Date & Time for submission of Bid (Technical + Financial)	Up to 21.12.2023 (Thursday) till 11:00 Hrs. (BST)
Bid Opening Date & Time (Technical Bid only)	On 21.12.2023 (Thursday) at 11:30 Hrs. (BST)

If the tender opening day is declared as holiday by the Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Bid will be opened in the next working day.

For Qualifying Requirements, Scope of Work, availability of Bidding Documents and other details, please refer to detailed "Invitation for Bid" available at www.bifpcl.com or may contact the office of the undersigned. For all other details, may please visit the website: www.bifpcl.com.

(Md. Ziaur Rahman)
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