

Australia foreign minister arrives today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong arrives in Dhaka on a two-day visit



today to deepen the bilateral cooperation, including trade and investment, and to find practical solutions to shared challenges such as climate change, regional maritime security and smuggling.

This would be the first leg of her regional visit before Singapore aimed at advancing Australia's interests in a peaceful, stable and prosperous Indian Ocean region.

The visit by Penny Wong undertakes the first visit to Bangladesh as Australia enhances its engagement with the Indian Ocean region.

In Dhaka, she will meet with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Foreign Minister Hasan Mahmud and other government officials, she said in a statement yesterday.

Australia and Bangladesh have significant people-to-people links, with over 50,000 people in Australia born in Bangladesh. The two-way trade now stands at around US\$ 4 billion.

Penny Wong will also travel to Cox's Bazar, where she will see how Australia's humanitarian assistance is delivering practical support to displaced Rohingya and Bangladeshi host communities.



This electric pole is located on the middle of an approach road to a bridge on a canal in Char Montaj union of Patuakhali's Rangabali upazila. Despite construction work being completed six months back, the pole is yet to be removed.

PHOTO: STAR

Electric poles in the middle of road!

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

In an instance of unplanned development work, two electric poles are standing in the middle of an approach road to a bridge on a canal in Char Montaj union of Patuakhali's Rangabali upazila.

The Local Government Engineering Department took the initiative to construct the 66-metre bridge on the canal and its 350-metre approach roads at a cost of Tk 6.5 crore to facilitate communication from Char Lakshmi and Char Margaret villages to the union parishad office, said sources at LGED's Rangabali upazila office.

Although the construction work was completed by the contractor around six months back, the poles of Rural Electrification Board were not removed from the road. As

such, vehicles are plying amid risk.

"During daytime, we can use the road without problem. However, at night, especially when there is no electricity, the poles are not visible in the dark and we have to use the road amid risk of accidents," said Alauddin, a local easy-bike driver.

"Recently, there was an accident due to the electric poles standing in the middle of the road when an easy-bike collided with it," said Md Nasir Uddin, assistant teacher of Char Montaj Siddiquia Dakhil Madrasa.

Abu Samsuddin, chairman of Char Montaj union parishad, said, "The authorities concerned have been urged to remove the poles from the road."

Contacted, Jamal Hossain, contractor of the project, said the REB office was requested to remove the poles before the construction

work began, but they did not take any step to this end.

"Also, there was no allocation for removing the poles in the tender, so we had to complete the work without removing those," he added.

Md Habibur Rahman, engineer of LGED in Rangabali upazila, said, "REB's Bhola office is responsible for electricity supply and maintenance in Char Montaj union. They have been contacted and efforts are on to remove the electricity poles."

Contacted, Md Kawsar Ahmed, assistant manager of South Aicha REB sub-zonal office in Bhola, said he was not aware of the matter.

"Removing the electricity poles will take time. Contractors have to be appointed through tender. Steps will be taken in this regard after receiving LGED's letter," he added.

Form 10th wage board soon

Demands BFUJ

BSS, Dhaka

Leaders of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists yesterday demanded the formation of the 10th wage board immediately.

They placed the demand before the Information and Broadcasting Ministry in a meeting held at Jatiya Press Club.

BFUJ President and Chief News Editor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha Omar Faruque chaired the meeting, said a press release.

Speakers recalled that the prime minister gave instructions to form the 10th wage board during a BFUJ conference held on November 2, 2023, at JPC.

Awami League, in its election manifesto-2024, also pledged to form the wage board soon, they said, adding that the directive is yet to be implemented."

They vowed that they would take to the streets soon to realise their demands.

Monitor markets

FROM PAGE 3

determining the salaries of the chief election commissioner (CEC) and election commissioners (ECs).

The cabinet has given the final approval of the draft -- "Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Remuneration and Privileges), Act, 2024".

This law is being made by amending the existing ordinance.

The cabinet secretary said the CEC will receive a

salary of Tk 105,000, and other ECs will receive Tk 95,000 each.

According to the existing ordinance, the CEC receives the same salary and benefits as a judge of the Appellate Division, and the ECs receive the same salary and benefits as judges of the HC Division.

Mahbub Hossain said in the proposed law, instead of such provisions, specific salaries have been set. They will also receive other related allowances and benefits along with this salary.

BR to buy 200

FROM PAGE 3

project approval. Given the 36-month contract period, the project deadline of June 2026 is likely to be extended.

Zaidul Islam blamed the delay in appointing a project director, consultants and getting approval from the European Investment Bank, which will provide Tk 1,331.19 crore as soft loan.

The Dhaka-Jashore rail line via the Padma Bridge is going to open in July, but BR may not be able to reap the full benefit of the expensive project soon, mainly due to shortages of manpower and carriages.

Speaking at the programme, BR Director General Sarder Shahadat Ali said they have decided to operate new trains in the southern destinations with the new carriages.

Railways Minister Zillul Hakim said the 200 carriages will give much respite as BR has been suffering from a carriage crisis.

Currently, BR has a total of 621 BG carriages, of which 37 percent of them has expired economic life, shows BR data.

PRAYER TIMING
MAY 21

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:05	12:45	5:00	6:40	8:00
JAMAAT 4:40	1:15	5:15	6:45	8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Exclusive South Facing Apartment for Sale @ Mohakhali DOHS.
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INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITY, BANGLADESH (IUB)
VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Lab Manager
Department of Media and Communication
School of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences

Application Deadline:
Monday, June 3, 2024

For detailed information and to apply, please visit:
<http://iub.ac.bd/news-and-events/jobs-at-iub>
or scan the QR code

Invitation to submit proposals for two Request for Proposals (RFPs) issued by UNICEF Bangladesh

RFP No. LRPS-9190318 For conducting systematic field monitoring of UNICEF programme interventions in Cox's Bazar under a Long-Term Arrangement (LTA) for a period of 24 months, with possible extension for another 12 months.

UNICEF Bangladesh is inviting interested companies with a strong track record and professional credibility in providing the above-required services under the contract. To receive the detailed scope of work and procedure to submit the bid response, please email to supplybangladesh@unicef.org

The pre-bid meeting schedule and bid submission deadlines are mentioned in the respective bid document.

Please note UNICEF does not charge any fee at any stage of the solicitation process.

www.unicef.org/bangladesh

unicef for every child

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, সওজ
সড়ক বিভাগ, নাটোর

ফোনঃ ০২৫৮৮৮৭১২৭০, ফ্যাক্স: ০২৫৮৮৮৭৩৮১০
e-mail: eenat@rhd.gov.bd/rhdnatore@gmail.com

স্মারক নং- ৩৫.০১.৬৯০০.৪৫৩.৯৯.০৪৪.২১.১২৫৬(৮) তারিখঃ ১৯/০৫/২০২৪খি:

গণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, সড়ক পরিবহন ও সেতু মন্ত্রণালয়, সড়ক পরিবহন ও মহাসড়ক বিভাগ, সম্পত্তি শাখা'র স্মারক নং- ৩৫.০১.০০০০.০২৩.১৮.০০৯.২৪-১১১ তারিখঃ ১৬-০৫-২০২৪খি: এর নির্দেশনা মোতাবেক নাটোর সড়ক বিভাগের আওতাধীন সড়ক ও জনপথ অধিদপ্তরের ভূমিতে স্থাপিত রিফুয়েলিং স্টেশনের (প্রবেশপথ সহ) ইজারা এবং ব্যক্তি মালিকানাধীন ভূমিতে স্থাপিত রিফুয়েলিং স্টেশনে যাতায়াতের প্রবেশপথের ভূমির ইজারাদার ২০২২-২০২৩ পর্যন্ত ইজারা নবায়ন করেননি তাদেরকে জুন, ২০২৪ এর মধ্যে সকল বকেয়া ইজারা মাশুল সহ পরিশোধ করে নবায়নের প্রয়োজনীয় ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

১৯-০৫-২৪
(মোঃ কামরুল হাসান সরকার)
পরিচিতি নং- ৬০২৩১২
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (চলতি দায়িত্ব), সওজ
সড়ক বিভাগ, নাটোর।

Buses run wild as cops

FROM PAGE 3

Mehedi Zaman, a resident of Senpara Parbata adjacent to the Mirpur-10 intersection.

Surprisingly, Rabbi and Riaz, staffers of two passenger buses that operate on the Pallabi-Jatrabari route, also blamed the unruly bus drivers.

Drivers block the road to pick up passengers, causing constant tailbacks in all directions, they said. Despite traffic police presence, officials ignore these violations for "unknown reasons", they added.

Mehedi Zaman and Abdullah Al Mamun, residents of the Senpara area, echoed them.

During a visit to Mirpur-10 intersection, this correspondent found the busy intersection gridlock-free around 2:00pm yesterday. No buses were allowed to stop at the entry or exit points of the intersection.

The reason for this became clear a few minutes later when Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Habibur

Rahman passed through the roundabout in his official vehicle.

Traffic Inspector Bimol Saha, however, denied taking special measures for the jam-free road on that occasion.

He also denied the allegations that on-duty traffic officials are not doing enough.

Asked about random bus parking in front of the Mirpur BRTA, he said they regularly take action against those who park vehicles there.

Explaining the constant gridlock, he said thousands of commuters come to Mirpur-10 to catch buses and to avail metro rail service. Buses of 21 routes pass through the intersection.

Moreover, there is no active bus bay for picking up and dropping off passengers. Jaywalking and operation of rickshaws in the area also contribute to the gridlock, he added.

Locals also said they faced less congestion when the busy intersection was off limits to rickshaws and rickshaw vans.

Mohammad Sagar, a driver of a bus that plies on the Pallabi-Motijheel route, refuted the allegation against bus drivers, claiming that they stop buses at the side of footpaths.

Instead, he blamed the congestion on pedestrians.

"Thousands of people cross the busy road on foot despite using the over bridge, making it difficult for vehicles to cross the intersection," he said.

Md Jashim Uddin, deputy commissioner (Traffic) of Mirpur Division, however, blamed everyone except themselves for the gridlock.

"When buses, CNG, rickshaws and other vehicles get a chance, they block the exit points causing the traffic jam," he said.

"The situation has improved recently. We are taking measures," he told The Daily Star.

প্রধান প্রকৌশলী (পূর্ব) এর কার্যালয়
বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে,
সিআরবি, চট্টগ্রাম-৪০০০।

ই-জিপি টেন্ডার নোটিশ

ফোন: +৮৮০৩১২৮৩০১২, ই-মেইল: cee@railway.gov.bd

তারিখ: ১৯.০৫.২০২৪ খ্রি।

১. প্রকৌশলী (পূর্ব), বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, কর্তৃক National Electronic Government Procurement Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd/>) এ নিম্নলিখিত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা হয়েছে:

ক্র. নং	টেন্ডার রেফারেন্স নং	Tender আইডি নং	ক্রয়ের ধরন ও কাজের নাম	দরপত্র পদ্ধতি	দরপত্র সাবমিটের তারিখ ও শেষ সময়
১.	xenprocure/ste-tender/23-24/109	987122	Works: At Kamalapur Railway Station, Dhaka: Finishing of platform No. 06 & 07 with paver brick and other related work at Kamalapur Station, Dhaka.	OTM (NCT)	20-Jun-2024 12:00 PM

১. শুধুমাত্র ই-জিপি সিস্টেমে নির্ধারিত eligibility পরীক্ষারী পুনরায় দরপত্র আহ্বান করা হয়েছে।
২. দরপত্রের অংশগ্রহণের জন্য দরপত্র দলিল ও দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী বাবদ অর্থ নির্ধারিত থাকবে।

S(24)(131)

GD-833

Office of the KAKONHAT POURASHAVA
Godagari, Rajshahi
Website: kakonhatpourashava.com
Email: kakonhatpourashava555@gmail.com
Phone: 01731426282, 01772818192

Memo No. 46.00.8155.000.14.014.155 Date: 20.05.2024

e-Tender Corrigendum Notice

Corrigendum is made in the following tender in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd/>) for the procurement stated below:

Tender ID	1st Corrigendum	
	Tender last selling date & time	Tender closing and opening date & time
978463		
978464	26/05/2024 at 16.00	27/05/2024 at 11.30
978465		
978468		

The Qualification criteria in TDS related to corrigendum will be published in e-GP Portal. Tenderers are requested to pay careful attention to TDS Qualification criteria ITT Clause No. 10.1 & 11.1 in the e-GP website prior to submission of the tender.

All other terms and conditions of the tender document will remain unchanged. This corrigendum notice will be the part and parcel of the tender document. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd/>).

Abul Hasan Mohammad Saifullah
Assistant Engineer
Kakonhat Pourashava, Rajshahi

GD-826

World Health Organization Bangladesh

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

The World Health Organization in Bangladesh invites proposals/bids from the interested Companies in Bangladesh for the following service:

- RFP/BAN/2024/017:** Workshop with Stakeholders for Strengthening Road Crash Data Management System in Bangladesh.
Deadline for the submission of RFP: **14:00hrs, 02 June 2024 (Dhaka time).**
- RFP/BAN/2024/018:** Scaling-up the initiatives of post-crash response to reduce mortality and morbidity due to road traffic injuries in Bangladesh.
Deadline for the submission of RFP: **14:00hrs, 04 June 2024 (Dhaka time).**
- RFP/BAN/2024/019:** Development of public health awareness communication strategy to reduce dietary salt/ sodium intake in Bangladesh.
Deadline for the submission of RFP: **14:00hrs, 04 June 2024 (Dhaka time).**
- RFP/BAN/2024/020:** Development of National Dietary Salt/Sodium Reduction Strategy and Roadmap in Bangladesh.
Deadline for the submission of RFP: **14:00hrs, 02 June 2024 (Dhaka time).**

Interested Companies can view and download the relevant RFP documents from: <https://www.who.int/bangladesh/about-us/procurement-notice>.

Interested bidders are requested to submit their financial and technical proposals in two separate sealed envelopes as per the instructions provided in the RFP documents at the Reception of WHO Bangladesh, House-SW(1)1/A, Road-8, Gulshan-1, Dhaka.