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Dhaka-Ctg Railway Development

Consultancy deal with Canadian firm signed

Japan bank to provide Tk 778.07 crore as project aid for Tk 1150 crore project

Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Railway (BR) and Canarail Consultants Inc of Canada yesterday signed a consultancy agreement under a railway development project to improve the quality of Dhaka-Chittagong railway service.

Emdadul Haque, general manager of Dhaka-Chittagong Railway Development Project, and Terence Marie Trottier of Canarail Consultants Inc signed the agreement on behalf of their respective sides at the Rail Bhaban in the city.

Communication Minister Syed Abul Hossain was present on the occasion.

Japan Bank of International Cooperation (JBIC) will provide Tk 778.07 crore as project aid for Tk 1150 crore Dhaka-Chittagong Railway Development Project while Tk 371.93 crore will be funded by the government.

The project has five components including doubling of tracks between Laksam and Chinki Astana, improvement of Pahartali railway workshop, remodeling of Chittagong station yard, procurement of locomotives and skill development programme.

The consultancy service has been estimated at Tk 127.90 crore.

Canada-based consultancy firm Canarail Consultants in joint venture with SMEC International Ltd of Australia and DB International GmbH of Germany will accomplish the consultancy tasks of survey, design and drawing for the project.

ACE Consultants Limited of Bangladesh and Dainichi of Japan will act as sub-consultants.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, the communication minister said the government would make all-out efforts to infuse dynamism in railway services.

"We are working for bringing dynamism in the railway which was missing during the previous years," he added.

Replying to a question, the minister said construction work will be awarded through international tender.

He told the journalists that the government has massive plans to improve the railway sector including opening of Chittagong-Cox's Bazar railway line to connect the country with Trans-Asian Railway.

About the Padma Bridge, Abul Hossain said the government would keep the railway connectivity over the bridge so that the rail line could be extended to Barisal and Mongla seaport.

"We will request the Jica, ADB and World Bank to provide financial assistance for the project," he added.

Replying to another question, he said the government has also a plan to build Padma Bridge II connecting Paturia in Manikganj with Gopalganj