

THIRD KARNAPHULI BRIDGE Ctg mayor ready to talk with govt

CU CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury yesterday said he is ready to sit for a discussion with the government over the construction of Third Karnaphuli Bridge.

"If the government stops its move for constructing a pillar-based bridge over the river Karnaphuli and invites me through a formal letter to discuss the issue, I would join the discussion," he said.

The mayor was addressing a press conference organised by Nagorik Committee Chittagong on the issue at CCC auditorium.

He alleged that the government in a planned way to destroy the country's premier seaport has decided to construct the pillar-based bridge.

As the third bridge was one of the top election-pledges of the four-party alliance, they are trying to take benefits from the people of South Chittagong in the upcoming national election by starting the construction work of the bridge at the eleventh hour, the mayor observed.

"We need a bridge on the Karnaphuli but we also want to

make it sure that it must be a suspension bridge," he said.

The mayor threatened that if Communication Minister Nazmul Huda, who is scheduled to address a rally organised by the Third Karnaphuli Bridge Execution Committee at Laldighi Maidan, does not cancel the decision for constructing pillar-based bridge they (mayor) would resist the move at any cost.

"If he (Huda) cancels the move, we would provide all kinds of help to construct the bridge," said the mayor.

Mohiuddin also reiterated his decision to file a case with the High Court in next ten days against the implementation of pillar-based bridge over the river Karnaphuli.

He denied the allegation against him of making a conspiracy to obstruct the development of Chittagong.

Chittagong city Awami League General Secretary Inamul Haque Danu, Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) city unit President Shah Alam, Gono Forum city unit President M Kafil Uddin and Prof Saber Ahmed of Jatiya Party were present at the press conference.

Two newborn babies found dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered bodies of two unidentified newborn babies from Labagh and Shyampur in the city on Monday night.

Identity of the babies could not be known immediately.

On information by the local people, police recovered body of a baby boy from the dustbin at Bakshi Bazar in the city at around 11:30 pm.

Another baby was found dead in the drain at around 7:30pm wrapped in cloth at Shyampur Shashan Ghat area in the city.

Both the bodies have been sent to Sir Salimullah Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Youth stabbed to death in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A gang of criminals stabbed a youth to death at Pallabi in the city on Monday afternoon.

The victim identified as Muktar Hussain, 30, was stabbed inside a saloon at Morapara camp in Pallabi at 3:00pm.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he later succumbed to his injuries.

Previous enmity might have been the reason behind the murder, said police sources.

The victim's wife filed a murder case in this connection with Pallabi Police station.

Over 5000 Bangladeshis studying in Australia

Education exhibition begins in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than 5000 Bangladeshis students are studying in Australia and the High Commission continues to receive huge number of student applications, said officials at the Australian Education Exhibition that began at a city hotel yesterday.

With a view to showcasing the wide range of opportunities and potentials in Australia's education system and providing first-hand information to a variety of students exploring opportunities for study in Australia, the Australian Trade Commission of the Australian High Commission and IDP Education Australia jointly organised the two-day fair.

The Australian High Commissioner Douglas Foskett inaugurated the exhibition, which was also attended by Minhaz Chowdhury, country manager and Mostafizur Rahman of Australian Trade Commission and Sharif Rahman, director of IDP Education Australia.

In his speech, the Australian High Commissioner said, "Australia appreciates the fact that Bangladeshi students and their families have recognised the merit of Australian education. Australian education is also highly competitive when the costs of other popular student destinations are compared".

Currently, Australia offers international students some 25000 courses delivered by more than 1100 universities, training colleges and schools, while majority of Bangladeshi students showed interest on courses in "Business Studies", "Telecommunication" and "Electrical Engineering".

Eighteen leading Australian Universities and Vocational Institutes are taking part in the education exhibition including Swinburne University of Technology, Cornell Institute of Business and Technology, Monash University, The University of Melbourne and TAFE NSW.



PHOTO: STAR
Women and children form a human chain in the city yesterday protesting killing of children in Lebanon in Israeli attacks. Workers' Party of Bangladesh organised the protest.



PHOTO: STAR
Arakan League for Democracy forms a human chain in front of the High Court in the city yesterday demanding immediate release of Aung San Suu Kyi and restoration of democracy in Myanmar.

Release of Suu Kyi demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

South Asian People's Union Against Fundamentalism and Communalism, Forum for Secular Bangladesh and Arakan League for Democracy yesterday demanded immediate release of Myanmar's National League for Democracy (NDA) leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

The demand came at a combined rally of the three organisations held in front of the High Court in the city with National Prof Kabir Chowdhury in the chair.

Earlier, they formed a human chain to press their demands.

A total of 21 socio-cultural and rights organisations and professional bodies as well as leaders from different political parties took part in the human chain. Later they went to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and submitted a memorandum.

Addressing the rally, Prof Kabir said it is our moral responsibility to support democracy in Myanmar, as we cannot allow killings, repression and torture by the dictatorial forces.

The rally expressed solidarity with the people of Myanmar who have long been agitating for restoration of democracy.

Justice KM Sobhan, Journalist Shahriar Kabir, Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon, Arakan League for Democracy President Khaing Sun Loon, former president of Supreme Court Bar Association Advocate Mahbube Alam, Samillato Samajik Andolon General Secretary Advocate Tobarak Hossain, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal leader Shirin Akther, Convenor of Secular Unity, Bangladesh Prof Shamsul Arefin Khan, Ragib Ahsan Munna, Prof Muntasir Mamun, Anwara Syed Haque, Artist Hashem Khan and Writer Syed Shamsul Haque also spoke on the occasion.