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CONSTRUCTION, REPAIR OF 6 BRIDGES

Tk 1,400cr saved as mega project meets deadline

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Setting a rare example, the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) has completed a mega project on time, saving around Tk 1400 crore.

Under the project, three new bridges were constructed and three old bridges on the Dhaka-Chattogram highway were repaired. The project authority had completed the construction of the new bridges on the Shitalakkhya, the Meghna and the Gumti rivers within May last year and completed repair work of the old bridges by December last year.

The project, titled “Kanchpur, Meghna and Gumti 2nd Bridge Construction and Existing Bridges Rehabilitation Project” had a deadline of December 2019.

“We have completed all work within the deadline and will hand them over to the RHD through a programme tomorrow (Sunday),” Project Director Abu Saleh Md Nuruzzaman told The Daily Star yesterday.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, Road Transport and Highway Division Secretary Nazrul Islam, RHD Chief Engineer Ashraful Alam and

Japan’s High Commissioner in Dhaka Ito Naoki are expected to join the programme at the Meghna bridge site, he added.

As per the Development Project Proposals (DPP), the cost of the project was set at Tk 8,486.94 crore, of which Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) was supposed to provide Tk 6,429.29 crore.

“But after completion of all work, project cost stood at Tk 7,098.73 crore, meaning we have saved around Tk 1,388 crore,” Nuruzzaman, also an additional chief engineer of RHD, said.

Asked about the reasons behind this success, Nuruzzaman said “Timely implementation of the project was the key.” Additionally, proper planning by the Japanese and steps taken by the government helped complete the work on time, he added.

RHD Chief Engineer Ashraful Alam said preparation at construction and planning stages by the Japanese was well ahead of time.

“Besides, they [the Japanese] were also involved in design, funding and implementation level, which helped

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Tired of scavenging the ruins of her home since daybreak, Romiza lies down on a discarded poster on the ground in the afternoon to take a little rest. The domestic help in her 50s said her family lost almost all their belongings in the fire that broke out at T&T slum in the capital's Banani early yesterday. At least 200 shanties were damaged rendering hundreds of low-income people homeless. Story on page 3.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

DELHI ASSEMBLY POLLS

Exit polls predict huge AAP victory

AFP, New Delhi

Millions in the Indian capital voted yesterday in a key regional election, with exit polls suggesting a big defeat for right-wing Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was a distant second behind the upstart Aam Aadmi Party, or Common Man's Party, led by former tax inspector Arvind Kejriwal, according to exit polls released after voting ended.

An average of nine exit polls showed Kejriwal's party was likely to win at least 52 out of 70 seats.

“We are winning by a huge margin,” tweeted Manish Sisodia, the deputy chief minister of Delhi.

Federal Home Minister Amit Shah, who had campaigned vigorously for BJP highlighting his tough stance on national security, called a meeting of party members late yesterday. The party is predicted to improve its 2015 tally and projected to win 6-14 seats.

Congress, which before AAP ruled the state, may draw a blank, according to the exit polls.

Earlier in the day long lines had formed

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

‘Launch war on poverty, hunger’



A 6-member shipping delegation from London calls on Bangabandhu on February 9, 1972.

FEBRUARY 9, 1972
SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

WORKERS, VANGUARD OF THE SECOND WAR

Bangabandhu calls for “committing ourselves to a strategy of total mobilisation of our resources, human and material.”

In a press statement, he says that the war of liberation ended in the historic victory of the people. “Today we have to launch another war, the war against poverty, hunger, homelessness, disease and illiteracy.”

The Prime Minister notes that the first condition in this war of rebuilding the country's economy is that “our industries must go into full production.”

He calls upon the workers to form the vanguard of the “second war” and to make four commitments to the task of national

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Girl gang-raped in Gazipur

STAR REPORT

A Gazipur court yesterday sent four young men to jail on charges of gang-raping a girl in Cherag Ali area of Tongi on Friday night.

The suspects were arrested at the scene of the crime, thanks to prompt response of police, said Jahidul Islam, officer-in-charge of Tongi Police Station, reports our correspondent in the district.

Truckers Nayan, 18, of Munshiganj; Shahab Uddin, 20, of Barishal; Babu Mandal, 20, of Jamalpur; and Tofazzal, 19, of Mymensingh, had admitted raping the girl on the flatbed of a truck around midnight, he added.

Grieving family members said the girl and her younger brother were coming home from a wedding by an auto-rickshaw around 11:45pm when the four men stopped them at Haque

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World's biggest 3D printed building opens in Dubai



MAIL ONLINE

The world's largest 3D printed building has officially been completed in Dubai.

The two-story 6,900 square foot structure will be used as an office for general administrative functions by the Dubai Municipality.

It was designed in collaboration with Apis Cor, a 3D printing and construction company in Boston.

While there is a taller 3D printed building in the world, a five story apartment building Suzhou, China that tops 90 feet, the Dubai building has the largest square footage, according to Singularity Hub.

The building was erected on a pre-cast concrete foundation, atop which the 3D printer built up hollow walls using a fast-drying mixture of recycled

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Man brutally murdered in Bogura

He tried to blackmail woman, say police

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

A man was killed and his body set on fire allegedly for blackmailing a woman in Bogura's Dupchanchia upazila on February 4, police said yesterday.

The dead, Selim Pramanik, 32, was from Khidirpara village in the upazila.

Police recovered the charred body with its throat slit from a paddy field on February 5, said Ali Ashraf

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PRAYER TIMING FEBRUARY 9

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5:30 12:45 4:15 5:52 7:15
JAMAAT 6:05 1:15 4:30 5:56 7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Take to the streets to oust govt

Dr Kamal urges all
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Oikyafront Convener Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday urged all to take to the streets as part of a movement to bring down the government.

“No more indoor meetings. We will hit the streets together” he said at a meeting at the Dhaka Reporters Unity.

Oikyafront, a platform of several opposition parties, organised the programme to press for BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's release from jail.

Khaleda landed in jail on February 8, 2018 after a lower court sentenced her to five years' imprisonment in the Zia Orphanage Trust graft case. Yesterday was the second anniversary of her imprisonment.

“Taking to the streets we have to say that democracy will prevail in the country and it will be run according to the constitution,” said Kamal, also the president of Gonoforum.

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Instead of waiting for the iron bars to go up, pedestrians duck under it at the level crossing near Dhaka Airport Station. The photo was taken on Friday. Story on page 2.

PHOTO:
ANISUR RAHMAN

Thai soldier kills at least 20 in mass shooting

The shooter still at large

AFP, Bangkok

Dozens of terrified shoppers were evacuated from a Thai mall early yesterday as armed police said they had “taken control” of the ground floor of the complex from a gunman who killed at least 20 people.

But authorities did not give any firm details on the whereabouts of the attacker - a junior army officer named Sergeant-Major Jakrapanth Thomma.

There were fears the shooter could try to hide amongst the panicked crowds.

Police from the Crime Suppression Division urged fleeing shoppers to “raise their hands” and identify themselves on the ground floor “and authorities will evacuate you.”

Earlier Jakrapanth relayed his shooting spree through Facebook posts which charted the attack from an army barracks to the mall where an unknown number of shoppers remained trapped.

Hospitals across the country braced for a grim night ahead.

“There are about 20 dead,” Kongcheep Tantravanich, defence ministry spokesman said.

“Police, military commandos and sharp shooters are surrounding Terminal 21,” he said.

The Thai Health Minister told reporters around 10 people were already in hospital in a “serious condition.”

The bloodshed began yesterday afternoon when Jakrapanth shot three people -- among them at least one soldier -- at an nearby army barracks.

“He stole an army vehicle and drove into the town centre,” police Lieutenant-Colonel Mongkol Kuptasiri.

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