■ Metropolitan ■

Proposed Ashuganj-Bhairab bridge Land acquisition got underway

NARSINGDI, Apr 23: Acqui-sition of land for the proposed Ashuganj-Bhairab bridge got underway after three and a half years of laying of the foundation stone, reports APB.

Foundation of the bridge was laid by the then prime minister of the country in 1995.

Local people and engineers believe that the foundation stone of the bridge was laid as a political stunt. No feasibility study or acquiring of land was undertaken before laying of the foundation, they said.

Sources said soil testing has already been completed. Brahmanbaria Land Department has been asked to acquire some 37 acres of land.

Meanwhile, Kishoreganj district administration has also been asked to acquire the required land on the other end of the bridge site.

The land acquisition is ex-

next few months, the sources

Experts are of the opinion that the completion of the work on the bridge would take the country yet another step ahead in road infrastructure devel-

opment. With the completion of the bridge, people of Brahmanbaria, Habiganj, Moulvibazar, Sunamganj and Shayestaganj will be better connected with the capital city of Dhaka as well as with the country's northern districts.

This would also bring to an end ferry service system in the road communication of the eastern zone of the country. Consequently the importance of the river ports of Ashuganj and Bhairab will be greatly en-

The bridge will have a net length of 837 meters. The 18.8metre wide bridge will have four

Khoka protests felling of trees at Osmany Uddayan

By Staff Correspondent

Dhaka city BNP convenor Sadek Hossain Khoka has strongly protested the felling of trees at Osmany Uddayan.

In a statement yesterday, he said this Uddayan has been contributing to beauty as well as maintaining a green environment in the city's busiest Gulisthan area. People from far and near have also been using this Uddayan for relaxation and entertainment, but a certain quarter has long been conspiring to destroy it, he added.

As parts of an evil design, Khoka said the quarter has started cutting of trees to occupy the land. He urged the authorities concerned to immediately stop of cutting of trees and to take steps to save this Uddayan.

(What's on today)

Seminar: A seminar will be held to discuss the findings of "A Study to Identify the Risk Factors Affecting Nutritional Status of Adolescent Girls in Bangladesh." Chief guest: Prof M Amanullah, State Minister for Health and Family Welfare. Venue: Sasakawa auditorium, ICDDR, B. Time: 9:00 am.

Board meeting: The inaugural ceremony of the 13th session of the executive board meeting of the Asian Federation of UN-ESCO Clubs and Associations (AFUCA) will be held. Chief guest: Lt General Muhammad Noor Uddin Khan, Minister for Science and Technology. Venue: Parjatan Hotel Abakash, Mohakhali. Time: 10

Meeting: The weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held jointly with the Rotaract Club of City Central and Rotaract Club of Warie. Venue: Family Lounge, Dhaka Club Ltd. Time: 1:30 pm.

Meeting: A meeting of the Executive Committee of Bangladesh Sangbadpatra Karmachari Federation will be held. Venue: Ittefaq Binodon Sangha. Time: 4:00 pm.

Film show: Two films of Satyajit Ray "Jalsaghar" and "Apur Sansar" will be screened as part of the Retrospective of Satyajit Ray's films. Organisers: Indian High Commission and the Rainbow Film Society. Venue: Indian Cultural Centre auditorium. Time: 5:00 pm.

General meeting: The monthly general meeting of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh will be held. Venue: Seminar room of the society at 5, Old Secretariat Rd, Ramna. Time: 5:00 pm.

Memorial meeting: A memorial meeting will be held on the occasion of the 3rd death anniversary of M A Huq. Chief guest: Mohammad Nasim, Minister for Home, Post and Telecommunications. Venue: Sufia Kamal auditorium, National Museum. Shahbagh. Time: 6:00 pm.

Opposition trying to stop development efforts: Tofail

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed was yesterday highly critical of some opposition parties who, he said, are trying to stop the current development efforts when the government is working hard to make Bangladesh a country of dignity in the 21st century, reports UNB.

"They hatched an evil design to stop development by hartal and destruction," he said.

Tofail said: "Because of political differences, we are in different parties. But all should have a single objective when it comes to development of the country and the nation."

Inaugurating a day-long pro-gramme marking the Alumni Day '98 of IBA Alumni Association at Hotel Sonargaon, the minister called upon all concerned to refrain from any acts that may harm the country's trade, investment and development.

"Bangladesh is now a prospective country for investment. A number of foreign companies are now functioning in the country and many more also coming to invest," he said.

Terming Bangladesh as resourceful with human and nat-

BAES symposium May 15-18

The national symposium of Bangladesh Agricultural Exten-sion Society (BAES) will be held on May 15-18 in Mymensingh instead of April 18-21, reports

The 4-day symposium titled "Agricultural Extension Service in 21st Century: Demand and Challenge" will begin at 9 am at the Jainul Abedin Gallery of Bangladesh Agricultural Uni-

ural resources, he said: "We have a bright prospect. But all of us irrespective of opinions will have to work together to achieve the goal."

The commerce minister praised the country's business community and young generation, saying they are very talented. "Only money is not enough for trade," he said, adding talents and skills are also needed.

He said: "Our businessmen in garments and other sectors have proved they are very capable. Given necessary support, they can compete with any other country of the world." The minister said the pre-

sent government has extended all supports to the private sector and entrepreneurs. "We don't want to control anything, rather we are always ready to extend our hands of coopera-

Explaining different aspects of the industrial policy, he said it aims at achieving economic growth by rapid industrialisation. The target is to raise the contribution of industrial sector in national growth 25 per cent from 10 per cent within a decade.

The function was also addressed by Foreign Investor's Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) president AKM Shamsuddin, Institute of Business Administration (IBA) director Prof Nurur Rahman, Alumni Association president M Habibur Rahman Khan, vice president M Nurul Haq Majumdar and M Nurul Alam.

₩Weather

Dry weather likely

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur in the regions of Bogra, Pabna, Comilla and Noakhali and at one or two places over Sylhet and Dhaka divisions with isolated hails at places till 6 pm today.

reports UNB. Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country during the period, Met Office said.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period. The country's highest temperature 38.7 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and the lowest 24.4 degrees at

Sitakundu and at Maizdi Court. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:24 pm and rises tomorrow

at 5:29 am. Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded

in some major cities and towns today were: City/Town Temperature Humidity in in Celsius percentage Min Morning Evening Max 26.7 35.5 Dhaka 72 78 76 75 33.8 25.8 Chittagong 38.7 Rajshahi 27.0 Khulna 36.0 26.6 35.2 25.2 Barisal Sylhet 26.0 80 35.6 Cox's Bazar

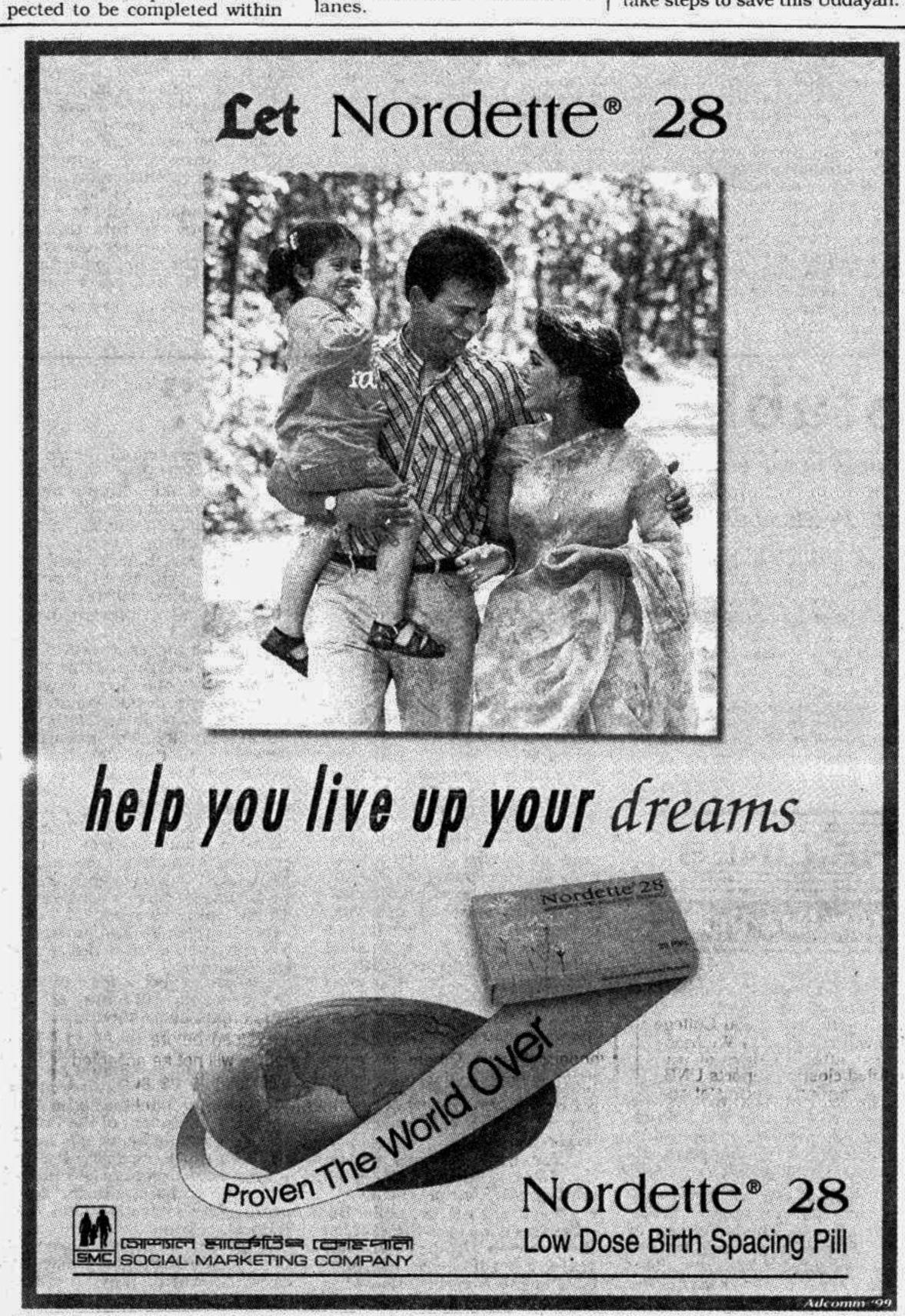
Cultural festival of Theatre Art concludes

A two-month long cultural festival of Theatre Art concluded yesterday, reports UNB. State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hassan Chowdhury attended the concluding function at Mahila Samity auditorium at Bailey

The programmes of the festival included staging drama and ballet show in Dhaka, Chittagong, Comilla, Pabna and Bhairab.

A total of 13 Theatre organization from home, one from Calcutta and a Russian ballet troupe took part in the festival.

During the festival, Theatre Art held two seminars on the prospect and evaluation of theatre in Bangladesh. It will organize seminars on unity and differences of group theater movement and other issues in the future, said a press release.





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