



PHOTO: STAR

Visitors at an exhibition of clay ornaments by artist Shahidul Hasan that began at Zainul Art Gallery, Fine Arts Institute, yesterday.

## Rupsha bridge likely to be in place by May next

UNB, Dhaka

Major work of the bridge over Rupsha river will be completed by September and the entire project, including access roads, will be completed by May next year.

Roads and Highways Department officials told this at a meeting to review the progress of the project in Khulna recently. Chief representative of Japan Bank of International Cooperation (JBIC) Tsutomu Uchida was present at the meeting.

The 1.4-km Rupsha bridge is being constructed with the financial assistance from JBIC at a cost of Tk 607 crore.

The JBIC provided about 62 percent of the project cost amounting to Tk 374 crore while the government will bear the rest of the cost.

The bridge will provide a direct road link between Khulna and Mongla and shorten the distance between northwestern and southwestern regions of the country.

After completion of the bridge, Mongla seaport will be connected with the rest of the country.

Besides, the bridge will facilitate transportation of transit cargo to landlocked Nepal and Bhutan from Mongla port.

## Manusher Jonno launches website

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Manusher Jonno (MJ), a civil society initiative, has launched its website recently for people who are interested to know more about its activities.

The website, [www.manusher.org](http://www.manusher.org), will provide detailed information about the MJ, its activities and funding opportunities.

The MJ supports initiatives of NGOs and other organisations aimed at promoting human rights and improved governance, says a press release.

Its initiatives are designed to empower poor people, strengthen their ability to raise voice and represent themselves as well as change the status quo that perpetuates poverty and discrimination.

The MJ provides financial and technical support in the following areas: rights of children and women, rights of socially excluded and marginalised people, including ethnic and religious minority, access to justice and improving processes of governance and institutions, including state organisations.

The MJ is implemented through a consortium comprising Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), Care-Bangladesh, Care-UK, Deloitte & Touche Emerging Markets and London School of Economics.

However, this initiative funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) is designed to become an independent trust by January 2006.