

Khilgaon Flyover may miss fourth deadline

Bridge at Dhanmondi, road at Agargaon included in the project without approval

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The much-awaited Khilgaon Flyover, already running two years behind deadline, may miss the fourth deadline for completion, as building of a bridge at Dhanmondi and a road at Agargaon have been included in the main project in an apparent violation of the approved design.

After missing three deadlines — February 2003, June 2004 and December 2004, Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) set afresh June 2005 for opening the flyover to traffic.

But officials fear further delay because of the inclusion of a bridge on Dhanmondi road No. 4 and construction of Agargaon road in the project without seeking expert

opinion.

The flyover construction began in September 2001.

"I do not understand how a bridge at Dhanmondi and a road at Agargaon have been included in the Khilgaon flyover project. Do Dhanmondi and Agargaon have direct link with the flyover?... it is gross violation of the plan," said a high official of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives, seeking anonymity.

Ministry officials said the construction of the flyover may not meet the fresh deadline with the gradual inclusion of new components in the original design.

The LGED has sought Tk 2.60 crore for construction of the bridge at Dhanmondi and Tk 1.40 crore for

the road at Agargaon. But the Local Government Division (LGD) has objected to the construction of the bridge and road and asked the LGED to drop them.

The officials said the LGED could take up two separate projects, if need be, for construction of the Dhanmondi bridge and Agargaon Road.

According to the LGD officials, the estimated project cost of the flyover has shot up to Tk 81.84 crore from Tk 74.50 crore. They said the LGED has already spent Tk 41.37 crore until June 2004 and no-one knows how much money would eventually be spent on the project and how many other components would be included.

LGD officials said the LGED

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50 structures bulldozed along Buriganga in two days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) in the last two days bulldozed over 50 illegally built structures, mostly dwellings, on the banks of River Buriganga between Kamrangirchar and Lalbagh.

The two-day drive against the illegal encroachment ended yesterday.

A BIWTA official yesterday said the drive, in fact, was a continuation of the previously run five-day drive in July this year. After levelling 199 out of 250 illegal structures detected at different parts of the riverbanks, the July drive had to be postponed for the devastating flood, the official said.

The district administration aided BIWTA in carrying out the demolition job.

The BIWTA official said Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) is to construct an embankment stretching from

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Workers of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority bring down unauthorised installations on the bank of the river Buriganga at Kurarhaat in Kamrangirchar yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

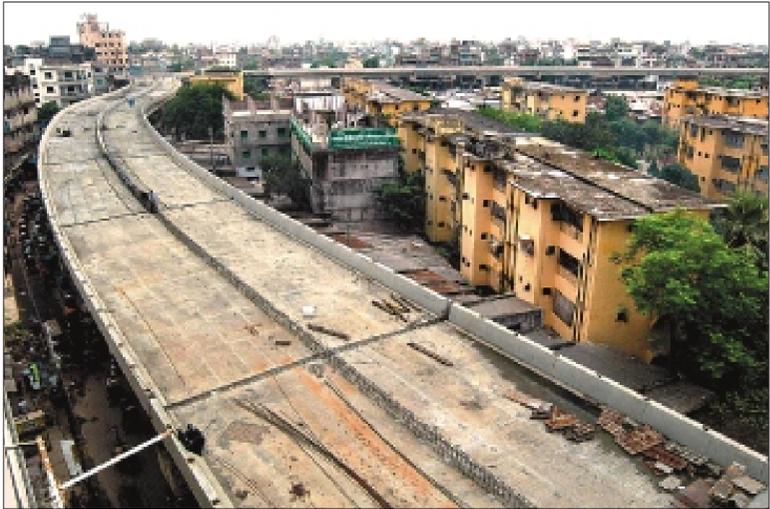
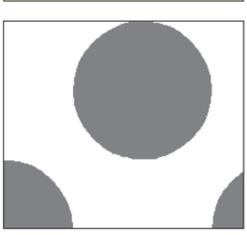


PHOTO: STAR

In the dark... No-one knows for sure when authorities, having missed three deadlines, will complete Khilgaon Flyover and open it to traffic.

Sehri-Iftar			
Ramadan	Oct	Sehri	Iftar
1	16	4-37	5-35
2	17	4-37	5-34
3	18	4-37	5-33

Prayer Timing		
October 16		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-37	4-42
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-35	5-40
Esha	7-15	7-45



7 killed, 25 injured as bus overturns in Comilla

UNB, Comilla

Seven people, including four women, were killed and 25 others injured when a bus overturned on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Jagarhuli in Sadar upazila at midnight on Thursday.

Police said the accident occurred as a wheel of the ill-fated bus, carrying the followers of Majibbandar Sharif in Chittagong, burst and another bus rammed it from behind.

Five people died on the spot and two others at Comilla Medical College Hospital.

Four of the dead are Shahjahan Bepari, Rubela Begum, Zahura Begum and Sadia. Identity of a woman and two others could not be

known. Of the injured, 16 were admitted to Comilla Medical College Hospital, while others given first aid.

All the dead and injured were returning home in Fariapur and Madaripur after visiting Majibbandar Sharif.

BSS adds: Ten people, including two women, were injured in a road accident at Miarhat on the Chittagong-Kaptai highway under Raosan upazila of Chittagong district yesterday morning.

Police and witnesses said the accident took place when a truck collided with a Chittagong city bound passenger bus at about 10:00am.

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Drug peddler killed in police custody

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A man, who was arrested with 450 bottles of phensidyl in a car at Paturia ferryghat early Thursday, died in police custody yesterday morning.

The arrestee was identified as Abdul Mannan, 40, of Darshana College Road under Damurhuda Police Station of Chuadanga district.

Acting on a tip-off, Paturia river police halted the Savar bound car from Darshana at the ferryghat at about 2:15am and seized the contraband drug worth over Tk 50,000. They arrested car passenger Abdul Mannan, but the driver managed to flee.

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Ctg dockworkers' strike disrupts cargo handling for 8 hours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Cargo handling at Chittagong port was disrupted for eight hours yesterday as dockworkers refrained from duties to protest activities of a stevedoring firm suspended by Bangladesh Master Stevedores Association (BMSA).

The dockworkers resumed work at 4:00pm after a meeting with Chittagong port authority (CPA), sources said, adding that the two sides will sit again today to settle the matter.

The BMSA had earlier suspended RA Chowdhury Ltd. for what it said was anti-organisational activities in stevedoring at the port.

CPA Director (traffic) Kazi Momen said the trouble erupted as RA Chowdhury Ltd. did not employ anyone from the dockworkers' union. "We're trying to resolve the problem to ensure uninterrupted stevedoring," he added.

Officials of the RA Chowdhury Ltd. were not available for comments.

US strikes kill 8 Iraqis in Fallujah

Car bomb blast leaves another dead in Baghdad

AFP, Baghdad

US ground troops advanced on the Iraqi rebel bastion of Fallujah yesterday after a night of deadly air assaults, while a Baghdad car bombing killed a civilian in a bloody start to the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

The nation's capital was reeling after Iraq's most wanted man Abu Mussab al-Zarqawi claimed two bomb blasts in its once impenetrable Green Zone, home to the US embassy and Iraqi government, that left at least five people dead.

Eight Iraqis were killed and 23 wounded in air and artillery strikes, which were unleashed on Fallujah late Thursday, medics in the city said.

Before dawn, 1,000 US group troops, along with tanks and Iraqi special forces, rumbled toward Fallujah in a bid to flush out Zarqawi, said to be the top al-Qaeda operative in Iraq, after attempts to ham-

mer out a truce collapsed.

"Units are pushing forward... Their mission is to disrupt the enemy's ability to conduct terror attacks in this area of operations, specifically in the city of Fallujah... They'll do whatever it takes to accomplish that," said marines spokesman Lyle Gilbert.

The deployment was the biggest around Fallujah, the epicentre of the insurgency, since last April when marines and rebels battled to a draw in the community of 200,000 people, leaving it in the hands of radical Islamists for months.

Gilbert declined to say if the troops had yet entered the rebel bastion, but a storming of the city loomed after Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi said Fallujah should surrender. Zarqawi, a Jordanian-born fighter with a 25-million dollar price on his head, or face a military assault.

Adding to the tensions, a senior religious figure from the rebel

stronghold, Sheikh Mahmud Abdel Aziz, called for protests over the US operations and warned of "holy war" if the onslaught continued.

"If following these actions, the government and occupying forces fail to cease their offensive, the Muslims will declare jihad (holy war) and a general uprising against all foreign forces and their collaborators."

A senior member of a Fallujah delegation involved in the truce talks, Sheikh Khaled Hamoud, was reportedly arrested by US troops at a mosque near the city but the US military denied he was detained.

Hamoud's colleague, Sheikh Abdul Hamid Jadu, who announced his arrest, said the delegation had been close to working out a deal that would allow Iraqi forces back to the city and extend amnesty to some elements of the insurgency, before Allawi ordered them to hand over Zarqawi.

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Warne breaks Murali mark

AGENCIES, Madras

Australia's Shane Warne became the all-time leading wicket-taker in Test cricket when he had night-watchman Irfan Pathan caught at slip by Matthew Hayden in the second Test against India here on Friday.

The Indian was the leg-spinner's 533rd victim and he overtook his Sri Lankan off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan whose record he equalled on Thursday at the Chepuk stadium.

Warne achieved the feat in his

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Cable service provider gunned down in city

Muggers stab schoolboy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unknown criminals yesterday gunned down a cable service provider at IG Gate in Shyampur while muggers stabbed a schoolboy and snatched a gold chain from him in Sutrapur.

Abdul Mannan, proprietor of the Buriganga Dish Satellite, was at a local drugstore when up to five youths entered there and sprayed him with bullets at about 10:45am.

Mannan, 45, who took eight bullets in various parts of his body

including head and chest, was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) by his relatives only to be declared dead by the on-duty doctors.

"Moments after the gunshots, I rushed to the medicine shop and found my father lying in a pool of blood," Mannan's son Billal Hossain, who was near the scene when the incident happened, said.

Mannan's wife Parveen Akhter said rivalry for cable business might have led to the killing.

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PHOTO: STAR

Relatives of cable service provider Abdul Mannan, inset, mourn his killing by unknown assailants at Shyampur in Dhaka yesterday.