



Construction of the third Buriganga bridge in Basilka continues day and night. The picture was taken on Friday evening.

3RD BURIGANGA BRIDGE

Govt decides to build approach road

KAUSAR ISLAM AYON

The government has in principle decided to construct an approach road from the Rayerbazar embankment to Satmasjid Road to facilitate movement of vehicles from the city to the 3rd Buriganga Bridge at Basila, official sources said.

The officials said they will start a field survey soon for the road. Based on that survey report, the government will ascertain how much land is needed for the road and acquire the land accordingly.

"The approach road will not be more than 1.5 km long from the Rayerbazar embankment to BRTC bus terminal on Satmasjid Road, but this will make the bridge efficient, enabling the vehicles to run to and from the bridge easily," said an official of Roads and Highways Department (RHD).

He also said they have decided to construct the road as straight as possible.

The officials said they are

hopeful of getting funds for the approach road from the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, the funding authority of the bridge.

The probable end of the approach road at Satmasjid

The probable end of the approach road at Satmasjid Road is now occupied by a powerful syndicate which has built a concrete multi-storeyed market recently, demolishing the tin-shed market there. The entire market is on the public land

Road is now occupied by a powerful syndicate which has built a concrete multi-storeyed market recently, demolishing the tin-shed market there. The entire market is on the public land.

"The government is determined to go for bold action

needed to complete the approach road and it would demolish any structure creating obstacles to the road," said the RHD official.

Meanwhile, piling work for the bridge is now going in the river.

crore. This will be the third bridge on the river Buriganga that will connect the capital with its outskirts.

"The progress of the bridge project is more than satisfactory. We are hopeful to complete it before December 2009, the fixed time for the project," said Muzammel Haque, project director (PD), 3rd Buriganga Bridge.

He however said they are facing some problems with the encroachers in the project area. "We will evict them as soon as possible from the government land," said the PD.

The bridge on the south-western side of the capital would extend the city. It will also facilitate the development of the west bank of Buriganga as an industrial zone.

In addition to connecting a vast area in Keraniganj and parts of Savar area, the third Buriganga Bridge would facilitate creating two more routes as alternatives to Mawa road in the west and Savar road in the east.

The 705-metre long and 10-metre wide bridge will be constructed at Basila in Mohammadpur at a cost of Tk 48

Coldest winter in years

Weathermen forecast more cold wave to hit city late January

RAIHAN SABUKTAGIN

Last week was the coldest for dwellers of Dhaka in recent years as spells of cold wave enveloped the whole country. The children, the elderly and the working class of the city suffered the most during this time.

The department of meteorology predicts more cold wave to hit this metropolitan later this month -- between January 20 and January 25.

The cold wave this year arrived early in the month of January and continued till January 10, said the meteorology department. The coldest days were experienced between January 4 and January 7.

"If the temperature dips below 10 degrees Celsius and stays below 10 for at least 24 hours, we call the situation a cold wave. This definition of cold wave is only applicable for Bangladesh," said Abdul Mannan, a weather forecaster officer at the met office.

On January 3, the maximum temperature of Dhaka was 23

The last time the difference of minimum and maximum temperatures reduced so sharply was in 1997 when the difference was also near 7 degrees Celsius. Mannan added, saying, "When such incident occurs, people feel more cold."

According to Mannan, the new spell of cold wave might hit Dhaka between January 20 and January 25.

Sardar Faruque, a physician, said children and the elderly are most likely to suffer from diarrhoea and pneumonia if they are exposed to low temperatures for a long duration of time.

Productivity at work would also be decreased under such conditions as extreme cold might cause cardiovascular and respiratory problems, he added.

During the cold wave, the less privileged working class -- construction workers, domestic helps or the CNG auto rickshaw divers -- suffered immensely.

These groups of people had no other option but to be exposed to the bone-chilling cold as their work involves handling metals, water or driving in an



A laborer and his children take a break in a park on a chill winter day.

degrees Celsius and the minimum temperature was 11 degrees. On January 4, the maximum temperature dropped to 18 degrees while the minimum temperature also fell and stayed near but below 10 degrees. "When the difference of maximum and minimum temperature reduces, the sensation of cold is intensified for all living beings, Mannan explained.

The difference of minimum and maximum temperatures increased on January 5, improving the situation a little bit, as the minimum temperature decreased and maximum temperature increased. Maintaining the same gap, both minimum and maximum temperatures further increased on January 6.

But on January 7, the maximum temperature suddenly took a nosedive and hit below 19 degrees Celsius. The difference between the minimum and maximum temperatures on that day was only 7 degrees Celsius.

open vehicle in the unbearable cold weather.

Aminur Rahman, a worker at an aluminium window installer at Mirpur, said, "The metal (aluminium frames) was too cold to touch and my group could do little work on those cold days."

He said other construction workers also had a very difficult time during the cold spell as they had to handle iron rods and water.

A CNG auto rickshaw driver, Helal, said, "It is really difficult to drive in such conditions." Besides, "my income also reduced as fewer number of passengers hired CNG auto rickshaws during the cold wave."

Ashiqur Rahman, owner of four CNG auto rickshaws said the cold wave affected him financially as well. He had to collect less money in daily deposits from drivers because all his drivers made less money since they could not bear to drive in the cold for a whole day.

city express

The latest crop of quotes from the city's press -- words worth repeating, we feel, for their humour, insight or sheer outrageousness. Star City does not necessarily support the opinions expressed in this column.

"How will you change the constitution?"

-- Justice Mahfuzur Rahman
Acting Chief Election Commissioner

Said when reporters asked whether polls can be held after the fixed 90-day period of the caretaker government if all the parties agree, on Monday. Source: The Daily Star

"Who says drugs are widely available? If it is so, then why are we here?"

-- An official of Department of Narcotics Control

Told a reporter denying easy access of drugs to youngsters, on Sunday. Source: The Daily Star

"What kind of duty you have in emergency? There is nothing to write in emergency. Go home before afternoon finishing your duty"

-- Kamruzzaman

Assistant Police Commissioner (AC, estate)

Told reporters who went to Police Control Room to collect curfew pass, on Friday. Source: Dhaka Rajjo

"Advisers do not read the constitution."

-- MK Anwar

Vice Chairman, BNP

Told reporters, on Monday. Source: Dhaka Rajjo

"Besides, children slip on ramps and young boys practice skating, which causes accidents so we did not build it for safety"

-- TIM Latiful Husain

Resident Director, Bashundhara City Development Ltd.

Told a reporter when asked why they did not build ramps in front of the shopping mall for physically challenged citizens, on Saturday. Source: The Daily Star

"In a blink of an eye, even before I could realise what was happening, the picketers set my CNG ablaze while I was still stuck inside"

-- Abdul Halim

A CNG autorickshaw driver badly burnt by picketers during blockade enforced by the grand alliance

Told reporters while slipping in and out of consciousness frequently at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, on Monday. Source: The Daily Star

"Instead of light, he [president and former chief adviser Iajuddin Ahmed] gifted the nation darkness"

-- Abed Khan

Editor, Daily Shomokal

Said at a conference on 'Transparency in the Election Process' organised by Odhikar at Spectra Convention Centre in the city, on Tuesday. Source: The Daily Star

"I will try to manage jobs for your candidates in SESDP [Secondary Education Sector Development Project]. Ask them to contact me very soon"

-- Abul Fazal Belal

System Analyst, Secondary Education Support Programme

Told a reporter when he pretended to request him for two candidates, on Monday. Source: The Daily Star

"What can be done to have the story killed?"

-- An official of Orion Group

Said over phone to The Daily Star about the story of Oriental Bank's majority shareholder and chief of Orion Group Obaedul Karim's siphoning off Tk 596.60 crore from 2003 through a unique 'Adjustable Blocked Account' created by the bank, on Thursday. Source: The Daily Star

"The Supreme Court (SC) can only explain the ambiguity in the constitution. But there is no ambiguity in the issue of holding the election in 90 days and there is no need to seek SC's explanation"

-- Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan
BNP Secretary General

Said at a press briefing at Hawa Bhawan, on Sunday. Source: The Daily Star

Compiled by: Durdana Ghias

KHOKA'S CORNER

The picture was taken from Gulshan Badda link road where Power Grid Company of Bangladesh (PGCB) started to dig up the 3.3 km road in October 2006 to lay cables for a sub-station in Gulshan 1. To the suffering of thousands of motorists and pedestrians the work has been virtually 'abandoned' leaving the road dangerously exposed to accidents. The trench is about 1.8 meters deep and about 1.2 metres wide. The work should have been completed by December.



DUG UP AND ABANDONED

SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN