

PADMA BRIDGE

Choose Dohar-Bhadrasan site to save Tk 10,000cr

Speakers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday called on the government to construct Padma Bridge at Dohar-Char Bhadransan site instead of Mawa-Jajira site to save at least Tk 10,000 crore.

"The government should reconsider its decision of constructing the Padma Bridge at Mawa-Jajira site, because it will cost more Tk 10,000 than Dohar-Char Bhadransan site," they said.

The speakers said this at the roundtable on 'Government planning for construction of Padma Bridge and national interest' organised by Centre for Studies in Social Transmission at the National Press Club in the city.

Presenting a keynote paper, engineer Md Enamul Haque, former director general of Water Development Board and coordination of the centre, said, "If the bridge is constructed at Dohar-Char Bhadransan site, it will require 35 kilometre

highway from Hemayetpur to Dhaka and 15 kilometre highway from Talma to Faridpur to be linked with the bridge which may cost an additional amount of \$75 million. But it will save Tk 10,000 crore during total construction process."

According to a study of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the length of the bridge at Mawa-Jajira site would be 6.2 kilometre and it would cost \$1.074 million, he said, adding that on the other hand, the length would be at 5.5 kilometre, costing \$966 million at the Char Bhadransan site.

Referring the Char Bhadransan site, he said hard soil of the left side and hard point, constructed by Water Development Board, on right side of the site would really be suitable for construction of the bridge, which is absent at Mawa-Jajira point.

He also opined for constructing another two kilometre hard point in Dulshara area, the left part of the site, and strengthening the existing hard point of Haziganj at Char Bhadransan, the right part

of the site, to make the site perfect.

Enamul also viewed for constructing 1.5-kilometre guide embankment on both sides of the bridge.

He presented some positive aspects of the bridge at this site, including ensuring more security of the bridge by controlling the course of the river, avoiding the Mawa-Jajira, the most erosion-hit site, and resolving disputes between the people of south and south-western parts of the country.

The former WDB director general criticised some studies of JICA regarding the site selection process and blamed the company for unveiling some incorrect and inadequate information to the government and the countrymen 'intentionally'.

Prof Sirajul Islam, president of the centre, chaired the meeting, while Ahmed Kamal of Dhaka University, Anwar Parvez, former chief engineer of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), and engineers Shahidullah and Anisur Rahman were present at the roundtable.



Ambassador of the Netherlands Bea Ten Tusscher calls on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleida Zia at her Gulshan office in the city yesterday.

Govt firm to implement RTI Act: PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government is committed to implementing the Right to Information (RTI) Act which will ensure the welfare of the poor, marginalised and disadvantaged people.

"Our greatest enemy is poverty and we must work together to eliminate it. I know that right to information at the right time helps the poor to ensure their welfare. I want to see this law works for the poor and disadvantaged people," said Hasina in a

message to the inaugural session of the two-day conference on 'Right to Information: Law, institutions and citizens' at Sheraton Hotel in the city.

The prime minister was the chief guest of the conference but she could not attend it due to unavoidable circumstances.

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, who attended the function as chief guest, read out the message which also said, "My government has enacted the law and is committed to implement it to establish a corruption-free

public administration and ensure the rights of common masses."

She said no law is perfect at the initial stage but it becomes perfect gradually.

"Let us not be too critical about the law at this stage. I urge you to uphold the spirit of the law and start implementing it with positive attitude," she added.

Hasina hoped that the law will help improve the image of Bangladesh in the comity of nations as a country committed to setting up a transparent and accountable governance system.

'Form National Peace, Security Commission'

BSS, Dhaka

Leaders of some non-government organisations (NGOs) yesterday urged the government to form a constitutional and independent 'National Peace and Security Commission' to clamp down illegal arms, terrorism and militancy in the country.

The NGOs, including Bangladesh Development Partnership Centre (BDPC), Bangladesh Network on Small Arms (BANSA) and South Asian Alliance for Poverty Alleviation made this demand at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) in observance of the 'Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence-2009'.

The week ended yesterday in participation of hundreds of organisations and thousands of people in 80 countries across the world. These organisations earlier submitted memorandums to the prime minister, foreign minister, law minister and the home minister as part of their weeklong programmes.

Sharif A Kafi, director of BDPC, Prof Dr Rashid-e-Mahbub, former president of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) and country representative of South Asian Alliance for Poverty Alleviation, Rubina Yasmin of BANSA, Noor Jahan Khanam and Mizanur Rahman also demanded to constitute a peace commission for South Asia.

The leaders of the NGOs urged the government to invest more in the sector and enhance the allocation in the budget for creating employment. They demanded to the government to introduce one-way education system and bring the madrasa education under the same system.

They also urged the government to ratify the newly signed Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) proposed by the United Nations to stop illegal trade and smuggling of small arms.

Sharif A Kafi, in his written speech said that the government should formulate a national plan of action in line with the UN sponsored programme to stop smuggling, illegal trade and use of small arms.

He also demanded formation of a regional taskforce and pragmatic approach regarding the same issue among the South Asian countries.

Obituary

METRO DESK



Afroza Jamal, wife of SM Jamal and the youngest daughter of late Khan Shaheb Kazi Rezwanullah.

Khan of Tala, Sathkira, passed away due to a cardio respiratory failure on June 20, says a press release.

Her quikhwani will be held at House # 11/Gha, Road # 02 at Shyamoli in the city after Asr prayers tomorrow.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Halder, court correspondent of The Daily Star, says a press release.

On the occasion, recitation from the Geeta, Kirtan, discussion and a prayer session will be held at her village home at Nayakandi Bajitpur in Rajoir under Madaripur district.

Qulkhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Qulkhwani of Shila Yasmin, wife of late Nurul Momen, former secretary to the government and mother of Shakil Ahmed, managing director of Apex Leather Crafts, will be held at her residence in Gulshan in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

The year 1999 marked the start of our journey in AKS.D with you. We crossed many hurdles and faced many challenges. Now as you leave us and our school, we have not only memories but also the values you instilled in us. Ten years is not enough.



Mr. George G. Kays
Head of School
The Aga Khan School, Dhaka

From students and homeroom teachers of class 9 (2008-2009)

Programmes to observe Roth Jatra

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh unit of International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) has chalked out a nine-day programme to observe Roth Jatra, a religious programme of the Hindu community.

The representative of ISKCON informed newsmen about the programmes at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity in the city yesterday.

See Moth Kirtan Das Bramhachari, former president of the organisation, read out a written statement at the press conference.

The programme which includes discussion and procession will be inaugurated on June 24.

On the first day of the programme, following a discussion the Roth Jatra, a colourful procession, will be brought out from ISKCON temple and will end at Dhakeshwari Temple marching different street in the city.

On July 2, concluding day of the programme, a return procession will be started from Dhakeshwari Temple and will end at ISKCON temple marching the similar streets.

Satta Ranjan Baroi, president of the organisation, and Sree Charu Chandra Das, Secretary of the organisation were present at the press conference.

Chevron gets blood donor award

METRO DESK

Chevron Bangladesh received the third highest blood donor award "in recognition of their extraordinary support in the field of voluntary blood donation" for 2008 at a function in Dhaka recently, says a press release.

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society organised the function marking the World Blood Donor Day. Similar event was also arranged in Sylhet.

In the Sylhet region ceremony, commemorative crests were presented to Chevron's Bibiyana gas plant, the highest blood donor in the Red Crescent Sylhet region, and Jalalabad gas plant, the second highest donor in the Sylhet region.

The employees of both the gas fields donated 174 and 100 bags of blood respectively. The employees of Chevron facilities donated 493 bags of blood in 2008.

Chevron Bangladesh Dhaka office joined the Red Crescent Society to arrange a voluntary blood donation drive to celebrate the "Gift of Blood" campaign on the occasion of World Blood Donor Day on June 15.

Directory of Comilla to be published

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Greater Comilla History, Heritage Preservation Foundation has taken an initiative to publish a directory with the profiles of established personalities of the district, who are living in Dhaka.

Interested persons are requested to submit one copy of passport-size photograph and profile to the following address: 60/C, Purana Paltan (4th floor) Dhaka-1000.

Don't get panicked about swine flu Says health minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Health Minister Prof AFM Ruhul Haque yesterday reassured people that there is no need to get panicked about swine flu as the person who was detected with the virus is getting well and no further case has been detected in the last three days.

The minister said the man is kept isolated and he is receiving treatment. Cautionary measures have also been taken to resist spread of the virus.

"What is needed most for the people is to be more cautious. If anyone develops flu-like symptoms, he or she should be taken to the physician," said the minister.

He was talking to reporters following the inaugural ceremony of the 4th International Congress of the Society of Laparoscopic Surgeons of Bangladesh at a city hotel.

Speaking as the chief guest, he also said that the country lacks expert physicians, including laparoscopic surgeons.

He also urged the medical practitioners and teachers to disseminate technology-based

knowledge.

President of the society Prof ANM Ziaur Rahman presided over the session while Vice Chancellor of BSMMU Prof Pran Gopal Dutta, Secretary General of the society Dr AHM Towhidul Alam, Vice President Prof Mohammad Mujibur Rahman and Treasurer Dr Zulfiqar Rahman Khan also spoke.

Focusing on the swine flu issue, the experts said that the person detected with swine flu is getting well rapidly as his symptoms have relived by this time and the test reports of his family members who came in contact of the person is also negative.

Director of Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), Prof Mahmudur Rahman said that 'Contact Tracing' is going on to check whether any other passenger of that flight have been attacked by the virus. Some 15 to 20 passengers have been identified and follow up is going on in this regard.

A 19-year-old man was detected with swine flu on Thursday who was coming back from the United States after one year.

Class timing to remain unchanged

UNB, Dhaka

Despite Bangladesh set clocks forward by an hour, class timing of country's all the educational institutions will remain unchanged according to the new time set.

"Educational institutions those used to start at 7:00am before June 19 will follow the same time (at 7:00am)," said an official release.

The government advanced the daytime by an hour from 11:00pm Friday to ease the crunch caused by power shortages and mitigate the country's energy shortfall.

It will remain that way until October.

CPB blames govt for allowing foreign co to sell gas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communist Party Bangladesh (CPB) leaders yesterday criticised the government decision on allowing a foreign company to sell gas resource to a third party instead of its own effort to do so.

CPB President Manjurul Ahsan Khan and General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim in a statement said the permission to a foreign company for selling gas to a third party has violated the Production Sharing Contract (PSC).

Due to such permission, the proven recoverable gas reserve would certainly be exhausted soon, they said, adding that it would be suicidal as well as would pave the way for them to loot the natural resources.

They also demanded steps to ensure 100 percent national ownership over the non-renewable resources like oil, gas and coal.

The demands include freeing the power, energy and mineral resources ministry from corrupt officials, including Toufiq-E-Elahi, and bringing them to book.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Chevron Bangladesh organises a blood donation programme recently. (From left) Chevron Bangladesh's Medical Supervisor Myla Sue Bodary, Director of External Affairs Naser Ahmed, Asset Development Manager Dale Brown and Red Crescent Blood Centre Dhaka Incharge Major (Retd) Dr Dilruba Yasmin were present at the programme.



Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Mild heat wave, which is sweeping over the regions of Rajshahi, Ishwardi, Jessore, Khulna, Sathkira, Chuadanga and Tangail may continue, Met Office said.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 7:49pm today and rises at 6:12am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 37.8 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chuadanga and lowest 25.1 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage
	Max	Min
Dhaka	35.5	28.2
Chittagong	32.5	26.3
Rajshahi	37.4	27.5
Khulna	36.5	28.8
Barisal	35.0	28.5
Sylhet	32.0	25.3
Cox's Bazar	33.7	26.0
	Morning	Evening
	78	64
	79	81
	79	62
	84	79
	88	88
	97	77
	73	79



Workshop

Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) organises a five-day workshop on information literacy. Venue: IUB conference room. Time: 9:00am.

Roundtable

Shujan organises a roundtable on electoral manifesto and proposed budget. Venue: Cirdap auditorium. Time: 10:00am.

View exchange meet

Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) and Health Reporters' Forum jointly organises a view exchange meeting on 'Picture warnings in tobacco packets save lives'. Venue: CAB conference room. Time: 11:00am.

Roundtable

Nirapad, Care Bangladesh and Brac University jointly organise a roundtable on 'Sustainable risk reduction in Bangladesh: Opportunities and challenges for stakeholders'. Venue: Brac Centre Inn. Time: 10:30am.

Bonsai exhibition

The inaugural ceremony of a five-day Bonsai exhibition will be held. Venue: National Museum exhibition room. Time: 3:00pm. Bangladesh Bonsai Garden arranged the event.

Minister warns educational instts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday said stern action would be taken against those educational institutions charging fees more than what the government has fixed for admission to colleges.

"If any allegation is brought against any institutions in this regard his office will take action after completing proper investigation," he told the journalists adding that all educational institutions will have to follow the rules and regulations regarding admission fees.

The education ministry

circulated a guideline for college admission for 2009-10 academic year on June 8.

As per the guideline, the admission fee for regular students is Tk 122.

Of the amount Tk 50 for registration, Tk 25 for sports, Tk 15 for Rover Scout, Tk 7 for science and technology and Tk 25 for changing department or course.

He was taken to emergency unit of the hospital and necessary tests including ECG, blood pressure and blood sugar were carried out, said his aides.

They said Delwar went to Birdem hospital at around 12noon for taking physiotherapy but as there was no electricity in physiotherapy room he went to the chamber of a physician.

After some time at the chamber, Delwar suddenly fell sick.

He has been kept at the CCU under the care of Prof Maksumul Haq.

Prize giving

ceremony held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prize giving ceremony of the art competition for children titled 'Mercantile Bank Boishakh Chhabhi Ako Josthe Prodoshoroni' organised by Patua Kamrul Hasan Art School was held at Shawkat Osman Auditorium in the city yesterday.

Arja Pritha Pramanik, 8, of Greenfield School and College became the champion in the competition.

Eminent academician Prof Mustafa Nurul Islam handed over the prizes to the winners.

Interested people and organisations can send their comments to minister@mohfw.gov.bd, secretary@mohfw.gov.bd and dgshbd@gmail.com till July 6.

Robbery at city co-operative office

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Robbers looted around Tk 8 lakh from the office of a co-operative society at Mirpur in the city yesterday.

Police said a gang of 8 to 10 robbers stormed into the office of Kingshuk at Purba Monipur in the area around 5:00pm and looted the amount.

They also looted 10 cellphone sets from the employees of the officer keeping them at gunpoint.

Police were trying to nab the robbers. No case was filed in this connection till filing this report at 9:30pm.

Draft Nat'l Health Policy available online

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The draft National Health Policy 2009 is now available on the website of health and family welfare ministry www.mohfw.gov.bd, said a press release yesterday.

Interested people and organisations can send their comments to minister@mohfw.gov.bd, secretary@mohfw.gov.bd and dgshbd@gmail.com till July 6.

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