

Flyover at Bahodderhat intersection soon

ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD

Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) will construct an flyover at the Bahodderhat intersection, the busiest entry point of the city, soon to get rid of the gridlock in the area.

The flyover, first of its kind in the port city, would connect Bahodderhat intersection to CDA Avenue, Kalurghat Road and Shah Amanat Bridge Road.

The authority would build the 1665-metre flyover at a cost of Tk 86 crore from its own fund.

Ministry for Housing and Public Works had approved the development project proposal (DPP) for the overpass on October 29, sources said. Finance ministry is expected to approve the project within a week, they said.

CDA would complete the construction in three years, said the sources.

While talking to The Daily Star CDA Chairman Abdus Salam said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will lay the foundation of the flyover during her Chittagong visit to inaugurate the 3rd bridge on the river Karnaphuli soon.

Salam said they are giving priority to the flyover project ahead of the inauguration of the 3rd Karnaphuli Bridge as with opening of the bridge, volume of vehicular movement would increase significantly.

He said purpose of facilitating a quick and smooth movement of vehicles over the 3rd Karnaphuli bridge would not be achieved without construction of a flyover over the Bahodderhat intersection, which is already marked by unbearable gridlock.

"Completion of the project would help establish a good communication linkage of the port city with South Chittagong and

Cox's Bazar," he said.

Sources said a flyover is needed as the vehicles from Kalurghat, Kaptai and Shah Amanat Bridge through as many as 17 routes of South Chittagong and Cox's Bazar are creating a serious congestion at Bahodderhat intersection.

Besides, vehicles to and from nearby Kalurghat Industrial Area also contributes to the gridlock that hampers transportation of goods and commercial activities seriously.

The flyover would not only ease traffic congestion but also save time and fuel consumption, they said.

Sources at CDA said the flyover would comprise three parts -- a two-lane section stretching from the city to Kalurghat Road, a one-lane section from Shah Amanat Bridge Road to the city and a one-lane loop from the city to the Shah Amanat Bridge Road.

The two-lane section would be 340 meter long and 9.60 meter wide. The length and width of the one-lane section from Shah Amanat Bridge to the city would be 345 meter and 6.60 meter respectively. The one-lane loop would have length of 690 meter and width of 6.60 meter.

On the middle of the flyover there would be three-lane joint location where both the sections coming from Kalurghat Road and Shah Amanat Bridge Road would meet, they said.

Length and width of the three-lane joint location would be 290 meter and 11.40 meter respectively.

The flyover would have railings and foot-paths with sufficient space in all the three sections and at the joint location.

The two-lane section and three-lane joint location would also have medians, they said.



The busy Bahodderhat intersection in the port city. The photo was taken on Sunday. A conceptual map of the flyover, inset.

ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER

Wild pig attack dashes jhum farmers' hope

SHANTIMOY CHAKMA, back from Ruma and Thanchi

Invasion of jhum crops by wild pigs in Bandarban this year dashed the farmers' hope of good yield of paddy.

The farmers, who faced food crisis due to attack of wild pigs and rat infestation last year, took all possible measures to save crops and had a good yield in their jhum farms.

But, they were about to overcome the last year's loss caused by rat when the pig attack appeared as curse this year.

Pigs in large number attack the jhum farms at night, destroying paddy as well as other crops and fruits in remote hilly areas in Bandarban.

According to farmers, marginal and landless indigenous people of Bawm, Pankhua, Lusai, Mro, Khyang, Khumi and Chak communities cultivated different indigenous varieties of jhum paddy on the hillslopes.

A total of 8458 hectares of hilly lands were brought under jhum cultivation in Ruma, Lama, Alikadam, Thanchi and Nikhiyangchhari this year.

Some 5075 hectares in Rangamati and 1000 hectares in Khagrachhari were also brought under shifting

cultivation this year. Some 14360 hectares were brought under jhum cultivation to produce 17,785 tons of crops in the three hill districts, said the sources in Additional Director's Office of Agriculture Extension Department in Rangamati.

In the farms, they also cultivated cotton, green chili, maize, pumpkin, beans and banana. However, they expected a bumper harvest of paddy.

While visiting different hilly areas of Ruma, Lama, Alikadam, Nikhiyangchhari and Thanchi, this correspondent could see a vast track of paddy fields dazzling with golden colour. Two-thirds of the paddy was ripened and ready for harvest there.

The jhum farmers were seen all in smile and harvesting paddy in happy mood. But, they just shuddered to think about the pigs feared to attack their fields at night.

In this regard, they said despite having good yield they could not harvest paddy due to infestation of rats last year. If the pigs' attack continues, the farmers will face the same fate this year, they said.

"We reap good yield of paddy in all the jhum farms this year in our areas. All the farmers like me would have bumper production to

feed on all the year round unless pigs destroy them," said Longin Mro, a farmer at Bityepara in Chimbuk.

"At least 50 to 100 pigs come at a time to eat up our paddy and other crops every night," he said.

Rengcham Karbari of Kaprupepara said, "I sowed six aris (1 aris=10kgs) of paddy on my jhum land and expect 75 mounds or rice this year if everything goes well."

Ruma upazila chairman Aung Thoaiching Marma also came up with the same complaint.

"I just feel helpless since I can hardly help prevent the pigs and save the crops," said the upazila chairman while talking to The Daily Star.

Former UP member Ching Clang Mro said the jhum farmers worked hard all the year round. But they rarely get sufficient quantity of rice every year since wild animals attack their farms very often.

AED Additional Director AKM Shafiqul Alam of Rangamati said they are trying to help the farmers to stand guard against the pigs to save crops untidely. "We just only can discuss the matter to find out ways and means since we have no logistic support to prevent the pigs from attacking the jhum lands,"



SHANTIMOY CHAKMA

Women of tribal Bomm community harvest paddy at a jhum farm on a hill slope at Baramudang under Thanchi upazila in Bandarban.

the week that was

Reception to 22 former CU teachers

Chittagong University Teachers Association (CUTA) on Monday accorded a reception to 22 former teachers who went into retirement in the last four years.

The reception ceremony was held at Social Science Faculty auditorium.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Abu Yusuf in his speech as the chief guest said the retired teachers would be remembered with honour for their contribution to building the university as a standard educational institution.

Pro-VC Dr Md Alaaddin was the special guest at the function with Cuta President Dr Mohammad Kamal Hossain in the chair.

Twenty retired teachers including Prof Muhammad Sikander Khan, Prof Dr Anupam Sen, Prof Dr Jamal Nazrul Islam, Prof Dr Muhammad Enam-Ul-Haque and Prof Hamida Banu, were present at the ceremony.

Wheelchairs distributed

Chittagong Karnaphuli Apex Club under Apex Bangladesh District-3 distributed wheelchairs among the physically challenged persons in the port city on Monday.

The wheelchairs were distributed under the supervision of Patient Welfare Society at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

CMCH Director and Patient Welfare Society President Brigadier General AKM Fariduzzaman handed over the wheelchairs as the chief guest at the function. Karnaphuli Apex Club founding president Shawkat Hossain Babul spoke at the function with incumbent President Nazmul Haq in the chair.

Karnaphuli Apex Club distributed 150 wheelchairs, out of 600, under a programme under the auspices of a USA donor agency, sources said.

Painting exhibition held

Chittagong Grammar School (CGS), a leading English medium School in the port city, organised a two-day painting exhibition at Alliance Francaise on Friday.

Artist Hashi Chakraborty inaugurated the exhibition where 36 selected paintings of the students of the school were put on display.

He also handed over prizes for the five best paintings. Brishty, Aroni, Mubashwera, Protik and



STAR PHOTO

Film actress-turned-politician Sarah Begum Kabari MP receives a memorial crest from Professor Emeritus Dr Jamal Nazrul Islam at a reception ceremony at Muslim Institute Hall on Saturday. Sangeet Bhaban organised the reception.

Yusa received the prizes at the ceremony chaired by CGS Principal Mahine Khan.

Workshop on hill agriculture begins

A three-day regional workshop titled, "Hill agriculture in Saarc countries: Constraints and Opportunities" began at a local hotel in the port city on Tuesday.

Saarc Agriculture Centre (SAC), Dhaka in collaboration with Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI) and International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) organised the workshop.

Lawmaker Shawkat Momen Shahjahan, chairman of parliamentary standing committee on Ministry of Agriculture, addressed as the chief guest the inaugural ceremony with Additional Secretary (Administration and Input) Quazi Aktar Hossain in the chair.

Prof Dr MA Sattar Mandal, Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh

Agricultural University, Mymensingh was the guest of honour and ICIMOD Director General Dr Andreas Schild was the keynote speaker at the function. SAC, Dhaka Director Dr Md Rafiqul Islam Mondal delivered the address of welcome.

A total of 90 scientists, policy makers, and government and NGO representatives from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka attended the workshop. More than 20 scientific papers were presented at five technical sessions.

Call to control use of tobacco

Speakers at a workshop urged the government to take effective steps to control tobacco production alongside checking smuggling of tobacco products in the interest of public health.

The workshop titled "Resist smuggling of Tobacco Products" was organised jointly by Dhaka Ahsania Mission and Ark at the Brac centre on Thursday.

Director of Divisional Health Department Dr Rezaul Karim was the chief guest at the workshop with Additional Director of Department of Narcotics Control Khushi Mohan Biswas in the chair.

Speakers underscored the need for taking steps like proper implementation of the law and launching mass awareness campaign to check smuggling and use of tobacco products.

Ward Councillor MA Naser, Mission official Iqbal Mahmud, journalist Nasir Haider, Ashraf Ullah and Sabur Shubho also spoke at the workshop moderated by Ark official Shahjahan Siddiqui.

Drishty website launched

The website of Drishty, Chittagong -- an educational and cultural organisation -- was launched in the port city on Wednesday.

Poet Abul Momen, also resident editor of the Prothom Alo in Chittagong, launched the Website www.drishtyctg.com at a local hotel.

The Purbokone Managing Editor Jasim Uddin Chowdhury, former Chittagong chamber president Fariduddin Ahmed Chowdhury, local daily Suprabhat Bangladesh City Editor M Nasirul Haque, Bhorer Kagoi Chittagong Bureau Chief Omar Kaiser, Chittagong Press Club former general secretary Kalim Sarwar, journalist Shahidul Islam of The Daily Star, Unilever Bangladesh Personnel Services Manager Md Sahab Uddin and Nestle Bangladesh Regional Manager Md Shahadat Hossain were the guests.

Drishty President Masud Bakul chaired the launching ceremony.



STAR PHOTO

Winners of a painting contest of Chittagong Grammar School pose for photograph at the painting exhibition at Alliance Francaise gallery in the port city on Friday.