

4 road tunnels on cards

Tk 170cr project undertaken; underpasses to be opened by 2011

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

The government has undertaken a project to construct four underpasses for vehicles to ease congestion at intersections between Shahbagh and Sonargaon Hotel on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue.

The Dhaka City Corporation will begin the construction of the underpasses, a Tk 170 crore project, by the end of the year. They are scheduled to be opened to public by the end of 2011. The

length of each underpass will be about 275 metres, communications ministry officials said.

The four-lane underpasses will enable uninterrupted vehicular movement, without hampering traffic flow on the Banglamotor and Sonargaon Hotel intersections, for people using the Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue.

Engineers have urged immediate construction of the underpasses to improve the traffic situation and prevent the nagging congestion that kills valuable working hours and wastes a huge

amount of fuel.

Experts of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) have conducted the feasibility study of the project. They also completed the design, which will soon be finalised by an inter-ministerial body.

"The underpasses will be useful immensely if those really help uninterrupted vehicular movement," said architect Prof Nizamuddin Ahmed of Buet.

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EU insists on free anti-graft body again

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The European Union yesterday reiterated that the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) in Bangladesh should be a financially adequate independent body, which is free from any political influence.

Addressing a press conference on the eve of the Europe Day, EU Ambassador Stefan Frowein said, "ACC is an essential element and to make it meaningful it should work independently -- financially and politically. Likewise, the judiciary also needs to function independently."

Europe Day is an annual celebration of peace and unity in Europe. The day is observed commemorating the historical declaration (May 9, 1950) by the then French foreign minister Robert Schuman of creating a new form of organisation of States in Europe.

Danish Ambassador Einar H Jensen, French Ambassador Charley Causeret, German Ambassador Holger Michael, Italian Ambassador Itala

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Project watch at divisions

Govt to set up offices, hire manpower to speed up implementation

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government plans to set up offices at the headquarters of six divisions, and greater districts as a part of its move to expedite development project implementation.

The planning ministry has a proposal ready for setting up the Implementation, Monitoring, and Evaluation Division (IMED) offices. The proposal will be sent to the cabinet soon, IMED sources said.

Currently IMED's project monitoring and evaluation operations are run from the capital. Due to a shortage of manpower it can monitor only a very small number of projects.

According to the proposal, IMED will hire more manpower to deploy under joint chiefs of the agency at divisional offices.

The Executive Committee of National Economic Council

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Remedial Moves

- IMED offices to be set up all over the country
- e-tender to be introduced next month
- IMED manpower to be boosted
- Committee formed to curb frequent transfers of project directors
- Ecneec meeting every week
- Taskforce formed for close monitoring of big projects

MUTINY AT PILKHANA: Intelligence unit let it happen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Failure and betrayal of the members of BDR intelligence wing Rifles Security Unit let the bloody mutiny take place in the force's Pilkhana headquarters on February 24-26 last year, said the unit's commanding officer.

Lt Col Md Atiquzzaman, the commanding officer, yesterday also said the alleged mutineers of the security unit carried out the major part of the task of removing and dumping the bodies of slain army officers in the mass grave during the carnage.

He was talking to journalists

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Leaders, troops to bridge gap

BDR chief Gen Mainul pins hopes on his reform initiatives on the last day at office

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

Outgoing Director General of Bangladesh Rifles Maj Gen Md Mainul Islam expressed hope that there would be no communication gap between the leaders and soldiers of the paramilitary force following implementation of the reforms programme.

"There must be hierarchy in the force, but I am sure there will be no communication gap between the leaders and the led when organisational changes we have done will be implemented in full spirit," Gen Mainul



Maj Gen Md Mainul Islam

told The Daily Star yesterday.

Mainul hands over his charge today to newly appointed BDR DG Maj Gen Rafiqul Islam.

Gen Rafiq, who was the DG of Ansar and VDP, was appointed the chief of border guards after a severe crisis gripped the organisation following the bloody mutiny of February 25-26 last year.

The mutiny killed 57 of top- and mid-ranked officers of BDR including the then DG

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Jubodal boss barred from going abroad

Mir Kasem Ali returns home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Immigration authorities disembarked Syed Moazzem Hossain Alal, president of Jatiyatabadi Jubodal, from a London-bound aircraft at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the city yesterday.

Alal has been barred from going abroad on orders from the higher authorities of the government, sources at the immigration said but they declined to give details.

Talking to The Daily Star, Alal, a former BNP lawmaker, said he was supposed to go to London by a Biman

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6 murdered in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six persons including a mother and her three-year-old daughter were killed in the city and its outskirts yesterday.

They were identified as Yasmin Begum, 26, and her daughter Tanha, 3, of Shanir Akhra, Kadamtoli; Abdus Samad, 38, a contractor of Mirpur; Rafiqul Islam Bakul, 24, a factory worker in Ashulia; Rehena Parveen, 28, of Haidarabad area in Gazipur, and Sharif Hossain, 13, of Kumar Khada near Bhawal National Garden in Gazipur.

Kadamtoli police said Yasmin and her daughter Tanha were strangled to death in their residence at Zia Sarani Palashpur around 9:00am yesterday.

Monir Hossain, Yasmin's brother, said he met his sister Friday night around 9:00pm and asked her to lock the main gate from inside before leaving.

Yesterday Yasmin's mother Monwara Begum who lives nearby came to her daughter's house and found the two bodies on their bed.

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People want change of govt

Khaleda tells pro-BNP lawyers' rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia said yesterday a movement has to be launched to change the present government since people now want a 'change of government', and not a 'change of days'.

"This government has done nothing good in the last 16 months (of its tenure). So, a countrywide movement will be built to remove it," she said at a lawyer's rally on the Supreme Court premises, organised by Jaitayatabdi Ainjibi Forum.

The leader of the opposition said they always wanted to cooperate with the Awami League-led government. "Still you (govt) have time. We will cooperate if you can do good for the country."

Khaleda went on, "I believe the evils of 1/11 are still there. And we have to change the government through movement as the evil elements exist in this government."

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