

MUDSLIDES WREAK HAVOC

Local people and fire service men launch rescue operations soon after mudslides triggered by heavy rain killed at least 52 people in Cox's Bazar and Bandarban early yesterday. A big portion of the Marine Road in Himchhari also subsided. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN AND COURTESY



China to help develop infrastructure, agriculture, education, health sectors

Says Xi Jinping

UNB, Dhaka

China is ready to extend all cooperation and assistance to Bangladesh, particularly for development of the infrastructure, agriculture, education and health sectors, Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping said yesterday.

"The two countries (Bangladesh and China) are ready to move ahead with concerted efforts," Xi Jinping said during a meeting with President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban.

He said although China is a developing country, it is always willing to provide all kinds of cooperation and assistance to Bangladesh.

Expressing gratitude for the Bangladesh's support for 'One China Policy' Xi Jinping said both the countries as neighbours attach importance to strengthening of bilateral economic and commercial ties.

"We want to gradually enhance our cooperation in trade and commerce and cultural sectors," he said.

Xi described the government's Vision-2021 as a 'Master Plan' for the country and hoped Bangladesh would be turned into a middle income country by 2021. "China is happy over the government's Vision-2021."

He said China is currently emphasising three sectors -- education, science and technology and human resources to keep pace with its trend of development.

Xi invited Zillur to visit China at his

convenience in the near future.

Welcoming the Chinese President to Bangabhaban, Zillur said since Bangladesh's independence, China as a friendly country has been giving assistance for development of infrastructures, including construction of bridges across the country.

Saying that China would emerge as a giant economic power within a short period of time, Zillur said existing cooperation, particularly in economic, social and cultural fields, would be further deepened between the two countries.

He emphasised establishing con-

nectivity between the two countries to reduce the existing trade gap.

The President conveyed his greetings to the Chinese President through Vice President Xi.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, secretaries concerned and civil and military high officials were present.



Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping calls on President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

JATRABARI-GULISTAN FLYOVER

Construction likely to begin this month

BSS, Dhaka

The construction work of long-awaited Jatrabari-Gulistan flyover is likely to begin this month, officials of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC), implementing agency of the project, said yesterday.

The nine-kilometre-long four-lane flyover is to be constructed in three years at an estimated cost of about Tk 1,400 crore, they said.

The amount would come from private investors through a consortium of local banks and financial institutions that include the Sonali Bank, Agrani Bank, Janata Bank and others.

The flyover will connect Dhania on Dhaka-Chittagong Highway to Shaheed Zahir Raihan Road at Palashi through Jatrabari, Sayedabad, Gulistan, Bangabandhu Avenue and Fulbaria, Project Director Engineer Md Ashiqur Rahman told BSS.

The flyover, he said, will cover Azampur and Mirpur Road on the west, Matuail and Demra on the east and Katchpur and Buriganga bridges on the south and the densely populated in the north.

The previous Awami League (AL) government took the initiative in 1999 to construct the country's largest elevated corridor on the basis of Public Private Partnership (PPP). In 2003, a seven-km bridge was designed and its cost was estimated at Tk 670 crore that was later extended to nine-km and cost soared to Tk 1,400 crore.

DCC officials say the project is likely to be inaugurated on June 19.

Ashiqur, however, could not specify the reason behind the delay in implementing the project.

When asked about the appointment of Simplex, an Indian company that had been black-listed by Mumbai Metro One PVT Ltd, India,

Engineer Ashiqur said, "It is nothing unusual, big companies have that kind of records. One has to look at their annual turnover."

He said the construction and maintenance cost will be recovered through toll collection from the users of the flyover and it will be constructed through Build Own Operate and Transfer (BOOT) system. Belhassa Accom and Associates Limited will operate and maintain the flyover for a concession period of 24 years.

After completion of the flyover, traffic congestion of south and southeast parts of the city will be reduced and commercial activities will increase significantly as well as road communication will improve with adjoining 30 districts with Dhaka city.

Urbanisation opportunity and residential facilities surrounding 50 kilometres of the city will be increased and pressure of utility services such as electricity, gas and sewerage as well as population of the city will be decreased.

The length of the flyover was increased to nine kilometres as per desire of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to cope with the increased movement of vehicles due to Padma Bridge as well as expansion of Dhaka-Chittagong Highway, said DCC Chief Engineer Brig Gen Md Abdul Quadir.

He said since his joining the DCC a year ago he has removed some irregularities to start the construction work.

The Jatrabari-Gulistan flyover was one of the several projects planned to ease the traffic as Dhaka grinds from the heavy load of vehicles on its limited infrastructures. But it underwent many changes since its inception.

DCC Chief Executive Officer Abul Kalam Azad said the Jatrabari-Gulistan flyover will be the longest such structure in the country. The project, he said, may further be expanded considering increased movement of vehicles.

Two murdered in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of a youth from a flat in Uttar Badda area while the body of a young woman was found floating in a jheel in Gabtoli area on Monday.

The deceased youth was identified as Kabir Uddin, 22 of Uttar Badda. He lived in a mess on the first floor of the five-story building.

Badda police recovered his body at around 8:00pm on Monday.

The hands and legs of the youth were tied with a

nylon rope. The body bore marks of injuries of sharp weapons. His legs were also broken.

Police said Kabir along with three youths rented the flat on June 1. The three others are absconding since the incident. Police found the flat locked from outside.

Kabir's cousin Shahed Ali identified the body at Dhaka Medical College morgue yesterday noon.

Shahed said Kabir hailed from Hossainpur village in Kishoreganj. He left the

village home four months ago and since then did not contact the family members.

Meanwhile, Darus Salam police on Monday night recovered the body of an unidentified young woman from Gabtoli sluice gate area. The woman was wearing salwar Kameez.

Police sent the body to the DMC morgue for autopsy yesterday morning.

Morgue sources said there were marks of injuries on different parts of her body.

Road crashes kill five

METRO DESK

At least five people were killed and 10 others injured in separate road accidents in Tangail, Bagerhat, Sherpur and Dinajpur yesterday.

Our correspondent from Tangail adds: Two people, including a rickshawpuller, were killed in a road accident in Tangail town on Monday night.

Mehedi Hasan, second officer of Tangail police station, said the accident took place at around 10:00pm when a passenger bus of Jhatika Paribahan crushed a rickshaw under its wheels on Mymensingh Road in the town, leaving rickshawpuller Shajahan Miah, 45, of Sadar upazila dead on the spot and a passenger injured seriously.

The injured rickshaw passenger Farhad Ali, 28, of Madhupur upazila succumbed to his injuries in the Tangail General Hospital the same night.

A correspondent from Bagerhat reports: A seven-year-old girl was crushed under the wheels of a passenger bus at Gajalia bus stand under Kachua upazila in the district.

The victim was identified as Sadia Akter, daughter of Siddikur Rahman of Gajalia village of Kachua upazila and a student of class one of a local school.

UNB from Sherpur says: A retired school teacher was killed and six others were injured in a road accident at Majhpara in Sadar upazila yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Fazlur Rahman alias Fazu, 65, a

retired teacher of Kamarar Char Government Primary School.

Police said the accident took place at about 11:00am when two 'bhotbhoti' (human haulers) collided, leaving seven people, including Fazu, injured.

Fazu succumbed to his injuries on the way to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

A report from Dinajpur adds: A minor boy was killed and four others were injured as a tractor hit them at Shibnagar village in Fulbari upazila yesterday.

The injured were admitted to upazila health complex.

Of the injured, Paresh Chandra, 8, son of Nibash Chandra of Ghatpara village in same upazila, succumbed to his injuries on the way to hospital.



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