

Expressway may get cabinet nod today

UNB, Dhaka

Design of the long-expected Dhaka Elevated Expressway (DEE) is likely to get the cabinet's nod today, officials said.

The Dhaka Elevated Expressway has been planned to improve road connectivity between the northern part of Dhaka city and the central, south and southeastern parts linking important commercial and business centres of the capital.

The first phase of DEE will stretch over 22km of the 32.5km expressway project worth \$2 billion connecting Narayanganj and Joydevpur. In addition to providing a much-needed increase in traffic capacity, the expressway is designed to relieve existing overload on roads.

Access and distribution to the expressway has been designed to avoid additional congestion to existing facilities.

Transit and high-occupancy use of the expressway will also be encouraged as existing roads occupy only 8 percent of the city's land area as against an ideal proportion of 25 percent.

Finalisation of the design of the elevated expressway would dominate the cabinet meet-

ing's agenda today, the officials said.

According to information from the communications ministry, the concession agreement with successful investor for the expressway project will be signed by December this year.

The first phase of the project is expected to be completed within December 2013.

International consultants AECOM Australia Ltd has been appointed to carry out economic feasibility study on the project. AECOM has identified four alternate options of route alignments, of which one option will be finalised.

An expert committee, headed by Prof Dr Jamilur Reza Choudhury, has been formed to review the consultants' recommendations.

The communications ministry said pre-qualification of international investment companies for the project has already been completed as nine overseas investors have submitted their proposals and four of them have already been short-listed.

The short-listed companies are: Ital-Thai Development Company Ltd (Italy-Thailand), Gammon-Bouygues JV (India-France), Sikder-KCC JV (Bangladesh-South Korea) and China Railway International Ltd (China).



Fan Xiaojian, head of a 10-member Chinese delegation of the State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development, speaks at a dinner hosted by The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam yesterday. Industries Minister Dilip Barua, lawmaker Rashed Khan Menon, Foreign Affairs Adviser to the Prime Minister Gauhar Rizvi, Chinese Ambassador Zhang Xianyi, FBCCI President AK Azad and Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, among other distinguished guests, attended the reception.

CORRUPTION IN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES MPs, UZ chairmen at loggerheads

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lawmaker and local government representatives blamed each other yesterday for corruption in implementing different development programmes and aid projects at a roundtable discussion.

They, however, unanimously slammed the role of bureaucrats in implementing different development programmes.

Governance Advocacy Forum, a platform of 35 organisations, held the programme titled "The Stand of Governance Advocacy Forum on the Recent Discussed Issues on Local Government" at the National Press Club.

Mentioning bitter experiences with bureaucrats, speakers said the initiative of appointing administrator at local govern-

ment level is anti-democratic in spirit.

Lawmaker from Rangpur-2 constituency Anisul Islam Mondol alleged that local government representatives embezzled money from aid programmes.

He said, "The country will go further if the lawmakers have accountability and honesty."

Muhibur Rahman, co-convenor of Bangladesh Upazila Chairman and Vice Chairman Oikya Parishad, however, refuted the allegation saying MPs demand money against aid programmes.

Former justice Mohammad Golam Rabbani laid emphasis on implementing the section 59 and 60 of the constitution to scrap the power of bureaucrats and empower local government.

Chairman of Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation Dr Qazi Kholiqzaman

Ahmad said there are two ways to empower local government -- through patronisation of central government, self-governing system. "I want the second way", he said.

Local government bodies are not given the deserved power to run independently, he observed.

Criticising the role of bureaucrats, lawmaker Fazle Hossain Badsha said democratic decentralisation is needed to empower the local government system.

Advocate Sanjida Khanam MP, Dr Sarwar Jahan, Prof of Department of Urban and Regional Planning of BUJET and Abdul Mazid, convenor of Bangladesh Upazila Chairman and Vice Chairman Oikya Parishad spoke while convenor of Governance Advocacy Forum Mohsin Ali moderated the programme.

Scouts lottery draw Sept 24

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The lottery draw organised by Bangladesh Scouts will be held on September 24, says a press release.

The earlier scheduled date was August 11 but was postponed for inevitable reasons.

Sale of the lottery tickets was formally launched on June 8 at national headquarters of Bangladesh Scouts at Kakrail.

The first prize of the lottery is Tk 25 lakh. A total of 662 prizes worth Tk 4,450,000 lakh would be given.

Bangladesh Scouts will spend the money earned in different social welfare programmes, training of scouts, implementation of different programmes and relief and rescue programmes during disasters.

Resist communalism FM urges women

DU CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni yesterday urged the women to come forward to resist the emergence of communalism across the globe.

Education can be a strong medium to aware people about the negative impact of communalism on the society to unite women against it, he said.

Dipu Moni made the remark while addressing the inaugural ceremony of a three-day international workshop at the city's Brac Centre.

She said the history of Bangladesh and liberation war in 1971 prove that the country's people are always against communalism.

She said every body has to work together to ensure equal rights, dignity and social security for the women in the society.

Karmojibi Nari, an organisation for work-

ing women, and Committee for Asian Women, an alliance of 46 women organisations in Asia, jointly organised the workshop to discuss the influence of communalism on women and women workers in the era of globalisation.

Speaking as the key discussant, Acting President of Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee Shahrir Kabir mentioned that the communal organisations have regional and international networks, which the other organisations do not have.

Representatives from various organisations in Asia, which work for women, are participating in the workshop titled 'Globalisation and emergence of communalism: women and women workers.'

President of Karmojibi Nari Shirin Akhter said women of Bangladesh are struggling to protect their equal rights, security and dignity in the society.



AB Bank Managing Director Kaiser A Chowdhury visits a stall of a fair on handicrafts made by the autistic children from Kanan, an institute works for them, after inaugurating the 11-day fair on the premises of Kanan in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

AUTISTIC CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS Fair begins

DU CORRESPONDENT

An eleven-day long Eid fair with the products made by a group of autistic children began in the city yesterday.

Greetings cards for Eid-ul-Fitr are the main attraction in the fair ahead of the festival. Other products include dresses, candles, card-holders, bed sheets, puppets, door bells and bangles and other gift items.

Autism Welfare Foundation organised the fair at the premises of Kanan, an educational institute for autistic children at Mohammad.

AB Bank Managing Director Kaiser A Chowdhury inaugurated the fair. It will remain open from 10:00am to 3:00pm every day excluding the holidays, says a press release.

The AB Bank managing director handed over the key of a microbus to the Chairperson of Autism Welfare Foundation Dr Rownak Hafiz at the programme.

Writ to bring back 195 Pak prisoners of war rejected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday summarily rejected a writ petition that challenged a 1974 tripartite agreement among India, Pakistan and Bangladesh through which 195 Pakistani prisoners of war (POW) were released.

Supreme Court (SC) lawyer Parvez Ahmed yesterday filed the writ petition seeking its direction on the government to bring back the alive prisoners of war from Pakistan to Bangladesh for putting them on trial.

A HC bench of Justice Mamnoon Rahman and Justice Syeda Afsar Jahan summarily rejected the petition, saying that the petitioner has no substantial interest in this matter.

Petitioner's lawyer Barrister Fakhru Islam told The Daily Star that they would move and appeal to the SC against the HC order.

THREAT TO PM Delwar gets anticipatory bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday granted anticipatory bail for two months to BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain in four cases filed on charge of threatening Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

An HC bench of Justice Syed Muhammad Dastagir Husain and Justice AKM Zahirul Hoque passed the orders after hearing four petitions filed by Delwar seeking bail in the cases.

The court also issued four separate rules upon the government to explain within four weeks why Delwar should not be granted regular bail in the cases.

Four local Awami League leaders on different dates filed the cases in Bogra, Chittagong, Sirajganj and Dhaka against Delwar on charge of threatening the prime minister from a BNP rally in Muktangan of Dhaka on July 25.

The BNP leader yesterday appeared before the HC bench for bail in the cases.

Advocate Khandker Mahub Hossain and Barrister Badruddoza Badal appeared for the petitioner.

Two killed in city road crashes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two people were crushed to death as trucks hit them in the city yesterday.

The dead were identified as Muksed Ali, 55 and Dulal Mollah, 35.

A Gaptali-bound truck hit Moksed when he along with his son Julhash were crossing Mirpur Road in front of Kalyanpur Bus Stand at around 10:00pm. Julhash took his father to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where on-duty doctors declared him dead.

Julhash along with his father came to the capital city from Bogra to purchase cosmetics for their shop and the truck hit them while they were returning to their village.

On the other hand, Dulal Mollah, a truck driver, was hit by another truck while he was washing wheels of his truck in the Gabtali Balur Math area at around 5:00am.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared him dead.

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