



The much-awaited 3rd Karnaphuli Bridge is ready to open to traffic on September 8. The photo was taken yesterday.

3rd Karnaphuli bridge opens to traffic Sept 8

ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD

At last the much-awaited 3rd Karnaphuli bridge opens to traffic to connect Cox's Bazar, Bandarban and southern upazilas of Chittagong for boosting up economic activities in the areas.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to open the 950-metre long and 24.47-metre wide bridge at 11:00am on September 8.

Construction of the bridge started in August 2006 under a project involving Tk 590 crore.

With the financial assistance of Tk 372 crore provided by Kuwait Fund as soft loan was scheduled to be completed in September, 2009.

The bridge could be constructed at Tk 380 crore saving Tk 210 crore of the estimated budget, sources said.

The rest of the amount (Tk 210 crore) would be used in expanding the Chittagong-Cox's Bazar Highway starting from other end (Patiya end) of the bridge, said Project Director (PD) Bidhan Chandra Dharr, also a superintendent engineer of Roads and Highway Department (RHD), Chittagong circle.

Alongside four lanes for vehicles, the bridge has two 1.5-m lanes for movement of 'manual transports' like rickshaws, push carts and vans. There is also a 1.5-m walkway on each side of the bridge, said the project director.

The bridge has a 0.5 km approach road in the city end and one km approach road at the Patiya end, he said.

There is a toll plaza with six money counters--three each for Cox's Bazar-bound and Chittagong-bound vehicles at Patiya end of the bridge, he said.

The 3rd bridge on the river Karnaphuli was a long felt demand since the century-old Kalurghat rail-road bridge and renovated Shah Amanat Bridge could hardly cope with the flow of vehicular traffic to maintain road communications with the South Chittagong division.

Former Prime Minister and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia laid the foundation stone of the bridge on April 19, 2004.

The bridge will not cause any significant change in the morphology or siltation of the river. Removal of the existing 2nd bridge now (after completion of the 3rd bridge) would reduce the rate of siltation at Karnaphuli channel, sources said.

Three ministries should coordinate work to boost agri research: PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The authorities of three separate ministries -- agriculture, commerce and jute -- should coordinate work in boosting up the country's agricultural research, especially in rice and jute, said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday.

Prime Minister's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad briefed newsmen after the weekly cabinet meeting held at the Bangladesh Secretariat with her in the chair.

"From now on every agricultural research work shall be conducted through the Agriculture Research

Council," one of the PM's cabinet colleagues quoted her as saying.

If the research is done under the council, then there will be less possibility of duplication, observed the premier.

Approving the Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council (Amendment) Act 2010, she also directed the authorities concerned to relax the retirement age limit of the agriculture researchers, said Abul Kalam Azad.

Hasina asked the authorities to take measures to make the research council free from financial crisis. She also directed them to provide all support to the researchers and relax their age limit

for joining the government jobs.

Hasina directed to increase the existing agriculture research fund to support the researchers financially, if needed.

The cabinet appreciated the prime minister for being among the top 10 influential women leaders in the world as revealed by the Time Magazine.

Ministers, state ministers, advisers and other officials were present at the meeting.

The premier informed the meeting that she will visit Chittagong on September 8 and address three to four programmes there.

Jamaat's Rafiqul on 2-day fresh remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka city unit Jamaat Chief Rafiqul Islam Khan was shown arrested and remanded for two days yesterday in another vehicle torching case.

Rafiqul was charged with setting fire to a bus in the capital on the day before BNP's June 27 hartal.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Ismail Hossain issued the order after Inspector AKM Shahin Mandol of detective branch produced Rafiqul before the court seeking a 10-day remand.

Inspector Shahin is also the investigation officer (IO) of the case lodged with New Market Police Station.

Rafiqul already went through a three-day remand in another car torching case filed with Ramna Police Station. He was accused of setting fire to a private car on June 26, which killed one of its passengers afterward.

Detectives arrested Rafiqul from his Mirpur residence on August 25, in connection with the car torching case.

Two days before his arrest, Rafiqul Islam got anticipatory bail in six cases filed against him on charges of preventing police from performing duties, and hurting religious sentiment of the Muslims.

Int'l training course ends

METRO DESK

A two-week training course on "Rapid neurodevelopmental assessment" concluded at the Bangladesh Protibondhi Foundation in the city recently, says a press release.

Dhaka Shishu Hospital in collaboration with Bangladesh Protibondhi Foundation organised the course participated by the national and international professionals.

Child health physicians and developmental therapists of Shishu Bikash Kendras of Mymensingh, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna and Rangpur Medical College Hospitals; a team of eight medical consultants, special education experts and statisticians from Bhutan sponsored by Unicef, Bhutan; and a consultant in developmental pediatrics from Monash University, Melbourne, Australia took part in the course.

Twenty participants received certificates from Prof Naila Zaman Khan of Dhaka Shishu Hospital and National Coordinator (Establishment) of Shishu Bikash Kendra in government medical college hospitals; Dr Ashrafy Ahmed, Deputy Programme Manager, DGHS; Dr Humaira Muslima, Training Director, Child Development and Neurology Unit of Dhaka Shishu Hospital; and Dr Shamim Ferdous, Executive Director of Bangladesh Protibondhi Foundation.

Dr Kinzang PTshering, head of pediatrics, and Dr Chencho Dorji, Head of Psychiatry of Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Referral Hospital, and Dr Kate Milner from Australia praised the quality of training they received.

Dr Ashrafy reiterated the commitment of the health ministry in developing comprehensive, multi-disciplinary and quality services for the children with developmental delay, impairments and disabilities across Bangladesh.



Saima Wajed Hossain, daughter of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, visits 'Proyash', a school for children with special needs, at Dhaka Cantonment in the city yesterday.

'Work for children with autism'

BSS, Dhaka

Saima Wajed Putul, an autism and clinical psychology specialist, yesterday urged people to extend hands for children with autism to make them worthy citizens of Bangladesh.

"I will dedicate the rest of my life to the welfare of the children with disabilities particularly to the children with autism," she told the reporters while visiting to 'Proyash,' an army-run institute for the children with special needs, at the Dhaka Cantonment.

Saima, also Bangladesh country representative of "Autism Speaks," member of National Association of School of Psychologist-USA, called upon affluent people and philanthropists to extend hands for establishing special institutes in Bangladesh like Proyash.

Lauding service standard of the organisation Saima, also daughter of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, mentioned that even many such centres in western countries could not provide such care and services.

"I found the parents here are happy (be-

cause of the service of Proyash), I am also happy," said Saima after a meeting with its teachers and guardians of the children with special needs.

Prime minister's defence adviser's wife Begum Shaheen Siddique, Proyash's chief patron and army chief's wife Begum Syeda Sharifa Mubeen and spouses of navy and air force chives Begum Shabnam Ahmed and Begum Shamima Zia and chairman of the facility Brigadier General Shahrafat Hossain and Principal Lieutenant Colonel Fakhru Ahsan accompanied Saima during the visit.

Proyash was founded on July 18, 2006 with 17 students from families of armed forces when it was called "Sena Sahaok School" and it was renamed as Proyash in 2009 when it started admission for students from outside the cantonments.

The Proyash chairman told Saima that they took a project to expand the facility at a cost of Tk 60 crore to provide residential facilities to the students with disabilities at the new six-storey building.

Coal policy be placed for cabinet nod soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The long-awaited coal policy will be placed before the cabinet soon for its approval, a parliamentary body revealed yesterday.

The parliamentary standing committee on power and energy ministry however lambasted the authority concerned for delaying the drafting of the policy.

The policy has been pending for long, though demand of coal as an alternative fuel to generate power has been rising to buffer the rapidly diminishing stock of the country's gas.

Natural gas, the major source of non-renewable energy accounts for almost 75% of commercial energy consumption in Bangladesh, of which nearly 70% is consumed everyday by power and fertiliser industries during production.

The current supply of 1,450 million cubic feet/per day (Mcf/d) is not sufficient to meet the projected growth in demand. The rate of gas consumption, however, is expected to grow at 10% per annum, the consumption currently being 1,400 Mcf/d.

Maj Gen (retd) Shubid Ali Bhuiyan, chief of the standing committee told The Daily Star that he would personally prefer to go for open pit mining which the AL lawmaker deems as safe.

However, the method of coal extraction: open pit mining or underground mining, is yet to be decided by the standing committee.

On August 8, Energy Secretary Mezba Uddin Ahmed said the much talked about coal policy has almost been finalised.

He said after finalising the coal policy at the ministry level, it will be submitted to the prime minister.

24-hour service at BSMMU pathology dept

DU CORRESPONDENT

Department of clinical pathology of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University is soon going to provide 24-hour service every day.

Initiative has already been taken to enrich the pathological department at the hospital to provide 24-hour service soon to improve treatment facilities for the patients, says a press release yesterday.

The sections, including histopathology, hematology, microbiology and biochemistry, have been established at the hospital to provide treatment to patients after testing samples.

In the meantime, pathology experts have been appointed to the sections under the department.

Now patients are being given services from morning to 8:00pm daily at the pathological department.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sheikh Zennatunnisa, mother of former minister and Jatiya Party Secretary General Sheikh Shahidul Islam, passed away at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) yesterday at the age of 87.

Her namaz-e-ja'aza was held at the BSMMU mosque. She will be buried at her family graveyard in Tungipara.

Jatiya Party Chairman and former minister Anwar Hossain Monju and other leaders of the party expressed condolence at her death and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family, a press release said.

Dr Abdullah Salek

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Abdullah Salek, a physician at a hospital in Saudi Arabia, passed away on Sunday due to cardio respiratory failure at the Central Hospital in Dhaka at the age of 48, says a press release.

The qulkhwan of the deceased will be held today at 2:30pm in his residence, 75/1 Sangsad View Apartment, in the city's Indira Road.

Relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to attend the qulkhwan and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

YUNNAN GOVERNOR VISITS NSU Chinese language lab gets equipment

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

China's Yunnan province government yesterday donated a set of equipment to the language lab of North South University Confucius Institute, aiming to improve the teaching facilities in the institute.

Governor of the province Qin Guangrong, who paid a two-day official visit to Dhaka at the invitation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, attended the handing over ceremony hosted by North South University on its premises.

Speaking on the occasion, the governor said Bangladesh and China are good neighbours and friends with friendly relations traced back to over 2000 years.

Qin said North South University Confucius Institute has developed well within a short time since its establishment four years ago and lauded the institute's role in promoting the educational exchange between China and Bangladesh.

China's Yunnan University

and Bangladesh's North South University co-established Confucius Institute, the first in South Asia, in February 14, 2006.

The governor hoped that the institute would continue to do better in the days to come and become the bridge for educational exchange between Bangladesh and China.

Addressing the function, Vice Chancellor of North South University Hafiz GA Siddiqi said the visit by the governor is a very important occasion for the university.

He said the Confucius Institute in North South University not only provides an arena for the Bangladeshis to learn Chinese, but also provides a chance for them to know China and Chinese culture.

Bangladesh and Yunnan province signed four memorandums of understanding (MoU) for cooperation in the areas of agriculture, education, energy and tourism.

Ending the two-day visit, the Yunnan Governor and his delegation left Dhaka yesterday.

Kidnap drama to buy laptop for girlfriend

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police arrested three boys for staging a false kidnapping act in a bid to realise money from a mother of one of the boys in the port city early yesterday.

The arrestees were identified as 'victim' Sanad Sushil alias Rahul, 16, a class X student of Municipal Model High School, Riad, 17, a class nine student of the school, Faruk, 17, an employee of a shop at VIP Tower and Mohammad Mafiz, 18, an employee of a garment factory.

Police said Rahul's mother Tapashi Shushil in a complaint lodged with the Kotwali Police Station on Sunday night said her son Rahul was abducted and the abductors demanded Tk 50,000 as ransom over phone.

Later, a team of police led by Sub Inspector (SI) Sukanta Bhattacharya caught two of the boys--Mafiz and Faruk from GEC intersection when they came to take the ransom. Faruk managed to flee but later police with the help of his family members arrested him.

During interrogation, Faruk said Rahul was not abducted and he staged a drama to realise money from his mother to give a laptop computer to his girlfriend as gift on the occasion of Durga Puja.

Following his confessional statement, police arrested Riad and Rahul from Garibullah Shah Razul area at around 2:00am yesterday.

Chehlum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chehlum of freedom fighter and former joint secretary M o m t a z Uddin will be held at his Eskaton residence, 13/1, Eskaton road, in the city after Asr prayers tomorrow says a press release.

Friends, relatives and well wishers are requested to attend and pray for salvation of the departed soul.



Light rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary wind is likely under many places over Barisal, Rangpur, Sylhet and Chittagong divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Khulna divisions with moderately heavy falls at places in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:18pm today and rises at 5:40am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 35.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chuadanga and lowest 24.4 degrees Celsius at Srirongal.

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:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.9	28.1	73	74
Chittagong	32.4	26.8	77	90
Rajshahi	34.0	26.9	77	74
Khulna	33.6	27.0	77	79
Barisal	32.6	27.3	84	83
Sylhet	33.8	24.9	82	77
Cox's Bazar	31.5	25.0	80	90



Participants of a training course pose for photograph with the trainers and guests at the closing ceremony at the Bangladesh Protibondhi Foundation in the city recently.