

## READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Wednesday's *The Daily Star* news analysis headlined 'New airport not required'.

### Mohammad Rahman

Yes, upgrade the existing airport and provide all modern facilities for travellers.

### Faqrul, USA

The most damaging reports for the government are -- not allowing discussions on the new airport at the Jatiya Sangsad and continuous police action, with heavy-handed politics and legacy in mind, without any effort to find reasons for such mass protests.

The nation deserves a statement from the honourable prime minister on this issue in the Jatiya Sangsad followed by discussion and debate open to all lawmakers irrespective of party affiliation.

This is a testing time for the lawmakers to prove their understanding of the situation and the decision making process of the government.

### Manzoor Ashraf

Main reason for a new airport should be based on the fact that the current airport is far too close to Dhaka, which is not good for safety and noise.

### Saif

Talk to anyone on the streets and almost all will say that this airport is not required. But do our politicians care about this?

### Kamal Rashid

The government should forget about constructing a new airport and divert the fund towards increasing facilities to fulfill other basic needs like electricity, gas, drinking water, roads and highways.

### Md Shafiqul Bhuiyan

Excellent report. I fully agree with the comments made by experts. Of course, our ministers are better experts than the people in the news.

### Abul Kashem

Thanks to the reporter. If this is the case, then why waste peoples' money and land? Why is the government so eager to build a new airport ignoring all negative sides and valid reasons not to proceed with this huge wastage? People, who advise the authority to go for this unreasonable project, cannot be considered as well-wishers of the government.

### Sohel Ahmed

House keeping and management outside the present airport is in horrendous state. The amount the government is willing to spend is nothing but wastage of money as our economic backbone is dependent on delivering cheap labour in the form of export to the Middle Eastern countries or in the form of garment manufacturing.

We do not have a solid tourism industry nor does Dhaka stand tall amongst the top 10 cities of the world where people from abroad will come on business purpose as they do in Singapore and spend a few nights for shopping or spending a quality time.

The money, which the government is willing to spend for this new airport, can be spent making new roads, generating power and increasing food production. Dhaka Cantonment and BGB Headquarters in the heart of the city need to be relocated preferably at Trishal.

A new terminal building could be built on the western part of the present airport and the present terminal buildings could be used as domestic and cargo-handling units. This airport already has the required space for the second runway on the western side and as far as the length is concerned, the government can easily relocate affected property owners.

Similarly those affected during construction of new roads can easily be relocated in the cantonment and BGB Headquarters, which now occupy a huge area of the city and adding to the accommodation problem and traffic congestion every day.

### Dr Mayeen

We understood that by building a new and larger airport would provide the opportunity for corruption on a larger scale. However, I humbly request the government to please spend the projected money to develop rail communication throughout the whole country. We eagerly need good railways, not an airport, right now. Once we have a good transport system, price hike of daily commodities could possibly be easily controlled. Please initiate only the project that comes to the benefit of the people.

### Dr Mosiul Hoque

Following points need to be considered for the interest of the people. Rename the present international airport to Mujib International Airport. I believe people will not come down on the streets against this. By doing so, we can save Tk 50,000 crore and keep the environment, biodiversity and ecology healthy.

### Syed

I have travelled extensively and worked for airlines too. Dhaka's international airport is underutilised. Any arriving passenger can tell, you do not need a think tank to ascertain this fact. Now for the sake of a name game, you want to setup an airport. The government must stop acting like this. A day will come when these political parties are going to be accounted for all the misdeeds they have done over the years.

Let the people of Arial Beel go about living their lives, name the current airport after Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and get on with the required expansion.



BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain speaks at a protest rally in the city's Muktangon yesterday protesting the filing of case against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia over Arial Beel violence.

PHOTO: STAR

## 20KM GAZIPUR-AIRPORT ROUTE

# Work for rapid bus service starts in 2012

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Implementation of rapid bus service project in the Gazipur to airport route begins early next year and to be completed by the end of 2013, said officials concerned at a workshop at a city hotel yesterday.

Roads and Highways Department (RHD) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) jointly organised the workshop on presentation of the draft of final feasibility report on Greater Dhaka Sustainable Urban Transport Corridor Project.

Md Aminur Rahman Lasker, project director, said the 20-kilometre double-lane rapid bus service (Bus Rapid Transit, BRT) route from Gazipur to Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport will have a seven-metre wide dedicated lane at the centre of the road.

"We will widen the existing 15-metre road with the land available at RHD's ownership and also through acquisition of land where necessary for the other commuters," he said.

Every day one-lakh commuters can use BRT, once built. It will also bring down the uses of private cars.

The project cost has been estimated at US\$190 million, of which ADB has proposed 125 million with 28 million co-financing from the bilateral development partners and the rest from government of Bangladesh.

The ADB is funding the feasibility study of the project as a model pilot, while the final report is expected by April, said Lasker.

AKM Mozammel Haque, a lawmaker from Gazipur, said the Dhaka-Gazipur highway is so clogged with

traffic load of 29 different routes that it takes three hours to get to the centre of the capital from Gazipur.

The project is an extension of the Airport-Sadarghat BRT route no-3 recommended in the Strategic Transport Plan.

The government, as under constant pressure, will now prioritise to develop rapid mass transportation systems (Mass Rapid Transit, MRT), said Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain who was present at the workshop as chief guest.

Mozammel Haque Khan, secretary to Roads and Railways Division; and Stefan Ekelund, head of Portfolio Management Unit of ADB; among others spoke at the workshop chaired by Shahabuddin, chief engineer of RHD.



Primary and Mass Education Minister Afsarul Ameen inaugurates the annual training camp of Bangladesh National Cadet Core at Bhatiary in Chittagong recently. The camp was organised by Karnaphuli Regiment.

PHOTO: COURTESY

## 10 structures on Kalyanpur canal knocked down

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) with the help of district administration removed around ten semi-concrete structures yesterday as part of an ongoing eviction drive to free a stretch of city's Kalyanpur main canal.

They however spared three mosques, portions of which were built on the canal.

Ruhul Amin, executive engineer of Wasa, said they decided to spare those considering religious sentiment.

Alid Mainul Amin, executive magistrate of Dhaka district administration, said he asked the management committees to remove the illegal portions.

Manual demolition began from the canal near Kalyanpur Bridge behind Acme Laboratories with Mirpur Police Station and members of riot police maintaining law and order.

The team carried a similar drive at the same stretch of the canal last Monday and pulled down more than a dozen of such illegal structures.

Illegal structures occupied half a kilometre of the three kilometre long canal, said Ruhul.

## HC forms body to save Mahasthangarh

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday formed a 10-member committee to recommend ways to protect the historical archaeological site of Mahasthangarh in Bogra and its adjacent shrine and mosque.

An HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain asked the committee to submit a report before the court within two months.

During hearing a writ petition, the court directed the authorities to stop construction of structures near the archaeological site for the next two months.

It also ordered the deputy commissioner and superintendent of police of Bogra to submit a report within 15 days on steps taken against the persons responsible for damaging the historical site, shrine, and mosque.

Director general of the department of archeology will head the committee formed by the HC.

Other members of the committee are: DC and SP of Bogra, thana nirbahi officer of Shibganj of the district, historian Prof Muntasir Mamun, journalist Shahriar Kabir, two representatives from Dhaka University and Jahangirnagar University, one representative from the National Museum in Dhaka and the curator of Mahasthangarh shrine.

The court issued the order during hearing a writ petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh seeking direction on the government to protect and preserve the site.

During hearing yesterday, the court said it will not allow anybody, even if he or she is very powerful, to damage the historical sites of the country.

The bench said this while Nasima, the curator of Mahasthangarh shrine, yesterday told the court that she is not getting support from the administration to properly protect and maintain the shrine.

Earlier on January 23, the bench summoned five persons including Nasima and an Awami League leader on charges of constructing a road near Mahasthangarh archaeological site in Bogra ignoring an HC order.

## Stop new commercial works in Dhanmondi HC directs govt

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

High Court (HC) yesterday directed the government not to allow any further commercial operation and institution within the city's Dhanmondi residential area for the next six months.

In response to a writ petition, the court also directed the government to submit a report within four weeks on what steps they took to remove illegal commercial institutions from the area since 1999.

The HC bench of Justice Mohammad Momtazuddin Ahmed and Justice Gobinda Chandra Tagore also issued a rule upon the government to explain within four weeks why it should not be directed to evict the institutions.

Dhanmondi Residential Welfare Association President MA Masud and General Secretary MA Matin Chowdhury jointly filed the writ petition on Tuesday as public interest litigation.

Petitioner's counsel Advocate Manzill Murshid told the court that hundreds of illegal commercial institutions are operational there, damaging residential character and environment.

He said no step has yet been taken to remove those and authorities concerned failed in their duty to protect the residential area.

## CHARGES AGAINST TARIQUE Decision on cognisance Feb 10

### COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday fixed February 10 to decide whether money-laundering charges against BNP Senior Vice-Chairman Tarique Rahman and his business partner Giasuddin Al Mamun would be taken into cognisance.

Judge Mohammad Zahurul Haque of the Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order after the defendants submitted a petition seeking adjournment of the hearing.

On September 29 last year, the High Court (HC) rejected a writ petition filed by Tarique, challenging the case proceedings.

He filed a leave-to-appeal petition with the Supreme Court, which now awaits hearing on February 6.

Mamun was produced before the court, while Tarique had gone abroad for treatment.

Earlier, on July 6 last year, the ACC pressed charges against the duo for laundering Tk 20.41 crore in between 2003 and 2007.

The charge sheet says, Tarique had realised the money in foreign currencies from different companies and organisations. In exchange for the sums, he had promised to win them contracts using his power as son of the then prime minister Khaleda Zia.

If you want to make it happen then be a part of a winning team

Transcom is a diversified, growth oriented, premier business organization in Bangladesh. We are currently looking to fill the following positions in our Company. The Company provides competitive remuneration, excellent work environment for career growth of individuals & practices a performance culture, where talent and creativity are recognized and rewarded.

Following positions are being called for to enrich the organization:

### Production Engineer (Audio & Video)

#### Job Specification:

- ❖ B.Sc. in Electrical & Electronics / Applied Physics & Electronics Engineering with good academic background from any reputed Institute / University.
- ❖ At least 3 years experience in any reputed Electrical / Electronics product manufacturing or assembly related Industries.
- ❖ Excellent communication skill as a team player.
- ❖ Age not more than 35 years.

### Production Engineer (Refrigerator)

#### Job Specification:

- ❖ B.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering with good academic background from any reputed Institute / University.
- ❖ At least 3 years experience in any reputed Electrical / Electronics product manufacturing or assembly related Industries.
- ❖ Excellent communication skill as a team player.
- ❖ Age not more than 35 years.

If you match the profile above and are interested to work with us, please send your CV / Resume along with copies of recent passport size color photograph to the Human Resources Department, **Bangladesh Electrical Industries Ltd.**, Sadar Road, Mohakali, Dhaka-1206 or nayma.tanjila@blt.transcombd.com by 10th February, 2011. Persuasion in any form will be treated as a disqualification. Only short listed candidates will be called for interview. Please mention the position of interest on the top of the envelope.

**Bangladesh Electrical Industries Ltd.**

## NOTICE OF CAUTION

It has come to our knowledge that few dishonest land brokers and fraudsters are approaching various renowned individuals and institutions with fake sale proposal of our wholly owned land located at Plot No. NW(J) 5, Road No. 51, Gulshan Model Town (on Kemal Ataturk Avenue) measuring 1 bigha 6 katha and 14 chata (commonly known as SAFFRON Restaurant). We neither intend to sell the said property nor have appointed any individual/institution in that regard.

In the given circumstances, any transaction undertaken with any such land broker/fraudsters shall be illegal, fraudulent and non-enforceable in the eye of law since Civil Appeal Nos. 212 and 213 of 2010 are pending before the Appellate Division of the Honorable Supreme Court of Bangladesh with the Tenant Sabir Ahmed Chowdhury in connection with the eviction of the said tenant from the aforesaid land. Hence, we caution all concerned persons to refrain from undertaking any transactions with such individuals with regards to the said property.

- Iftekhar Ahmed Khan, Constituted Attorney of Intekhab Ahmed Khan

House No. 507, Road No. 98, Gulshan-2, Dhaka 1212