

**Mirpur-Airport Road flyover by March next year: Quader**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The construction of 1.8km-long Mirpur-Airport Road flyover through the restricted Dhaka Cantonment zone, an overpass and a connecting bridge will be completed by early 2013, the communications minister said yesterday.

"The progress of the work is satisfactory. We hope to open the flyover and the overpass by March 2013," said Obaidul Quader after visiting the project area.

"After completion of the flyover project, it will be a milestone for the east-west link in road communication," said Quader. On completion of all the ongoing projects in the city including the development of Hatirjheel-Begunbari Khal (canal), traffic congestion will ease, he added.

The army's Special Works Organisation (SWO) took charge of the project in June 2010 with a target of implementing the job by this October.

Nevertheless, Project Director Brig Gen Abu Sayed Mohammad Masud said 45 percent of the flyover's construction work is done so far and it may be complete by this year. The 800-metre-long overpass and the connecting bridge will be done by March 2013.

Once the flyover is complete, people will cross the cantonment in just 10 minutes, he added.

Starting from Matikata, the flyover ends at Radisson Hotel. People using the flyover will not face the cantonment's check posts. Presently, the residents of Mirpur and Pallabi are to take a long detour at Bijoy Sarani or Agargaon to go to airport putting extra pressure on the busy Airport Road.

**Female student robbed, injured**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A female student was injured as snatchers pulled her handbag and took it away from inside a moving taxicab in front of Curzon Hall at Dhaka University yesterday morning.

The victim, Mahfuja Rahman Shanta, 21, a third year student of political science at Eden Mahila College, was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with minor injuries.

Shanta said that as she and two of her friends were going to the college at Azimpur on a rickshaw around 8:30am, a mugger from inside the cab pulled her bag, dragged her around 5-6 feet, and took it away. The bag contained a laptop, a cell phone, and some money.



Female farmers sow Boro plants (a species of paddy) in a field in Bogra yesterday.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

**Punish MPs who repressed journos**

*Demand media men*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Media professionals at a human chain yesterday criticised the lawmakers who have repressed journalists in the last three years and demanded their punishment.

They also called upon all media personnel to unite to prevent repression on journalists.

Progotisheel Shilpa o Ganomadhyan Kormi (progressive cultural personalities and mass media employees forum) organised the programme before the Jatiya Press Club protesting assault on journalists of Rtv last week by Awami League Lawmaker Kamal Ahmed Majumder.

Condemning the attack, Rokeya Prachi, a cultural personality, said whoever be guilty should be handed down exemplary punishment. She also called for ensuring amiable environment for journalist so that they could do their job properly.

Kamal Ahmed assaulted a female journalist and her team members on January 2 when they went to Monipur school in Mirpur for making reports on admission fees.

The speakers sought safety of journalists' life and work. Some journalists also took part in the yesterday's event.

**HC judges should be appointed by law**

*Says Suranjit*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country would not have a strong judiciary until the High Court judges are appointed through enactment of a law as per the constitution, Railways Minister Suranjit Sengupta said yesterday.

The article 95 of the constitution says a person shall not be qualified for appointment as a judge unless he or she has been an advocate of the Supreme Court for at least 10 years; or has held judicial office in the territory of Bangladesh for at least 10 years; or has such other qualifications as may be prescribed by law for appointment as a judge of the Supreme Court.

As no law, prescribing other qualifications, has been enacted, the judges are being appointed under the first two clauses of the constitution.

"I have said it before and I am saying it again that judges of the High Court [a division of the

SC] should be appointed by law," he said at a book launch.

The book, "Sangbidhaner Panchdash Sangshodhoni: Alochona-Tarka-Bitarka", (fifteenth amendment to the constitution: discussion and debate) authored by Amin Al Rasheed, senior reporter of ABC Radio, and published by Oitijhya was launched at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

About caretaker government, Suranjit said a consensus should be made over the issue, but before that both the ruling and opposition parties have to be obedient to the constitution.

Asif Nazrul, a professor of Dhaka University, said caretaker government is not the ultimate solution, but elections under a partisan government is not acceptable in the context of current political situation.

Dr Shahdeen Malik and Prothom Alo Associate Editor Mizanur Rahman Khan also spoke on the occasion.

**Role of Samson Chy recalled**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leading trade bodies, political parties, and social organisations yesterday continued to pay tributes to the country's best-known industrialist and visionary business leader, Samson H Chowdhury.

"He was one of those very rare individuals who touched many hearts and souls he came across for his fatherly and friendly loving care", the International Chamber of Commerce Bangladesh (ICC-B) said in a statement. "With his death, Bangladesh lost a visionary and committed business leader, which is hard to get".

The world business organisation considers Samson Chowdhury the "only business legend of our time in Bangladesh". Vice president of the chamber and chairman of Square Group, Samson Chowdhury passed away on Thursday at the age of 86. He had been associated with the ICC-B since it started operation in Bangladesh in the 1990s.

"The ICC-B was fortunate to have his continuous guidance and directions in carrying out its activities not only in Bangladesh but also in other parts of the World", the chambers said.

Eminent lawyer Dr Kamal Hossain, president of Gono Forum, said the nation has lost a patriotic and nationalist industrialist. "The loss is irreparable", he said in a statement.

Bangladesh-Malaysia Chamber of Commerce and Bangladesh said Samson Chowdhury sacrificed his entire life for noble causes of humanity and played a visionary role for the industrialisation of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh Association of Pharmaceutical Industries said he contributed a lot in developing and modernising the country's pharmaceutical industry.

Jatiya Gonotantrik League and Bangladesh Nari Mukti Andolon also condoled the death.

**Some trees along road felled**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Local influential people have cut down some green shishu and mehgonj trees along Kotchand-Kaliganj highway near Alangi bus stand in the district yesterday.

Omidul Islam, a ward member of Alangi union parishad (UP), claimed that UP Chairman Mizanur Rahman Khan gave the order to cut down the trees.

Contacted, Mizanur said he did not give the order.

"I can not give the order of felling the trees. The Kotchandpur Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO), as the president of the Forest Development Samity, is the authority of giving the order," the chairman said.

Some villagers requested to give the permission for felling some trees from the road side, he added.

UNO Subrata Kymar Sarkar could not be contacted as his phone found off.

Rezaul Islam who was present during the felling of the trees said the forest department was informed about cutting down the trees.

Ashaduzzaman, forest officer at Kotchandpur unit forest department, said, he will investigate the matter.

**All set for Ctg BNP rally**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Leaders of all the units of BNP in Chittagong are now working round the clock with holding preparatory meetings, rallies and processions at different corners of the areas to make the January 9 rally a success following a road march.

The whole port city has got a festive look having decorated with numerous billboards, posters, banners concerning the road march and the rally to be held at Pologround.

BNP central leaders have visited Chittagong several times in last three weeks to monitor the preparatory activities while local senior leaders are going every corner of their respective areas to have meeting with the grassroots leaders, activists and general people. While talking to The Daily Star yesterday evening BNP Chittagong city unit President Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury hoped that the road march and

the grand rally would be a testimony of general people's peaceful involvement amidst enthusiasm in a democratic movement.

"We are working hard for the preparation but general people seem to be way ahead of us," said Khasru.

Khasru met with the local leaders of four party alliance and other like-minded parties at his Mehediabag residence on Thursday night. Leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami, BJP, Islami Oikya Jote, Khelafat Majlish, LDP were present at the meeting.

Meanwhile, BNP Vice Chairman Abdullah Al Noman is also holding preparatory meetings and rallies at different areas.

Shafiqul Islam, additional commissioner of Chittagong Metropolitan Police, said they would take all necessary steps including deployment of enough forces at the venue and the entry points of the city so that the programme could be held peacefully.



A group of influential locals fell some trees on the sides of Kotchand-Kaliganj highway near Alangi bus stand in Jhenidah yesterday.

PHOTO: AZIBUR RAHMAN

**Govt to help stranded Pakistanis go back**

*Says state minister for home*

UNB, Dhaka

The longstanding problems of stranded Pakistanis living in a number of filthy camps across the country still remains unresolved, depriving them of their basic rights like education and healthcare.

The stranded Pakistanis, known as Biharis, want equal treatment like Bangladeshi citizens as they see no sign of their repatriation.

"We want to live a normal life outside camps like other Bangladeshis. Those who want to go back to Pakistan they should be given government support to do so. But those who want to stay back here should be given equal treatment," Stranded Pakistanis' General Repatriation Committee (SPGRC) general secretary M Shawkat Ali told the news agency.

Asked about it, State Minister for Home Shamsul Haque Tuku told the news agency that the government is providing all necessary support to the stranded Pakistanis. "We'll ensure all required support and if anyone wants to go back to Pakistan, we'll extend necessary support," he said.

"But still we feel deprived of... We've to live in a congested 8 feet by 8 feet room with family members, including kids. We don't have any privacy and have limited access to education," said M Shawkat Ali.

Some 30,000 stranded Pakistanis of around 5,500 families live at Geneva Camp in the city's Muhammadpur while around 3 lakh Pakistanis in 17 camps of 16 districts across the country.

Since independence, Bangladesh has been asking Pakistan to resolve the issues which also include transfer of foreign aid that was meant for cyclone victims of 1970, and payment of war reparations. But all the successive Pakistani governments, including the present one, have completely ignored the request, except repatriation of a small number of stranded Pakistanis.



Artistes of Rishij Shilpi Goshti perform song at the three-day Poush Mela (winter fair) organised by Poush Mela Udjapan Parishad at Ramna Batamul in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

**DHAKA TODAY**

**Human chain**  
Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote will form a human chain. Venue: Before Jatiya Press Club, Time: 11:00am.

**Seminar**  
Paribesh Bachao Andolon will hold a seminar. Venue: Poba auditorium, Kalabagan, Time: 11:00am.

**Children fair**  
Japan Bangladesh Friendship Hospital will organise a children fair. Venue: 55, Saat Mashjid Road, Dhanmondi, Time: 8:00am.

**Seminar**  
Bangladesh Institute of Journalism and Electronic Media will hold a seminar. Venue: 257/8, Elephant Road, Katabon, Time: 11:00am.

**Sit-in**  
We are the 99 Percent will hold a sit-in protest. Venue: TSC, Dhaka University, Time: 4:00pm.

**Roundtable**  
Academic Press and Publishers Library will hold a roundtable. Venue: Jatiya Press Club, Time: 3:30pm.

**Reception**  
A Centre for Women Journalist will hold a reception. Venue: Jatiya Press Club, Time: 10:00am.

The Daily Star  
**Star Camps**  
LINKING YOUNG MINDS TOGETHER  
COMING OUT TOMORROW  
**LINKING YOUNG MINDS**

Check out this week's Star Campus to get all chic in winter as we offer you a cover story all about the winter fashion for the students. Plus the magazine would also have an array of mind-boggling stories and facts for the young minds, like how a unified movement by the general students can remove all antisocial elements from their campus no matter how powerful they are. There would be an article about how the notion of student union differs between the west and here. Apart from that we would have humorous tales from schools and universities, and an exclusive interview with model Shgariin Farzana would inspire you to get innovative with your career. Catch some good reads as Star Campus hits the country tomorrow.

**WARDROBE FOR THE CHILL**