

## DHAKA-CTG HIGHWAY Upgradation by Dec 2013

*Says communications minister*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Communications and Railways Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said the bulk portion of works for upgradation of the Dhaka-Chittagong highway to four lanes will be completed by December 2013.

He was speaking as chief guest at a workshop titled "Regional Consultative Workshop on Private Sector Development" jointly organised by Economic Relations Department (ERD), a division of the Ministry of Finance, and Islamic Development Bank (IDB) at a hotel in Chittagong.

The pace of the works has a bit slowed down due to the rainy season now, he said adding that the project will get adequate budgetary allocations in the upcoming national budget.

Obaidul Quader said the government has taken a 20-year master plan to renovate roads in the country.

With financial supports from Asian Development Bank (ADB), the roads will be renovated costing Tk76 thousand crore, he said.

The minister said the renovation works of Kalurghat Bridge over Karnaphuli River will be beginning soon.

An approach road would also be built for ferry services, he said.

Quader said the feasibility study for constructing a tunnel under the river is now at final stage. The tunnel will be constructed on Public Private Partnership (PPP) basis.

A circular train service in Chittagong city will be launched by December this year, he said.

Urging the donor agencies to invest in Chittagong, Quader said the city has a huge potential.

Terming the Chittagong city as commercial hub, he said, "We need smooth connectivity all over the country, and it will attract tourists from home and abroad".

With IDB's regional director Ahmed Saleh Hariri in the chair, Kazi Shafiqul Azim, additional secretary at ERD, Matiul Islam, former finance secretary, Mahbulul Alam, and senior vice president of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI), among others spoke on the occasion.



Outgoing German Ambassador to Bangladesh Holger Michael calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Prime Minister's Office yesterday.

PHOTO: PMO

## Govt to vaccinate poultry birds

*Says livestock minister*

UNB, Dhaka

The government has decided to 'experimentally' vaccinate poultry birds to protect the poultry industry from avian influenza virus, Fisheries and Livestock Minister Md Abdul Latif Biswas said yesterday.

"The government has decided to vaccinate the poultry birds before they die. An 8-member expert team has been formed in this regard to carry out the vaccination process," he said.

The minister was addressing as chief guest a seminar titled 'Poultry industries in crises: Immediate measures' organised by Bangladesh Poultry Industries Coordination Committee (BPICC) at Cirdap auditorium in the capital.

Biswas said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the national advisory committee have approved the decision to introduce the vaccination programme.

"Alongside vaccinating the birds, bio-security must be maintained," he said, adding that the farms that fail to maintain this must be shut down.

He also asked the livestock department and the officials concerned to take immediate measures to bring all the poultry farms scattered across the country under a single registration process in a bid to regulate their operations.

Former Bangladesh Bank governor Dr Mohammad Farashuddin emphasised on lobbying the government to introduce poultry insurance with a special fund to help protect the poultry industry from imminent devastation.

BPICC Convener Moshir Rahman, while presenting a keynote paper, urged the government to keep the poultry sector under tax exemption, introduce vaccines for birds, and stop intervention in the sector by foreign companies.

CPD senior research fellow Dr Khobdaker Golam Moazzam and journalist Zahiduzzaman Faruk also spoke.

## Wasfia to return home Saturday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Wasfia Nazreen, the second Bangladeshi woman to conquer Mount Everest, is all set to return to Dhaka on Saturday instead of the earlier scheduled Friday.

She will be taking a flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines from Kathmandu and hopes to land in Dhaka around 12:40 pm on Saturday, Wasfia told The Daily Star over phone yesterday.



Wasfia Nazreen

Upon her arrival, the mountaineer is scheduled to visit the capital's

Rayerbazar killing field to pay tribute to the country's martyred freedom fighters.

Wasfia has already received the certificate from the Mountaineering Division under the Ministry of Tourism in Nepal for her feat.

She launched her Everest expedition on March 26 under a campaign titled 'Bangladesh on Seven Summits' supported by the Liberation War Museum of Bangladesh. She reached the summit on May 26.

## PROF SAYEED'S REMARK 'Confusion' could be resolved in parliament

*Suggests Suranjit*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Suranjit Sengupta, the former railways minister, yesterday said the "confusion" over the remark made by noted litterateur Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed could be resolved within parliament, through its rules of procedure and the constitution.

"Sunday's parliament discussions about the remark would not have been held if the newspaper had not published the misleading report," he said.

Suranjit was addressing as chief guest a discussion, "A free and fair election is possible through a constitutional and democratic process under a powerful Election Commission", organised by Bangabandhu Gram Doctor Parishad at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

A section of ruling alliance lawmakers in the House on June 3 said Prof Sayeed had termed lawmakers and ministers thieves and dacoits at a Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) programme on June 2 and demanded that he offer an unconditional apology in the House for his comment.

Prof Sayeed, founder of Bishwa Sahitya Kendra, at a press conference organised by TIB on June 5, said he had not mentioned the name of any country or lawmaker or parliament on the June 2 programme.

TIB, at the press conference, had demanded that parliament expunge some lawmakers' remarks about Prof Sayeed, a member of the TIB trustee board, from its proceedings.

Terming the alternative budget of BNP as undemocratic and unconstitutional, Suranjit said the constitution gave only the government the right to place a budget.

## Rehana joins Queen's jubilee

BSS, Dhaka

Sheikh Rehana along with her daughter Azmina Siddiqui Rupanti attended a number of programmes in the United Kingdom celebrating Queen Elizabeth's 60 years in throne, said an official message in Dhaka.

Rehana, daughter of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and Rupanti joined the thanksgiving ceremony at Central Cathedral, a reception by Lord Mayor at Guild Hall and a royal lunch at Manchester House on Tuesday.



Jatiya Bharatia Parishad, an association of tenants, collects signatures from people in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday to raise support for the enforcement of the Premises Rent Control Act, 1991.

PHOTO: STAR

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