

Construction of 3 Ctg flyovers soon

BSS, Ctg
Primary and Mass Education Minister Dr Afsarul Ameen yesterday said the construction works of three flyovers at Nasirabad, Muradpur and GEC crossing in Chittagong will start soon.

Necessary formalities have been completed for starting the construction works of the three flyovers which will be inaugurated simultaneously by December this year, he said.

"Development works worth about Tk 1600 crore have been completed in the port city in the last two and a half years which is higher than any other government in the past", the minister said while inaugurating the construction work of one-kilometre-long Kadamtali flyover as the chief guest at Kadamtali Intersection in Chittagong.

The construction works of the fly over costing Tk 58 crore is scheduled to be completed by December 2013.

Dr Ameen said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's commitment for the development of economically potential Chittagong region has been fulfilled with the starting of the development works in the port city.

CDA chairman Abdus Salam, presided over the function while Nurul Islam BSc, MP, CDA Board Members Mofizur Rahman, Younus Goni Chowdhury, ward councilors Gias Uddin, Sirajul Islam, Jahangir Alam, Nazrul Islam Bahadur, Chittagong WASA Managing Director A K M Fazlullah and CDA chief Engineer Nasir Uddin Mahmud Chowdhury, among others, attended the function.



A makeshift structure set up to hold the inaugural ceremony of CDA Kadamtali flyover blocks almost an entire lane of the road, creating huge traffic jam in the area of Chittagong city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Celebration for Dhaka as Islamic cultural capital starts today

PM to inaugurate it
UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka will celebrate the declaration of 'Capital of Islamic Culture of the Asian Region for 2012' through yearlong cultural programmes beginning today.

Earlier this year Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO) declared Dhaka as the Asian Islamic cultural capital because of its rich Islamic heritage.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will formally open the three-day inaugural programme in Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the city at 9:30am.

State-run Bangladesh Television (BTV) and Bangladesh Betar will broadcast the inaugural function of the yearlong programmes live. The programmes will show the country's cultural and Islamic heritage.

Joint programmes of the Cultural Affairs Ministry and the ISESCO would be held in phases from July to November this year, said a senior official at the ministry.

The programmes will include national symposiums on Islamic thinkers, cultural tourism workshop with the participation of members in Asian region, exhibition of Dhaka's best traditional artworks, foods, calligraphy, book fair, open discussion on Islamic heritage, regional training course, and drama on Islamic heritage.

Marking the occasion, the ministry of culture will also organise photo and video exhibition on historic Muslim establishments, calligraphy exhibition and Sufi songs while Islamic Foundation will organise recitation from the Holy Quran.

Senior officials of the ministry have visited the ISESCO headquarters in Rabat in Morocco in this regard.

The visit was part of the coordination meeting between ISESCO and the Ministry of Cultural Affairs of Bangladesh to review the celebration programme of Dhaka as the Asian region's capital of Islamic culture for 2012.

The celebration falls within the ten-year programme approved by the fourth Islamic Conference of Cultural Affairs Ministers held in Algiers in November 2004 on the celebration of capitals of Islamic culture.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE FAIR Kids join joyful event in Patuakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Over 180 enthusiastic students of Arafatun Nesa Girls High School yesterday participated in the fair held under the English in Schools (EIS) programme, a joint initiative of The Daily Star and mobile operator Robi.

Adcomm Ltd is the creative and event partner of the fairs held under the programme.

The fair held at the girls' school was inaugurated at 2:00pm by Morsheda Begum, headmistress of the school.

Teachers of the school, guardians of the students, Robi Area Manager Mohiuddin, Advocate Gazi Sahid, among others, attended the fair.

The fair began with screening of renowned movie The Lion King and was followed by spot vocabulary quiz, question and answer, one word question, situation based question, extempore speech, and role play. The students also entertained the audience by reciting poems, telling jokes, and singing.

Prizes were distributed among the winners of different competitions at the end of the programme.

WB fund cancellation artificial crisis: Suranjit

UNB, Dhaka

Minister without portfolio Suranjit Sengupta yesterday termed cancellation of Padma Bridge loan by World Bank (WB) an artificial crisis created with political motive.

"The cancellation of the loan by the World Bank is an artificial crisis and it was done with political intention," he said while addressing a discussion at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in the capital.

Criticising the WB's decision to cancel the loan after three years of signing the deal, Suranjit said, "This is really unfortunate and mysterious. The role of the opposition in this respect is more shameful than theirs [WB]."

He also hoped that the global lending agency will review its decision.

Referring to Prof Muhammad Yunus, Suranjit said they do not expect the name of the country's only Nobel laureate to crop up in the Padma bridge loan cancellation issue.

"Dr Yunus is an asset for our impoverished

country. But when the nation is moving forward, we do not want to see his name to have any involvement in this [Padma Bridge] issue," he said.

State Minister for Law Quamrul Islam, who was also present at the discussion, said a vested quarter is engaged in conspiracy to tarnish the government's image.

Referring to Padma Bridge issue, he said, "We think the WB did not take the right decision and will realise the mistake it has made."

In another programme in the capital, BNP leader Moudud Ahmed said the government is trying to create a smokescreen and mislead people by their announcement to build the bridge with domestic resources.

"The government is talking about constructing the bridge with own fund only to hush up their corruption in the project," he said.

They have resorted to a ploy of punishing people by imposing surcharge instead of punishing those charged with corruption by the WB, he added.

Build career at global level

AK Khandaker urges youths

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Planning Minister Air Vice-Marshal (ret) AK Khandaker yesterday urged the country's young people to be educated properly to build up carrier at international level.

"The world would face lack of skilled youth from 2012 to 2040 as the number of elderly people would be increased," he said.

During the period, the number of young people in Bangladesh would be increased, he said adding that the country's young people can take the opportunity of building career around the world including European countries.

"Bangladeshi youths will lead the world in education, health, business and other sectors in next two or three decades. So, they should be prepared to fulfil the international demand," he said.

AK Khandaker was speaking as the chief guest at a freshers' reception programme at Shahid M Monsur Ali College in Pabna.

Former home minister Mohammad Nasim chaired the programme. Md Saidul Haque Chunnun, the administrator at Pabna Zila Parishad, Mosharaf Hossain, chairman of Pabna Sadar upazila, among others, also spoke on the occasion.



Many local women in Keraniganj earn their livelihoods through selling food, prepared by themselves, in tiffin carriers like these. The women in the photograph sell each box for Tk 40 and they have about 80 to 100 orders daily. The photo was taken yesterday from the second Buriganga bridge.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

e-service at all govt offices soon

Says A2I national project director

BSS, Dhaka

All services of government offices at district, upazila and union levels will turn into e-service (electronic service) under a National E-service System (NESS) to provide hassle-free quick services to the people.

"Development of NESS is at the final stage as piloting of the system is successfully going on in 250 government offices of Jessore district," National Project Director of the Support to Digital Bangladesh (A2I) Programme Md Nazrul Islam Khan told a workshop at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) yesterday.

Cabinet Division and the A2I programme jointly organised the workshop on 'e-service' attended by deputy commissioners (DCs) of all districts.

Policy Adviser of the A2I Programme Anir Chowdhury and City Editor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) Ajit Kumar Sarkar, among others, were also present on the occasion.

Nazrul Islam urged the DCs to strengthen

their monitoring on the union information service centres (UISCs) for smooth functioning of the centres.

System Analyst of A2I programme Md Forhad Zahid Shaikh said the NESS's has eight components including e-filing, user management, LDAP, service portal, e-communication, e-service management, BSR web account and e-form builder.

"Piloting of NESS at 250 offices in Jessore will be completed within September this year", he added.

Consultant of the A2I Programme of the Prime Minister Office Manik Mahmud said the NESS will bring all government services from national to grassroots levels under a platform, which will ensure public service process easy and quick.

He said the A2I programme has set up a dashboard for monitoring the e-services. Transparency and accountability of different service providing offices will be ensured as activities of the e-services can be monitored within 10 minutes centrally.

FURNACE OIL SCAM Rab hands over 4 oil tankers to owners

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-7) handed over four oil tankers to owners of the tankers on Thursday following an order of a Chittagong court.

On May 20, Rab seized around 3 lakh litres of furnace oil from Anu Majhir Ghat area in Chittagong when it was being hauled for black market. Rab also seized seven oil tankers from there on that day.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) Ali Mansur passed the order a week ago to hand over five of the vessels to their owners, said Rab sources.

Major Raqibul Amin, deputy director at Rab-7, said they handed over the oil tankers OT Royal Pacific, OT Suchana, OT Queen of Bengal, and OT Queen of Jyoti.

Police stations to get digital network

BSS, Dhaka

Dhaka range of Bangladesh Police has been brought under a separate mobile network 'Digital Mobile Radio' (DMR) system to bring all the police stations in the country under the system to ensure secrecy and obstacle free communication.

"Under a pilot project, we have already brought 15 districts among 17 of Dhaka range under the DMR system replacing analogue one to maintain secrecy and clear communication among us," Superintendent of Police Rofiqul Hassan Ghani of Telecom told the news agency at his office on Thursday.

"After successful completion of the pilot project, all the police stations across the country in phases will be brought under the DMR system," he said adding, "The system has already been set up in 15 districts except Dhaka and Shariatpur and it works beyond our expectations."

One can make one-to-one and group conversations and send messages through

the system like the mobile phones. It will also save money of the police officials, as no money they would have to pay to make phone calls using the system.

In line with the government pledge to make Bangladesh digital, the project at a cost of Tk 9.30 crore has been taken up in the fiscal year 2010-11, and the work to set up the DMR system in 15 districts of Dhaka range of police have been completed in November last.

A total of 2040 handsets and 301 fixed sets and 20 repeaters have been purchased to introduce the system in 15 districts of Dhaka range.

In the first phase, all the superintendents of police and inspectors under the districts have been provided with the handsets to make communication among them.

On-duty police officers of each of the police stations have also been given the handsets. The handsets have been replacing the walki-talkies.



Rescued victims from the stranded BIWTC Rocket Steamer PS Lepcha are being ferried to Barisal river port by BIWTC sea truck ST Khizir-8 yesterday. On its way to Dhaka from Barisal, the steamer broke down at Charmonai leaving 790 passengers marooned on it.

PHOTO: STAR