



Made during the British colonial era, the almost 82-year-old Kalurghat bridge over the river Karnaphuli is under renovation. As the bridge will be closed off for the next three months due to the renovation, Roads and Highways Department has started ferry service in the area.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

# Invest in Rakhine state to end Rohingya crisis

*Bangladesh govt urges USA, int'l community*

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday urged the United States and the international community to invest in Rakhine state of Myanmar to create livelihood so that it could bring a permanent end to the sufferings of Rohingyas.

Investment in Rakhine will also help Bangladesh to get a relief from the influx of Rohingyas into the country.

The government made the suggestion when a four-member high-powered delegation from the US State Department sought Bangladesh's views for a long-term humanitarian solution to the Rohingya crisis.

The delegation arrived in Dhaka yesterday after visiting for three days the camps in Rakhine state where Muslim Rohingyas and Burmese Buddhists are living.

The team met senior officials of the foreign ministry yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, the officials also reiterated that Bangladesh wanted to send back the remaining Rohingya refugees through bilateral

negotiations with Myanmar.

In response to the US team's query about Bangladesh's policy towards operation of NGOs in the Cox's Bazar refugee camps, the ministry officials said the government had discontinued renewal to three international NGOs working in Noapara and Kutupalong camps, as they worked beyond their mandate.

The US team is comprised of Deputy Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs Alyssa Ayres, Deputy Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Joseph Y Yun, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration Kelly Clements, and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor Daniel Baer.

US Ambassador in Dhaka Dan Mozena accompanied the delegation.

The US team will also consult with UN officials, NGOs, and members of the diplomatic community in Dhaka and will visit Cox's Bazar and Teknaf today.

## AL MPs want exemplary action against food adulterators

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pointing out the alarming trend of food adulteration, some ruling Awami League (AL) lawmakers yesterday in parliament demanded that the government takes exemplary punitive action against food adulterators.

Citing statistics, Shahiduzzaman Sarker said one fourth of the country's total population is likely to be victim of different types of cancer by 2025 for taking contaminated food items.

AL MP Matiur Rahman demanded that the government amends the existing law introducing provision for death penalty or life imprisonment for the culprits involved in food adulteration.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid who was replying lawmakers' queries on behalf of Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad said the government, if necessary, will amend the existing law to take harsh measures against such criminals.

# Govt to continue funding 3 univs

*Confirms bill passed in JS; 5 other bills placed*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three public universities, including Jagannath University, which were supposed to self-finance after a certain period of time, will continue receiving government money.

The government passed three bills to this end yesterday, scrapping provisions in the university acts, which made them mandatory to become self-reliant by gradually increasing their own income.

The two other institutions are Comilla University and Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University.

According to the new provisions made through passage of the bills, the three universities will bear their expenditure from their own income and from the money they will be receiving from the government and University Grant Commission (UGC).

The Jagannath University Act passed in 2005 had earlier said the government would phase out its fund for the university and it would have to run with its own income from the fifth year after it became a university.

The acts for Comilla and Nazrul universities were passed in 2006. The laws previously required the institutions to become self-financed after 10 years into their inception.

### FIVE BILLS PLACED IN PARLIAMENT

A bill on Grameen Bank Amendment Act 2012, which contains some controversial changes to the bank's 1983 ordinance, was placed in parliament yesterday.

Planning Minister AK Khandker placed it on behalf of Finance Minister AMA Muhith.

The controversial changes vest more power on the Grameen Bank chairman regarding choosing the bank's managing director.

President Zillur Rahman recently promulgated an ordinance amending the Grameen Bank Ordinance, 1983. The ordinance now waits to be passed into law.

As per the changes, the chairman, always appointed by the government, in consultation with the board shall constitute a selection committee of not less than three and not more than five members for the purpose of selecting candidates for appointment as managing director.

The selection committee shall recommend a panel of three candidates and the board will pick one from the panel.

The amendments have drawn huge flak from different quarters over the fear that Grameen Bank would turn into a government-controlled institution.

Meanwhile State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam placed a bill seeking amendment to the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act 1973 to reduce time for filing of appeals against judgments on war crimes to 30 days from 60 days.

Another bill was placed for enactment of a law to establish a sustainable and renewable energy development authority in the country.

State Minister for Home Shamsul Hoque Tuku placed it on behalf of State Minister for Energy, Power and Mineral Resources Enamul Haq.

State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Jahangir Kabir Nanak placed a bill seeking to bring some changes in the cooperative society act 2001. He placed it on behalf of LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam.

Land Minister Rezaul Karim Hira placed a bill to bring changes in the vested property act extending timeframe for publication of gazettes of vested properties.



PHOTO: STAR

America-Bangladesh Friendship Forum forms a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday to commemorate the people including Bangladeshis who were killed in the 9/11 terrorist attack in New York in 2001.

**Income Tax Day**  
3 Days to go...