



MOGHBAZAR-MOUCHAK FLYOVER LAYOUT

SOURCE: LGED

MOGHBAZAR-MOUCHAK FLYOVER Construction starts Feb 16

HELEMUL ALAM

The construction of a four-lane, 8.25-kilometre flyover centring Moghbazar and Mouchak will formally begin with the laying of its foundation stone by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on February 16, said the LGED and cooperatives ministry sources.

The structure, an amalgamation of three flyovers, will be constructed in two years from November 18, 2012, the day the project's contract was signed.

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) signed the contract with two construction firms -- Simplex Navana JV and MCC (number-4)-SEL-UDCJV, said an LGED official.

The flyover's first part goes from Shat Rasta to Bangladesh Film Development Corporation (FDC) and Holy Family Hospital while the second goes from Eskaton to Rajarbagh Police Lines via Moghbazar crossing, Malibagh and Mouchak.

The third part goes from Mouchak-Shantinagar crossing to Rampura Road via Malibagh rail crossing, he said.

Vehicular access will be eased by 15 ramps -- at Shat Rasta crossing and Rampura Road, and near FDC, Holy

Family Hospital, Eskaton, Wireless Gate, Rajarbagh Police Lines and Shantinagar, he added.

Director of the flyover's construction project, Md Nazmul Alam, said the flyover, crossing eight road and two rail crossings, aims to reduce the huge traffic congestion at Shat Rasta, FDC, Moghbazar, Mouchak Malibagh and Shantinagar intersections.

The flyover will be constructed in coordination with the 20-year Strategic Transport Plan, which aims at removing the ever-increasing traffic congestion in the capital, he said.

Piling works near Orchid Market at Outer Circular Road has already begun last week, said another LGED official.

The LGED is implementing the Tk 772.69 crore project, of which, the government is providing Tk 200.47 crore, Saudi Fund for Development Tk 375.24 crore and OPEC Fund For International Development Tk 196.98 crore.

The project was approved at an Executive Committee of National Economic Council meeting on March 8, 2012.

The LGED in 2005 carried out the project's Tk 3.5 crore-feasibility study, funded by the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, said LGED sources.

KHALEDA'S ARTICLE BNP rejects AL's sedition charges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP leaders yesterday rejected the ruling Awami League's sedition allegations against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia over her January 30 Washington Times article.

"Khaleda Zia drew the attention of friends to save Bangladesh's democracy, nothing else," they told a procession Swechhasebak Dal organised in Naya Paltan in the capital demanding unconditional release of BNP Acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir.

BNP Standing Committee Member Moudud Ahmed said desiring moral support from well-wishers for the country and democracy, not for BNP, at a time when Bangladeshis were trying to save democracy was not sedition.

AL very indecently criticised the article and Khaleda in parliament as it indicated the government's weak points. It is not sedition when a person criticizes the government's role, he said.

AL President Sheikh Hasina, while in the opposition, visited the USA and made several allegations against the BNP government, he said, adding that the government was pushing the country towards anarchy and AL would be held responsible.

The ruling-AL led-14 party leaders have lambasted Khaleda for her article, where she expressed her opinion over Bangladesh's political situation, both in parliament and outside, asking her to seek pardon from Bangladeshis.

Left leaders condemn article

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia committed sedition by urging the USA to interfere in Bangladesh's internal affairs through her Washington Times article, said left leaning party leaders in separate statements yesterday.

Communist Party of Bangladesh termed the article vile and shameful while Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal said the offence, for an opposition leader, was unforgivable.

At a rally in the capital's Mirpur, Workers' Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon said the article exposed Khaleda's treachery.

Ten left leaning democratic parties, including Gono Oikya and Communist Kendro, said Khaleda, in her critique of the war crimes tribunal, used the same language Jamaat-e-Islami uses.

ELECTION-TIME GOVT AL, BNP urged to negotiate a system

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday emphasised that the ruling Awami League and main opposition BNP should negotiate a system of election-time government for the next parliamentary election in order to escape violence.

People have begun to doubt whether the election, due by next January, would be held at all, as a system of interim government is not in place yet, said senior journalist Amanullah Kabir.

The present government has scrapped the caretaker government system through constitutional amendment though it received acceptability at home and abroad, he told the roundtable, "All-party Interim Government", in the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

The journalist said economic development took place in the country in the last 20 years when democratic governments were in power, and those governments won in elections held under non-partisan governments.

Faro Al Siddique, adviser to Nagorik Samaj, which organised the discussion, suggested a 15-member advisory committee made up of ruling and opposition party representatives and eminent non-partisan people for holding the next election.

He also proposed constituting a new and strong Election Commission, as, what he said, most political parties did not have trust in the present Election Commission.

Kazi Md Oabidur Rashid, president of Nagorik Samaj, and ABM Osman Gani, its general secretary, among others, also spoke on the occasion.



(Sitting from left) Md Giashuddin Ahmed, Shahara Khatun, Michael Kuehner and Abubakar Siddique and, standing from left, TIM Nurul Kabir, Mehboob Chowdhury, Ziad Shatara, Md Mujibur Rahman, Vivek Sood and Chris Tobit at an installation ceremony of Association of Mobile Telecom Operators of Bangladesh in the capital's Rajarbagh Hotel yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Commerzbank official due in capital today

METRO DESK

Harald Lipkau, head of financial institutions of German-based banking and financial services company Commerzbank AG, will arrive in Dhaka today on a four-day official visit.

He will meet Bangladesh Bank Governor Atiur Rahman and CEOs and managing directors of different commercial banks in the country.



PHOTO: STAR

With the demands for decent pay and safe workplace, National Garment Workers Federation brings out a procession on Topkhana road in the capital on the occasion of the organisation's 12th once-in-two-year convention yesterday.

TELECOM INDUSTRY REGULATION Govt decision after talks with operators

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will take all decisions regarding the mobile industry after discussion with the operators to enhance the sector's services, said top officials of the telecommunications ministry and regulatory commission yesterday.

In an installation ceremony of Association of Mobile Telecom Operators of Bangladesh (AMTOB) at a hotel in the capital, Abubakar Siddique, telecommunications secretary, said the government is enthusiastic about the cooperation between the two parties regarding decision to get best output from the sector.

Earlier, a number of arbitrary decisions regarding policy and regulatory issues taken by the government hampered growth of the mobile industry, said industry insiders.

However, Abubakar said he is working for finalising the 3G (3rd generation) licencing guideline. The guideline will be sent to the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) soon.

Micheal Kuehner, chief executive officer of Robi, took charge of the association as the new AMTOB chairman from outgoing chairman Mehboob Chowdhury, CEO of Citycell.

Acknowledging the contribution of the sector as the largest tax payer, Post and Telecommunications Minister Shahara Khatun said the mobile industry is one of the few private sectors with foreign direct investment, which heavily contributes to the country's economic development.

CEOs and managing directors of other mobile operators -- Vivek Sood of Grameenphone, Ziad Shatara of Banglalink, Chris Tobit of Airtel and Md Mujibur Rahman of Teletalk -- were present at the event.

Motorcyclist hacked to death

A CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira

A youth was hacked to death allegedly by hijackers who also took away his motorcycle at Haratdaha village in Debhata upazila of Sathkira yesterday.

The deceased was Chobirul Islam, 25, of the upazila's Vatsala village. He gave transportation service to commuters with his motorcycle.

Chobirul went missing after he went out carrying two passengers on his motorcycle on Thursday, said his brother Monirul Islam.

Debhata police suspect that hijackers attacked Chobirul and took away his motorcycle, leaving behind his body at a farmland in Haratdaha village.

Police recover the body and sent it to Sathkira Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Morgue sources said the body bore several hacking marks.

'PLANNING SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES' 7 Jamaat men held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested seven leaders and activists of Jamaat-e-Islami from a building housing a private college at Gulshan in the capital yesterday while they were holding a "secret meeting on subversive activities against the government".

The arrestees -- Saleh Ahmed, Mostafizur Rahman, Abdul Mannan, Md Hedayetullah, Sagir Ahmed, Kobir Ahmed, and Md Kefayet Ullah -- claimed to be Jamaat leaders and activists in preliminary interrogation.

"Kefayet Ullah is the vice principal of the college and a leader of Badda thana unit Jamaat," said Officer-in-Charge (OC) Rafiqul Islam of Gulshan Police Station.

"Three are leaders, Hedayet Ullah of Jamaat's Bhatara unit, Sagir Ahmed of Jamaat's Banashree unit and Abdul Mannan of Jamaat's Badda unit," he said.

Police claimed that Saleh Ahmed and Mostafizur Rahman were rokon (full-members) of Jamaat-e-Islami.

Police received information that the Jamaat men were holding the meeting in an auditorium of Islamic International School and College to discuss about their subversive activities and plans against the government and law enforcers, said the OC.

The OC said the arrestees were handed over to Detective Branch of Police in the afternoon for further interrogation and legal action would be taken against the arrestees after preliminary interrogation.

Jamaat and pro-Jamaat student organisation Islami Chhatra Shibir have been going on the rampage on the streets since last November to press home their demand for the immediate release of the party's top leaders, including those being tried on war crimes charges.

They have been launching guerilla-style attacks from processions and wounding hundreds of law enforcers, people and journalists and vandalising a similar number of vehicles.

Interns start indefinite strike at RMCH

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Interns at Rangpur Medical College (RMC) started their indefinite strike yesterday as the college administration failed to meet their demands within the deadline.

The demands are-- immediate arrest of attackers of RMC unit Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) President Rezwanur Rahman Miraz; a permanent police camp on the campus; cancellation of internship of Dr Pulok and permanent expulsion of its another six students.

Earlier on Wednesday, Intern Doctors Association (IDA) and BCL unit jointly called the strike.

Meanwhile, doctors of Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH) announced to observe a two-hour work abstention for three days from Monday protesting a recent attack and vandalism of the chamber of RMCH Assistant Professor Dr Nurunnabi Laizu.

COMING OUT TOMORROW

LINKING YOUNG MINDS

This week's Star Campus, a weekly publication of The Daily Star, has some interesting articles for the readers. The Spotlight this week will be of great help to the SSC and HSC examinees, where students will get to know about some crucial dos and don'ts before these very important exams. Guys should check out the Campus Trends to know about some 'cool' shows for men. The Star Chat this week is with Dancer Maria Farih Upama, where she shares her memories from school and future plans. Do not forget to grab this week's Star Campus as it hits the country tomorrow. And, as always, have a great read!