

## REGIONAL ROAD LINK WB okays \$107m for Indian project

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

The World Bank has approved funding of US\$ 107 million for a road project in northeastern Indian state of Mizoram which will be connected with Bangladesh and Myanmar, said WB Country Director in India Onno Ruhl yesterday.

The link to Bangladesh will facilitate greater bilateral trade and access to Chittagong port, the nearest shipping port for India's North East.

Onno Ruhl was addressing a press conference in Guwahati, the capital of Assam state.

The WB board had last week approved a soft loan for the "Mizoram State Roads II-Regional Transport Connectivity Project", he said.

The project will be financed by a credit from the International Development Association -WB's concessionary lending arm that provides interest-free loans with 25 years to maturity and a grace period of five years.

The project will fund 91km of roads.

Roads that will be widened or strengthened include a 22km section of

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This large crater is getting even bigger due to rain, making people suffer on the road near the international trade fair ground at the capital's Agargaon. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## WAR CRIMES TRIAL OF QAISAR 2 witnesses present docs at tribunal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday recorded the testimonies of two prosecution witnesses in the case against Syed Mohammad Qaisar, the alleged founder of "Qaisar Bahini", a force made up of collaborators, in Habiganj during the liberation war.

Amena Khatun and Anisur Rahman, the 29th and 30th prosecution witness, exhibited five books and a photo of a newspaper article, which were seized by the investigator of the case.

Amena, the documentation officer of the Liberation War Museum, exhibited a photo of a front-page story of The Times published on March 27, 1971, with the headline "Heavy Fighting as Sheikh Mujibur Declares E [East Pakistan Independent]".

She also exhibited two other books--Sylhet Gonohaty (Genocide in Sylhet) and Muktiuddher Itihaser Khoje (In Search of Liberation War History)--seized by Manowara

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## KILLINGS, ABDUCTIONS Rab involved as institution: BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday said three former Rapid Action Battalion officials' confessional statements to court over the killing of seven people in Narayanganj had proved that the force had become involved in abductions and killings institutionally.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and senior vice chairman have also said the same thing, he told reporters at the party's headquarters in Nayapaltan after a meeting with Hindu Buddhist Christian Oikya Parishad.

Tareque Sayeed Mohammad, a former army lieutenant

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## RECENT MAJOR KILLINGS

# Govt backing MPs with alleged links

Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The names of several ruling party lawmakers are arising in connection with the high profile murders like those in the Kurmitola Bihari camp, Feni and Narayanganj, yet none of them are being arrested, eminent jurist Shahdeen Malik observed at a discussion yesterday.

He made the comments in reference to the death of nine Biharis in an arson attack allegedly led by Awami League lawmaker Elias Uddin Mollah's men on Saturday, the alleged links between Narayanganj AL leader Shamim Osman and the killing of seven people, and the alleged involvement of Feni AL lawmakers Joynal and Nizam Hazari in killing a chairman.

The "Open discussion on Kalshi carnage and the lack of security of the stranded Pakistanis residing in the camp" was organ-

ised jointly by Manusher Jonno Foundation and Refugee and Migratory Movement Research Unit (RMMRU) at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

Media reports widely publicised the alleged links between the lawmakers and these sensational murders, speakers said. All the MPs, however, denied their involvement in the killings.

Nine Biharis were burnt alive, and one died in police firing in the capital's Mirpur on Saturday. In late April, Narayanganj city panel mayor Nazrul Islam and six other people were killed after abduction. On May 20, Phulgazi upazila chairman Ekramul Haq in Feni was shot inside his car before being burnt to death.

"Those who caused these crimes are not regular petty criminals. Therefore they must be made accountable," stated Mahmudur

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A year on since he was taken from us, Sohrab's absence in our lives remains painful and deepens in proportion to the joy his life would have continued to bring us if he had been allowed to live it to its fullness.

Beloved Sohrab, we miss your kindness, your sincerity, your smile, your gentle nature, your wit, your humour, your strength, your courage, your sense of responsibility, your enormous heart, your integrity, your values, your virtues, your laugh, your love and your boundless affection. We have lost the best of ourselves and though we have managed to survive your passing, we have only done so with our hearts irreparably broken.

Son, nephew, brother, husband, father, friend - we miss you in every breath and every heartbeat and eagerly wait to see you again on different shores where death is powerless and nothing can separate us ever again.

"We shall unite the true believers with those of their descendants who follow them in faith and shall not deny them the rewards of their goodness: each person is hostage to his own deeds." - Surah Al-Tur



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## Wasa to set up ten deep tubewells

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Wasa will set up 10 deep tubewells before the month of Ramadan, which will begin at the end of June.

It has also started setting up new water pumps, and replacing old ones to ensure water supply during the month of fasting for the Muslims, said Wasa officials at a meeting with journalists at Wasa Bhaban in the capital.

Taqsem A Khan, managing director of Wasa, said they set up 65 water pumps in the capital in the last one year.

He said the city demands 214 to 230 crore litres of water daily, but Wasa supplies 240 crore litres of water per day.

Taqsem said 46 lorries and 19 tractors will be on standby to supply water to any part of the city during crises.

He said 11 Wasa teams will monitor the water supply situation during Ramadan.



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