

MOGHBAZAR-MOUCHAK FLYOVER

Concrete block in city's heart

LGED flouts mandatory approval on flawed layout design; responsible for half a dozen anomalies; still not held accountable

TAWFIQUE ALI

Once built, the 8.70km Moghbazar-Mouchak flyover is set to become a permanent woe for Dhaka, with leading experts describing the Tk 1,219 crore structure as a massive block in the heart of the city.

Around a year into the construction work in early 2014, it was detected by sheer chance that the much-hyped flyover was being built on a grossly faulty layout configuration without vital right-turn provisions and had a number of other flaws with serious consequences.

Now, three years into its construction work, the flyover is found to have an architectural layout design not approved by the central transportation coordination authority, and its detailed design was also not vetted by an independent consultant, sources confirmed.

The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), builder of the flyover, ignored the mandatory approval and vetting processes of the scheme's proposed configuration, which has nearly half a dozen critical flaws. The flaws would make the chronic traffic congestion in the project area even messier, said experts.

The LGED did not hold a public consultation on the project either.

It had the design developed in 2005 by a team of three companies.

But, before the project went underway eight years later, the LGED did not get the flawed layout synched to the design of four major mass transportation routes of metro rail and Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), which were recommended in the same alignment in the transport master plan of 2008.

The project has not undergone road safety auditing either even though it is required under the 2005 Guidelines for Road Safety, said official sources.

Even worse, the flaws are beyond correction as scores of gigantic concrete piers and extremely sturdy underground pilings would have to be demolished, which is, according to experts, technically almost impossible and financially a colossal waste.

The project could be seen as a landmark case of governance failure. The LGED pushed ahead without obtaining mandatory approval from Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority (DTCA), which surprisingly is reluctant to hold the LGED responsible.

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LAYOUT DESIGN ON PAGE -- 2

RIGHT-TURN OPTIONS

1 Required 18 right-turn options but virtually has one. So, it will not help ease traffic congestion at six road intersections. One has to drive all through the flyover and take a detour to get on desired road.

3 No solution for three railway level crossings. For lack of right turn exit options from flyover, traffic congestion and time waste to remain as problematic as before.

5 Ascending steeper, descending milder. Vehicles will find it difficult to drive up the flyover.

DESIGN FLAWS

2 Delinked from metro rail and rapid bus routes. People in that area will be deprived from mass transportation services.

4 Six ramps at Razabagh and Shantinagar to eat up half of the roads. Traffic will be made to crawl through the two bottleneck points.

6 No solution given for shrunk footways and removed footbridges. Roads at Moghbazar-Malibagh-Mouchak-Razabagh-Shantinagar will become walkers' nightmare.

IRREGULARITIES

Mandatory approval from coordination authority bypassed	Layout design not scrutinised by independent consultant	Mandatory road safety auditing ignored	Decade-old design not synched to latest mass transport routes	No feedback taken through public consultation
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STILLBIRTH IN BANGLADESH

Rate halved in 15 years

UK-based journal finds scopes to do better

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An estimated 83,100 babies were born dead in Bangladesh last year, which is nearly a 50 percent decrease in stillbirths from 160,300 in 2000, according to The Lancet, a UK-based medical journal.

The decrease in stillbirths per year was 3.4 percent, which needs to go beyond five percent to achieve the global target of 12 or fewer stillbirths per thousand births by 2030.

The World Health Organisation considers stillbirth as pregnancy loss at or after 28 weeks, or at a birth weight of at least 1,000 grams.

"Estimated stillbirths per 1,000 total births in 2015 were 25.4. It is down from

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HIGHLIGHTS

- Stillbirth causes social and psychological damage
- Child marriage, poor antenatal care are major reasons
- Effective interventions for stillbirth can also reduce child and maternal mortality
- Need for comprehensive programme to bring stillbirth to 12 per 1,000 by 2030
- Pay attention to rural areas
- Increase deliveries at health facilities

Raped second time for seeking justice

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A housewife of a Hindu family has allegedly been gang-raped twice by the same group within just three days in Baniarchang upazila of Habiganj.


The first incident of rape reportedly took place in the victim's house at Uttar Sangor village on January 14, and she was raped again at her home in the early hours of Monday, according to the victim's family.

Monu Miah, 32, who is from the same village, was arrested yesterday in a case filed by the victim Monday morning. Monu is the younger brother of Idris Miah, president of Mondori union AL.

Sources said Monu and his friends stormed the victim's house on the January 14 afternoon, when her husband and her son were not home, and raped her.

Her family took the matter to village elders and

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TOP QUOTE

"The countries must respond not by closing doors but by stretching their arms for the refugees."

UN SECY-GEN'S SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE
SIR PETER SUTHERLAND
AT A SEMINAR IN DHAKA

JP ministers to resign after April

Ershad tells Star; says his party aims to regroup, dwarf BNP in next polls

RASHIDUL HASAN

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad yesterday said he would resign as the special envoy to the prime minister and his party's three ministers from the cabinet in phases to play the role of a real opposition party.

The move would dispel the party's present negative image in

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Finding it closed, an elderly patient leaving a private hospital in Chittagong. PHOTO: STAR

Medicare stops in Chittagong

Doctors in pvt hospitals, diagnostic centres stop work

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Patients were left to suffer yesterday as doctors stopped providing all sorts of healthcare services in private hospitals and diagnostic centres in Chittagong.

They staged the work stoppage demanding withdrawal of two cases filed on Tuesday against three physicians for their "negligence" in

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HIGHLIGHTS

- Application fee waiver*
- Submit on-the-spot applications
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