

Prime minister opens two bridges on Kuakata road

Boost in economic activities expected as journey to the tourist eases

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina formally opened Shaheed Sheikh Kamal Bridge and Shaheed Sheikh Jamal Bridge on Patuakhali-Kuakata road through a video conference from her office in the capital yesterday noon.

The 482.37-metre-long and 10.25-metre-wide Shaheed Sheikh Jamal Bridge is on the Sonatala River at Hazipur point and 891.76-metre-long and 10.25-metre-wide Shaheed Sheikh Kamal Bridge is on the Andharmanik River near Kalapara upazila town.

bridges and expressed happiness as their long cherished bridges opened finally.

Among others, ASM Feroz, lawmaker from Patuakhali-2 (Baufal), also chief whip of Jatiya Sangsad, Shahjahan Mia, president of Patuakhali district unit Awami League, also a former state minister, Khan Mosharof Hossain, secretary of the district AL and administrator of Patuakhali district council, and AKM Shamimul Islam, deputy commissioner (DC) of Patuakhali, addressed a function at Patuakhali DC office during the video conference.

Amin Howlader, also secretary general of Jatiya Party, lawmaker AKM Jahangir Hossain, lawmaker Mahabubur Rahman Talukder, AL central leader Md Afzal Hossain, additional chief engineer of Roads and Highways Department Amdad Hossain and superintendent engineer Shawkat Hossain were present.

Earlier on August 20 last year, the prime minister formally opened the 408.36-metre-long and 10.25-metre-wide Shaheed Sheikh Russel Bridge on the Shibbaria River at Mohipur point on Patuakhali-Kuakata road.

The three bridges are named after Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's three sons, and brothers of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Md Reaz Uddin, president of Patuakhali bus owners association, said they are very happy as opening of the bridges will save minimum two hours for journey to Kuakata from different parts of the country.

Tourism and economic activities will see rise following opening of the three bridges on 72-km-long Kuakata-Patuakhali road, said Md Motaleb Sharif, secretary of Kuakata hotel-motel own-

AL man held with arms

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Police in a drive on Wednesday arrested a ruling party man along with a pistol, bullets and crude bombs in Shahjahanpur upazila of the district.

The arrestee is Mohammad Asaduzzaman, 25, a member of Kharna union unit of Awami League in the upazila.

Quoting locals, police said Asaduzzaman and his supporters gathered at a youth club in Omardighi area to foil a show down of Sourav Hossain Chundu, general secretary of Shahjahanpur upazila unit of Jubo League, and a rival candidate in the upcoming Kharna union parishad election.

Police raided the area around 6:30pm and arrested Asaduzzaman along with a pistol, four bullets and 11 crude bombs and his accomplices fled.

Police also seized two private cars and 11 motorcycles from the spot.

After filing two cases with Shahjahanpur Police Station, accusing Asaduzzaman and 11 others, police produced the arrestee before a court that sent him to the jail.

Meanwhile, police arrested Fazlul Haque Uzzal, 42, joint-convenor of the upazila unit of BNP and an accused in a sabotage case, from the village the same night, said OC Alamgir Hossain of Shahjahanpur Police Station.

15 houses gutted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

At least 15 houses were gutted in a fire in Dangapara area of Boda municipality under Panchagarh district on Wednesday night.

Locals said the fire originated from an earthen oven at a kitchen of one Shahinur Islam's house and soon engulfed the adjoining houses.



PHOTO: STAR

A mango tree at Mirer Betka in Tangail town gets adorned with profusely growing buds, showing bright prospect of good yield of the popular fruit this season.

Teenage boy, girl commit suicide

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A teenage boy and his girlfriend committed suicide on Wednesday at Baliaghata village in Gangni upazila of Meherpur district, allegedly as their family members did not agree to their marriage.

The deceased are Minarul Islam, 17, son of Abujel Hossain, and his girlfriend Tassia Khatun Munni, 13, daughter of Muntaj Ali of the village.

Quoting Munni's elder sister Rexona Khatun, police said Minarul and Munni had been in a romantic relationship for long, which their families over the bodies to them, the OC added.

Munni locked the door of her room at 5:30pm and took poison. Family members rushed her to Gangni Upazila Health Complex, where she died around 8:30pm.

When the news reached her boyfriend Minarul, he went to his room and hanged himself from the ceiling around 11:30pm.

Minarul committed suicide within two hours after he came to know that his girlfriend Munni had killed herself, said Officer-in-Charge Akram Hossain of Gangni Police Station.

On information, police went to the village and following requests from both the families handed over the bodies to them, the OC added.

Youth hacked to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A youth was hacked to death over a cricket match at Adarshapara in the district town yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Nayan Hossain, 18, son of Rafikul Islam of the area.

Police and locals said a cricket match was held behind Morning Bell School in the area on Wednesday night.

Rival players hacked Nayan, leaving him seriously injured following an altercation over the match.

The following day, critically injured Nayan died on way to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said Hasan Hafizur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Sadar Police Station.



PHOTO: STAR

Locals gather as a bus prepares to cross Shaheed Sheikh Kamal Bridge on Patuakhali-Kuakata road after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina formally opened it through a video conference from her office in the capital yesterday noon.

FALSE INFORMATION Mayor, 5 others sued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

The mayor of Thakurgaon municipality and five others have been sued in connection with providing false information in affidavit during submission of nomination papers for the municipality elections held last year.

The accused are incumbent mayor of the municipality Mirza Faisal Amin, your younger brother of BNP acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, the then mayor aspirants Solieman Ali Sagar, Mahfuzul Islam, the deputy commissioner, district election officer, returning officer and additional deputy commissioner.

Defeated Awami League backed mayor candidate Tahmina Akhter Mollah filed the case with Joint District Judge's Court-1 on Tuesday.

On Wednesday, Tahmina at a press briefing at the district AL Office said Faisal concealed information about his business, loan status and other personal information in the affidavit which was placed in the Election Commission last year.

Contacted, Faisal said he will soon hold a press conference on the issue.

Do not lower

FROM PAGE 20 these issues.

He urged the ministries concerned to expedite the adoption of the law's rules that would elaborate the protection measures.

Beigbeder, who accompanied the Bangladesh delegation to the CRC session in Geneva last September, spoke as a guest of honour at the programme.

The CRC suggested the law ministry raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility to an internationally acceptable standard.

"Currently, it is at the discretion of the judges in cases of children aged between nine and 12 years whether they can be held criminally accountable," said Beigbeder.

He suggested that the government amend the Penal Code to increase the age of criminal responsibility.

Bikash Kishore Das, additional secretary of the women and children affairs ministry, stressed the need for a children's ombudsman in the country.

Speakers at the programme also made recommendations for 10

more ministries, including social welfare, primary and mass education, education, health, law and home affairs.

Replying to a question from the audience about street children, Nasima Begum, secretary of the women and children affairs ministry, said the government recently took steps to rehabilitate street children in Karwan Bazar at a shelter home in Mirpur, but the children refused to go there.

"Some syndicates who use these children should be addressed," she said adding that although over 1,000 seats in 85 state-run children's lie vacant, many children are sleeping on the streets.

Ministry officials, development partners and representatives from local and international NGOs were present.

Bangladesh ratified the Child Rights Convention in 1990 with some reservations and submitted its first report to the CRC in 1995.

The country's fifth and last report was submitted on October 2012 and reviewed by the CRC in September last year. The next report will be due on March 2021.

Govt to bring

FROM PAGE 20

jail in Kozhikode, another nine in central prison of Viyyur, Thrissur and one more man in a district jail in Ernakulam district in Kerala.

With the help from Anoop Gangadharan, who runs an NGO named Arm of Joy working for inmates of shelter homes, The Daily Star correspondent was able to talk to the girl and three women in the shelter homes of Kozhikode.

Anoop also helped the mission officials, who visited Kozhikode, with information about these unfortunate souls.

The girl who is currently at the After Care Home said she was duped and trafficked into India one year and seven months ago. Daughter of a cattle trader in Faridpur, the 17-year-old was married to an alleged trafficker two years ago.

"When I came to know that I returned home, but one day a guy sent a message that my husband had sent words for me to go to India. When I did, I was taken to a bad place," the girl said, adding, how she was rescued during a police raid.

One of the three women at Mahila Mandiram who hailed from Khulna has been there for six years. Now aged 22, she was lured into India by a woman, who had offered her a tailoring job in Bombay.

Another woman, aged around 20, who lives in the same place and was taken to India with the first woman, said she was promised a job in a beauty parlour.

"Following a fight with my sister, I boarded a train to go to my grandparents' home in Jessore. The same woman approached me and comforted me, convincing me to go with her to India," she said.

"No-one from the Bangladesh government contacted us all these years,"

she said, adding that she was able to contact her family only after the officials visited them and took their addresses.

"My mother cries over phone asking me when I would return home," she said.

Mosharaf said the entire procedure that involves a number of bureaucratic steps might take a month.

Most of the Bangladeshi victims of human trafficking are found in Kolkata and Mumbai, he said, adding, they sent home 131 such victims last year.

"But the total number of victims must be higher than that," he observed.

The mission usually takes steps to send Bangladeshis home once the Indian authorities inform it about the victims rescued within their border.

"But the process often lingers due to difference in languages that results in wrong address in Bangladesh after police verification," he said, adding that the consular wing is considering visiting different places in search of such victims.

"If we could go and talk to them, it would help the verification process," Mosharaf said.

According to Rights Jessore, an NGO in the district that works on trafficked women and children, they brought back 15 people from India last month. Of them, 10 were women, four men and one boy.

Khurshida Khanom, counsellor of Rights Jessore, said last year the organisation brought back 67 people, including 45 women, 11 girls and four boys.

ASHRAE Bangladesh Chapter

CHARTERING OF ASHRAE BANGLADESH CHAPTER

Chief Guest: Mr. T. David Underwood, ASHRAE President USA
 Guest of Honor: Prof. Dr. Musharrif Hussain Khan. Ex. VC, BUET
 Date: 1st March 2016, Time: 5:00pm - 9:30 pm
 Venue: LE MERIDIEN DHAKA, Grand Ballroom (Floor 14), 79/A, Commercial Area, Nikunja 2, Khilkhet, Dhaka 1229, Bangladesh.

REGISTRATION FEES:
 For ASHRAE members: Tk. 1,000.00
 Newly applied ASHRAE members: Tk. 1,000.00 + Tk. 7,500.00 (Membership Fee US\$ 90.00 = Tk. 8,500.00)
 Non Member of ASHRAE: Tk. 3,000.00

Please Book your Registration before 28th February 2016 to the following Address;
 Registration email: ashrae.bd@gmail.com,
 Phone: 01711560211, 01611560211, 01819222674

PUBALI BANK LIMITED
 ESTABLISHMENT DIVISION
 HEAD OFFICE, 26 DILKUSHA C/A, DHAKA-1000.

INVITATION FOR TENDERS

Sealed Tenders are hereby invited from the eligible Tenderers who can participate in any of the following tenders or all but in separate envelope as defined in the tender documents of the under mentioned works as per terms & conditions stated below.

1. Procuring Entity	Pubali Bank Limited, Establishment Division, Head Office, 26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka 1000.
2. Tender Name	i) Civil, Electrical & Networking works of Tanbazar Branch, Naraygonj. ii) Civil, Electrical & Networking works of Meah Bazar Branch, Comilla. iii) Civil, Electrical & Networking works of Brahmanbaria Branch, Brahmanbaria. iv) Supply & installation of Money Counting Machine at different Branches of our Bank.
3. Time for completion of the work	30 (Thirty) Calendar days for Sl. No. (i) & (ii) and 60 (Sixty) Calendar days for Sl. No. (iii) (who are not capable to do the works in the schedule time need not participate).
4. Eligibility of Tenderers	i. Minimum work experience of 3 (Three) years in building renovation/ interior works/ money counting machine. ii. The tenderer must have experience during last 3 (Three) years in completion of work(s) in same nature costing minimum Tk. 20.00 (Twenty) Lac in single work order for Sl. No. (i) & (ii) and Tk. 30.00 (Thirty) Lac in single work order for Sl. No. (iii). iii. Having valid trade license, up to date Income Tax clearance certificate and VAT registration certificate (copy to be submitted). iv. Must be financially solvent (solvency certificate to be submitted).
5. Price of Tender Document	Tk.1200.00 (Tk. One thousand two hundred) only for each tender document of Sl. No. (i) & (ii), Tk.2500.00 (Tk. Two thousand five hundred) only for Sl. No. (iii) and Tk.1000.00 (Tk. One thousand) only for Sl. No. (iv) (non-refundable).
6. Amount of Tender Security	2.5% of total bid amount in the form of Payment Order favouring Pubali Bank Limited, Head Office, Dhaka - 1000. "No tender will be considered without tender security (Earnest money) and non fulfillment the above criteria (i to iv)".
7. Name and address of the office from where tender documents will be obtained & to be dropped	Pubali Bank Limited, Establishment Division (12th floor), Head Office, 26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka - 1000.
8. Last date & time for selling tender document	Up to 6.00 PM (BST) on 03.03.2016
9. Last date & time for tender submission	Up to 11.15 AM (BST) on 06.03.2016
10. Date and time for tender opening	At 11.30 AM (BST) on 06.03.2015 in presence of bidder (if any)
11. Special Instructions	i. Tender document in MS Excel format to be submitted in sealed envelope. ii. Pubali Bank Limited reserves the right to accept partly or fully any quotation or reject any or all quotations without assigning any reason whatsoever and is not bound to accept the lowest quotation. iii. Lowest prices not the only criteria to accept the bid. Quality job with competitive price shall be appreciated.

B. M. Shahidul Haque
General Manager