

# Hindu families in Patiya won't be evicted

Says Obaidul Quader after inaugurating construction work of bypass road  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said the Hindu families living in the 40 houses on the proposed Patiya bypass road would not be evicted.

But a temple in the area will be relocated with the finance of the government, said the general secretary of Awami League at Patiya in Chittagong after inaugurating construction work of the bypass road.

The land was "acquired" to build a bypass road from Indrapur to Chakrashala on Chittagong-Cox's Bazar Highway in the district. The 5.1-kilometre road would pass through Patiya, Karal, Bhatikhine, and Kachuai of the upazila.

Quader said the locals had been demanding it for long and the prime minister instructed thus.

"But there were some constraints as 40 houses of Hindu families and a temple were on the proposed road," he said. "The leaders of the Hindu community and civil society along with local delegates called on me in Dhaka and we had a decision that 40 houses or the temple, one or the other would be relocated."

"Later, the decision was made to relocate the temple with the finance of the government and to protect the houses," he said.

Quader said a proposal has been given to the World Bank to finance the construction of the road while Japan would construct the bridges on it.

Mentionable, The Daily Star ran a story on January 16 headlined "40 Ctg Hindu families in fear of eviction" depicting how the families were living in fear of eviction from ancestral land in Nathpara of Karal village as the Roads and Highway Department asked them to vacate the land for giving way to the road project.



Iron rods of the ceiling of a ward of ENT department at Dhaka Medical College Hospital get exposed as chunks of plaster fell off yesterday, injuring an attendant of a patient. Inset, injured Luchia Begum with stitches on her forehead.

# Woman hurt in ceiling plaster fall at DMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Though she went to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for her husband's treatment, Luchia Begum became a patient herself after chunks of plaster from a ceiling fell on her, leaving her injured.

Now, the 55-year-old is being treated next to her husband with 15 stitches on her forehead.

The incident took place yesterday around 12:45pm. As she was getting out of the bathroom, a portion of the ceiling fell on her. Badly injured, Luchia was taken to the operation theatre where she was given the stitches.

"My mother is safe now," said Giasuddin, her son.

Hailing from Senbagh of Noakhali, Luchia was staying with her husband Golap Rahman, 65, a cancer patient, being treated at the ENT department since February 1.

PHOTO: STAR SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

## PADMA SCAM ALLEGATIONS

### Propagandists for graft should apologise

Mashiur tells The Daily Star

MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

Prime Minister's Economic Affairs Adviser Mashiur Rahman yesterday said the noted Bangladeshis who flared up the issue of alleged corruption in the Padma bridge project should apologise.

"These people should at least admit their mistake to the prime minister and apologise, the adviser said.

His comments came yesterday after an Ontario Superior Court justice dismissed an international bribery case linked to the project at the prosecution's request, reports Canada-based CBC News.

"They should also disclose the names of the people who misguided them," said Mashiur.

"The verdict of the Canadian court would further brighten the image of Bangladesh," the adviser told The Daily Star in an interview.

Mashiur was one of the government high-ups whose name was also implicated in the Padma bridge corruption allegations.

He said the government had always highlighted that there was no base to the allegation.

"The verdict [of the Canadian court] has again proved that the government was right. All credits go to the farsightedness of the prime minister because she had taken a bold stance," he said.

Mashiur said the corruption allegation involved about \$30 million to \$40 million.

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### It was a plot to discredit mother

Says Sajeeb Wazed Joy

BSS, Dhaka

The World Bank hatched a conspiracy against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina regarding Padma Bridge project, said PM's ICT Affairs Adviser Sajeeb Wazed Joy in a Facebook post yesterday.

As a matter of fact, Joy said, the WB fought a Canadian court and claimed sovereign immunity against having to provide further evidence and "so they filed charges but refused to provide evidence of their claims!"

"The World Bank came up with this plot against my mother, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government in an attempt to discredit her. Then US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton had instructed the World Bank to cancel the funding of the Padma Bridge in order to punish our Government," said Joy, also son of the PM.

He alleged that Clinton visibly did so because Grameen Bank founder Professor Muhammad Yunus repeatedly asked her to "take action against my mother."

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## Love for work brings honour for Dinajpur artisan



Sona Rani Roy with her creation. The Dinajpur woman has been short-listed as a finalist for the Loewe Craft Prize 2017, for her work, "White on White-Moyur" quilt.

MH HAIDER

For most, a quilt is a symbol of tradition, passed down from generation to generation marking important life events, while many use it as bedding or decoration.

But, for Sona Rani Roy a quilt was always more than that.

She fell in love with the fabric at an early age as the patterns, colours, textures and techniques of quilt making never ceased to inspire her.

Sona's passion for making quilts never diminished. The Dinajpur woman was short-listed as a finalist for the Loewe Craft Prize 2017, for her work, "White on White-Moyur" quilt on Wednesday.

Her large quilt features patterns of a bird spreading its wings. "It took me three months to make the quilt," informed Sona of West Saitara village in Chirirbandar upazila.

"I do my work with utmost sincerity. It means a lot to me if someone likes my work, and being a finalist for this award is indeed a huge recognition for me."

According to its website, the Loewe Craft Prize is an "... annual international prize recognising an outstanding work of craftsmanship that pairs an original artistic concept with a modern applica-

tion of traditional methods."

Sona has been selected as one of the 26 finalists from 3,951 craft submissions from around the world. The award is given out by the Spain-based Loewe Foundation. Loewe is owned by Louis Vuitton-LVMH.

Living Blue, a textile label of CARE Enterprises Inc, had promoted Sona for the competition. Living Blue is an initiative of CARE Bangladesh and Nijera Cottage & Village Industries (a community of dyers, quilters and farmers of northern Bangladesh).

"We work towards empowering artisans and retaining, improving and upholding Bangladeshi craftsmanship," said Mishael Aziz Ahmad of Living Blue.

"Sona's achievement in Loewe Craft Prize is a milestone for us. She has made Bangladesh proud".

This is not the first time she is representing the country on an international platform. She also took part in the Santa Fe International Folk Art Market in the US in July 2014.

The winner of the Loewe Craft Prize 2017 will be announced on April 10 in Madrid.

"I do my work with utmost sincerity. It means a lot to me if someone likes my work."



Participants perform at the sixth inter-school Bangla Olympiad at International Turkish Hope School in the capital yesterday.

## Scrap textbook changes to uphold secularism

Urge cultural activists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted cultural personalities at a protest rally yesterday demanded that the government scrap the recent changes in school textbooks and restore the previous items to uphold the country's secular spirit.

The changes, made in this year's new school textbooks, may instigate communalism and hamper development of freethought among students, they said at the rally organised by Sammito Sangskritik Jote (SSJ) at the capital's Central Shaheed Minar.

They also marched from the spot to Suhrawardy Udyan later.

Theatre personality Ramendu Majumder said

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## 6th inter-school Bangla Olympiad begins at Turkish Hope School

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The sixth inter-school Bangla Olympiad for students of English medium institutions began at International Turkish Hope School (ITHS) in the capital yesterday.

A total of 1,400 students from 58 schools of Dhaka and Chittagong participated in the Olympiad. They would compete in six categories including group dance, poem recitation, essay writing, singing, drawing and public speaking. ITHS has been organising the event for last six years. The gala event of the competition

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