

# Moghbarz flyover fully opens to public today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

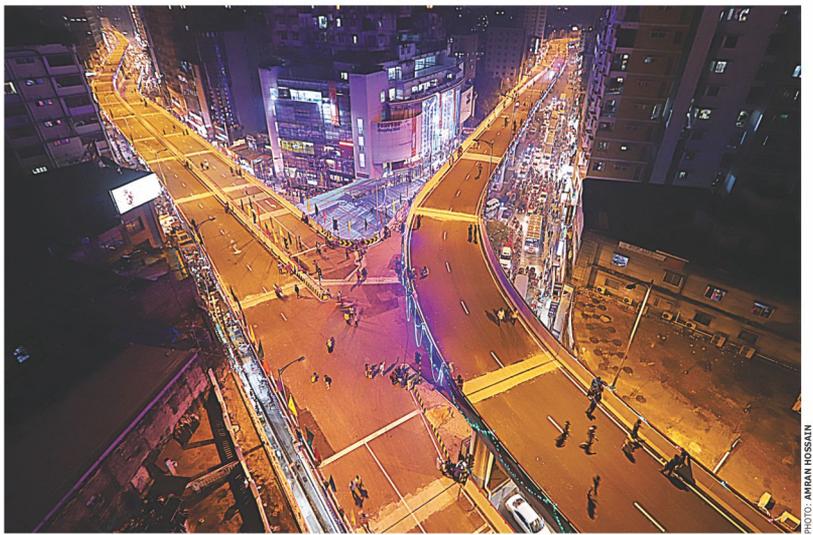
The 8.7km Mouchak-Moghbarz flyover that was widely criticised during its construction, fully opens to public today with the 4km Mallabgh-Razabagh-Shantinghar section ready for traffic.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to formally declare the flyover open through videoconference at 12:00noon, said Project Director Sushanto Kumar Biswas.

A gathering with the local government minister and high officials is expected to adorn the ceremony to lay the inaugural plaque at Mouchak intersection, he said.

Earlier, the flyover construction had drawn constant public wrath for tattered roads and traffic mismanagement underneath and was marred with accidents and on-site casualties time and again.

The premier in March last year inaugurated the first phase of two-lane additional four-lane carriageway section of the flyover stretching from Shaheed Captain Mansur Ali Sarani near Holy Family Hospital to Saat Rasta intersection (See Page 10 COL 4)



A section of Mouchak-Maghbarz flyover is scheduled to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today. The 4km section will connect Mallabgh, Rajabagh and Shantinghar. Other sections of the flyover were opened to traffic in phases last year. The photo was taken at Mouchak intersection.

# India to pursue repatriation of Rohingyas

says Indian diplomat in Dhaka  
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

India will continue to engage with Myanmar to pursue safe and sustainable repatriation of lakhs of displaced people who have fled Rakhine State, an Indian diplomat in Dhaka said yesterday.

Talking to The Daily Star, he said his country remained highly supportive to ensure safe return of the displaced people to their homeland, but it didn't support any forceful approach that might turn counterproductive.

"We also spoke to Myanmar authorities and urged them to implement the recommendations of the Kofi Annan-led commission," he added.

The diplomat said confusion was created over his country's stance on the Rohingya issue, but the confusion ended with the October 22-23 Dhaka visit of Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj as she said "normalcy would be restored only with the return of the displaced people to Rakhine".

Sushma during her meetings with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali, Leader of the Opposition Raushan Ershad and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia made it clear that people displaced from Rakhine should return to their homeland and should be repatriated.

In India's view, the only long-term solution to the Rakhine crisis was a rapid socio-economic and infrastructure development that would have a positive impact on all the communities in that state, said the diplomat.

Another top Indian diplomat in Dhaka said his country wanted to focus on some "immediate issues" keeping in mind the consequences of a delayed repatriation of Rohingyas. "We have no plan B or C and we want an early solution to the crisis. India wants to see a solution before it becomes a challenge."

There was no difference between Bangladesh and India in regards to using the term "forcibly repatriated" (See Page 12 COL 8)

# Nine to die for killing Gazipur college student

Flour CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A Gazipur court yesterday awarded nine people death penalty for killing college student, Shahadat Hossain Sohag, in 2010.

Judge Fazle Elahi Bhuiyan of Additional District Judge's Court-1 in Gazipur also fined each of the convicts Tk 10,000. In two other charges, each of the convicts was jailed for two and a half years and fined Tk 3,000.

Atar Rahman, additional public prosecutor of Gazipur Judge's Court, said Bihon Kaiser, a friend of Bhowal Badre Alam Government College student Sohag, called Sohag to come to Rajbari Math in Gazipur City Corporation on January 8, 2010.

Sohag, 22, along with his friend Nahid went to the spot and found Bihon and the convicts there. At one stage, Sohag was locked in an altercation with the convicts over a trifling matter and they stabbed him.

Sohag was declared dead after being taken to a hospital. Later, a case was filed with Jydeyepur Police Station, the additional PP said.

The condemned convicts are: Selim, Asadul Islam, Jahurul Islam alias Zakir Hossain alias Ihanu, Jewel, Touhidul Hossain alias Pitrom alias Trino alias Lu, Arif Tanvir and Ripon Ahmed Jewel. The convicts are from different areas of Gazipur City Corporation.

Four of the convicts are on the run.

# Girl examines outnumber boys in JSC, JDC exams

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Girls kept outnumbering boys in the Junior School Certificate (JSC) and Junior Dakhil Certificate (JDC) examinations.

The number of class-VIII students taking the tests is also rising every year. Disclosing the information at a pre-examination press briefing at the secretariat yesterday, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said such rise in the number of female examinees plays an important role in women empowerment.

As many as 13,20,342 girls and 11,44,778 boys have registered from 28,626 educational institutions for this year's tests beginning on November 1.

Last year, the number of female examinees was 12,88,402 and male examinees 11,24,373. Nahid said the number of total examinees has risen by 56,045 this year. Last year, the rise in student's number was 86,842.

The JSC examinees will take Bangla first paper tests on the first day, while the madrasa students or JDC examinees will sit for Quran Majid and Tazbid. The exams will start on November 18.

The examination, which replaced the scholarship tests, was introduced in 2010 when around 18.92 lakh students participated in the test across the country. Over 20,90,300 lakh students would sit for the JSC exams next year. (See Page 10 COL 3)

# Ministries ask for Tk 65cr to tackle situation

FROM PAGE 1

Wangmang, said a finance ministry official.

Muith on the sidelines of the meeting said the Rohingya crisis would put a huge pressure on the budgetary measures.

The international community has extended its support to handling the crisis. The WB has also offered financial assistance.

The finance minister in his directive asked his ministry officials to ensure that the government measures did not overlap with measures of international cooperation.

Of the money sought by ministries, Tk 50 crore has been asked for for rehabilitating Rohingyas refugees at Bhasanchar, while Tk 10 crore for sewerage facility and drinking water supply and Tk 5 crore for local law enforcement agencies.

A World Bank team has been conducting a need assessment to help Dhaka deal with the crisis that is already putting a tremendous pressure on Bangladesh.

A report of the Chittagong divisional commissioner reveals that until October 12 the government distributed 490 tonnes of rice and different agencies 416 tonnes among Rohingyas. The government has also allocated Tk 40lakh in cash.

At Sonali Bank Cox's Bazar branch, the government has opened an account where individuals and organisations have deposited Tk 2.5 crore. Bangladesh may receive around \$300 million from the newly created WB refugee window fund.

A six-member mission of the WB has arrived in Dhaka on Saturday on a 14-day visit to make an assessment of the refugees' needs.

FROM PAGE 1

The UN held a one-day conference on Monday in Geneva to discuss the Rohingya issue when donors pledged \$340 million. According to an UN assessment, \$434 million is required in six months.

Since violence broke out in Myanmar on August 25, at least 600,000 Rohingyas people, according to the UN - about 60 percent of them children - have crossed into Bangladesh to join nearly 400,000 of their fellow countrymen who had fled violence in Myanmar in phases over the years.

FROM PAGE 1

Statement at a meeting with the home minister at her office in Naypyidaw yesterday, said Sharif Mahmud Apu, public relations officer of the home ministry.

"The Myanmar government has also started working to implement the recommendations of the Kofi Annan Commission," Sharif quoted Suu Kyi as telling the home minister.

The home minister was on a three-day visit to Myanmar to discuss various bilateral issues, including the Rohingya influx, which has been described as the fastest growing refugee crisis.

More than 600,000 Rohingyas crossed over into Bangladesh in an unprecedented influx triggered by a brutal military crackdown in Rakhine since August 25. This is in addition to around 300,000 refugees who came in several phases since 1992.

Suu Kyi's "assurance" came a day after the home minister met with his Myanmar counterpart Lt Gen Kyaw Swe as they from the two sides decided to form a joint working group by November 30 to start the repatriation process.

After that meeting on Wednesday, Tin Myint, permanent secretary of Myanmar's home ministry, told reporters that the two sides agreed "to halt the outflow of Myanmar residents to Bangladesh," according to Reuters.

# Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal speaking to State Counsellor of Myanmar Aung San Suu Kyi yesterday at Naypyidaw.

He had also said the two countries agreed "to restore normalcy in Rakhine to enable displaced Myanmar residents to return from Bangladesh at the earliest opportunity". Sharif Mahmud, who is on the 15-member Bangladesh delegation, said the repatriation would be done on the basis of the recommendations by the Kofi Annan Commission and the five-point proposal by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the UN General Assembly.

However, it is not clear when the actual repatriation would start.

The irrawaddy, a Myanmar daily, reported yesterday that Myanmar and Bangladesh on Tuesday agreed to

# Dhaka pushing for special UN session

FROM PAGE 1

He said the only issue discussed at the meeting was the Rohingya issue and Bangladesh's position is to send them back safely.

"Our stance is that their nationals will have to be taken back. It's our one-point agenda. It's an unbearable burden. The prime minister allowed them to stay here on humanitarian ground. But it cannot be for long," he said.

Replying to a query about China's position on the issue, the foreign secretary said both Myanmar and Bangladesh were China's friends. "They want to bring a peaceful resolution working with the two friends."

Sun Guoxiang, who arrived in Dhaka on Wednesday, will head for Beijing this morning. AID WORKERS BARRED Aid workers were barred from visiting a camp for displaced Muslims in the central part of Rakhine State yesterday.

A group of about 10 Myanmar nationals, working for US and Britain-based charity Relief International (RI), were forced to turn back when residents of the mostly Buddhist ethnic Rakhine community staged a protest in the town of Myebon, a regional administrator and an activist told Reuters.

erding vital supplies of food, water and medicine to thousands of Rohingyas, a persecuted Muslim minority in Rakhine.

The Rohingyas, who recently entered Bangladesh, complained of food and crisis parts of Rakhine, while UN and other aid agencies and rights bodies have been demanding that they be allowed to provide emergency supplies to Rohingyas.

"The RI group was trying to go to the camp and the locals blocked the way," Tin Show, Myebon's administrator, told Reuters, adding that the aid workers returned to their office.

Khin Thin, a leader of a regional branch of the Arakan Women's Network, said her group joined the protest after authorities told the community the NGO would provide education about gender-based violence, hygiene and sanitation to Muslims.

"They have food, they have shelter to live," she told Reuters. "We can't accept these kinds of excessive things for them."

"We will not allow them to pass through our township. We already protested several times in the past. We have suspicions about them. We don't trust foreigners, international people."

Yesterday's incident was the latest example of the numerous obstacles that humanitarian organisations face in Rakhine State, said Pierre Peron, a spokesman for the United Nations' Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

US MOUNTS PRESSURE ON TRUMP US lawmakers have mounted pressure on the Trump administration to declare that ethnic cleansing is taking place against the Rohingya Muslim population in Myanmar.

Hundreds of women, children and men belonging to the Rohingya minority have been "systematically killed" and driven from their homes, their villages burned to the ground by Myanmar's military, lawmakers charged the State Department officials during a hearing.

They angrily said the US made no major change to its ties to Myanmar, and its officials have shied away from legal terms such as "ethnic cleansing" or "crimes against humanity" despite what many say is strong evidence.

"This is ethnic cleansing, it's pretty clear," said US Senator Ben Cardin, a Maryland Democrat. "I think it's genocide."

Three US officials testifying at a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on Tuesday declined to refer to violence against the Rohingyas as "ethnic cleansing", before a complete review is announced, according to US media reports.

Senator Bob Corker, chairman of the committee, presided over the hearing. The members of the committee, including Senator Cardin, took part in the hearings on "Assessing US Policy towards Burma: Geopolitical, Economic and Humanitarian Considerations."

The officials told the lawmakers that the State Department has identified and announced new and ongoing actions to punish those who have committed atrocities.

Meanwhile, US Special Representative and Policy Coordinator for Burma (Myanmar) W Patrick Murphy said the US is working with the international community to hold accountable those responsible for atrocities in Rakhine, says a statement from the US State department.

"What I can say as a matter of policy, we've assessed that atrocities have been committed and we must pursue accountability," he said in a special briefing in Washington yesterday.



Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal speaking to State Counsellor of Myanmar Aung San Suu Kyi yesterday at Naypyidaw.

PHOTO: COLLECTED