



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurates a U-loop in Badda area of Dhaka yesterday.



PHOTO: PID

Govt working to improve transport system in Dhaka

PM opens North U-loop of Hatirjeel Project

BSS, Dhaka

Unveiling her plans to develop the city's commuting system, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government has a plan to construct an elevated ring-road around Dhaka.

"The ring-road will be an elevated one to make movement of the commuters easy," she said while inaugurating the North U-loop of Hatirjeel Project at Rampura-Badda Pragati Sarani in Dhaka.

"Every city in the world has traffic conges-

tion and Dhaka is no exception. We plan to address the problem by taking many effective projects," she said.

After the inauguration, the prime minister took a ride on the U-loop and visited the developed site of Hatirjeel.

Minister for Housing and Public Works Engineer Mosharraf Hossain presided over the inauguration while Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, Chief of Army Staff General Aziz Ahmed, local parliament member AKM Rahmat Ullah and Director

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Islam thrived because of openness in rural Bengal

Says Dr Akbar Ali

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shedding light on the historical aspect of "openness" in villages that helped create a favourable environment for flourishing of Islam in Bengal, eminent scholar Dr Akbar Ali Khan yesterday said that extensive anthropological research can help trace the roots of political unrest and factionalism in the country.

"The controlling mechanism in Bengal's villages was lenient. As a result, individualism developed strongly," he said, while delivering a lecture on "The Spread of Islam in Bengal: Historical Issues Revisited" at the main auditorium of the National Museum in Dhaka.

The talk constituted the sixth instalment of the

Gyantapas Abdur Razzaq Distinguished Lecture series.

Also a renowned economist, Dr Akbar Ali said that in pre-industrial society, individualism was simultaneously a blessing and a curse for the people of Bengal.

The individualism helped them choose their preferred religion and also enriched art, literature and music. However, politics turned weaker due to the absence of strong central leadership, he said.

Dr Akbar Ali said that people in the rural society did not hesitate to embrace Islam as they were mesmerised by the "Pir" (spiritual guides).

"On the other hand, it was not possible for those who were living in a strictly controlled society to accept Islam due to their fear of being considered outcasts," he added.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Lack of awareness to blame for hepatitis infection

Speakers say on World Hepatitis Day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nine out of ten people are unaware that they are infected with hepatitis viruses and unknowingly they infect other people, especially their family members, doctors said yesterday.

They made the remarks at a seminar organised by National Liver Foundation of Bangladesh at The Daily Star Centre in Dhaka, marking World Hepatitis Day yesterday.

To detect and prevent this silent killer, screening is a must, they added, urging people to be aware of causes and spread of viral hepatitis [an inflammation of liver].

Citing recent statistics, the foundation's Secretary General Prof Mohammad Ali said around 10 lakh people in the country suffer from hepatitis viruses, mostly type B and a few type C. "People are not aware enough of this deadly disease. They, especially rural people, see doctors and have diagnosis only when jaundice turns into severe viral hepatitis and in some cases, cancer," he said.

Liver cancer, caused by viral hepatitis, is mostly curable if diagnosed in early stage, said Prof Ali, a specialist of liver diseases.

National Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury, also chairman of the foundation, said vaccine of hepatitis B is now available in Bangladesh, so people should take it as precaution. He urged the authorities concerned to reduce the cost of diagnosis and treatment of hepatitis.

Language Movement veteran and surgeon Mirza Mazharul Islam said, "We will be able to eliminate hepatitis for good if we are aware and work together."

Earlier, the foundation brought out a procession to create awareness about the disease.



A reception ceremony for three national professors -- Anisuzzaman, Jamilur Reza Choudhury and Rafiqul Islam -- at Dhaka University yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Guiding lights for the nation

Three National Professors accorded reception at DU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

They kept calm and continued their good work amidst the turbulent times in the country. They spoke up about what they deeply believed in and never deviated from their values. They have made extraordinary contributions to the country. They are torch-bearers.

They are now the teachers of the nation.

This is how speakers described the three newly appointed national professors -- Rafiqul Islam, Anisuzzaman and Jamilur Reza Choudhury. The three were accorded a reception at Dhaka University yesterday.

Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) and Dhaka University Alumni Association (DUAA) jointly organised the programme at DU Senate Bhaban. The event was attended, among others, by judges,

professors, politicians and bureaucrats.

On June 19, the government appointed the three as national professors for the next five years.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith said he has been involved with the selection committee for national professors for the last few years but these three professors are his best choices.

All three are prudent, and they were the first choice of the committee, Muhith said.

Talking about his personal relationship with all the professors and their contribution to the nation, he said, "We feel honoured by holding this reception for them."

Professor Emeritus at DU, Anisuzzaman, said the reception was significant to him as he was receiving honour from the university where he studied and taught.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8



Eminent economist and scholar Dr Akbar Ali Khan delivers a lecture on "The Spread of Islam in Bengal: Historical Issues Revisited" at the main auditorium of the National Museum in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

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Mr. M. Anis Ud Dowla, Chairman of ACI Group has been recognised as the Business Person of the Year at the Bangladesh Business Awards DHL-The Daily Star.

We congratulate him for his relentless effort for over five decades to serve our nation and improve the quality of life of the people.

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