

New road to help ease tailback in port city

MOSTAFA YOUSUF, Ctg

The 16-kilometre Chattogram City Outer Ring Road, being built by the Chattogram Development Authority (CDA), is likely to help mitigate traffic congestion in the port city.

The road, being built at a cost of Tk 2,426 crore, is expected to be opened to the public by January of next year.

The project was undertaken as part of the "Chittagong Metropolitan Master Plan", which CDA prepared with the help of World Bank in 1995. The plan described a road from Patenga to Foujdarhat as crucial for mitigating traffic congestion and protecting the port city.

Furthermore, the road, built along the Bay of Bengal, will offer commuters the chance to take in the beautiful, unchartered vista of the bay on the stretch from Patenga to Foujdarhat area, opening a new horizon for tourism.

Abdus Salam, CDA chairman, told The Daily Star the road was being

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Pedestrians jaywalk near the capital's Shahbagh intersection yesterday though there is a footbridge nearby. Like them, hundreds of city dwellers cross the busy thoroughfare this way every day, ignoring the danger.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Dhaka streets

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Buses kept their doors open, picking up and dropping off passengers in the middle of the streets. They did not stop at the DMP designated bus stops.

Meanwhile, the footpaths remained occupied by hawkers and vendors. But police took no visible steps to evict them.

Around 1:30pm at Mirpur 10 roundabout, many people were seen crossing the roads right under a foot bridge. Policemen working there did not stop them.

The awareness campaign, which began on September 1, followed widespread student protests triggered by the deaths of two college students on a city street.

During the campaign, police filed around 1.7 lakh cases for traffic violations and realised around Tk 14 crore in fines.

At the end of the campaign, DMP Commissioner Asaduzzaman Mia on Sunday said, "There is no lack of sincerity of police to bring discipline in the streets, but their attempts are not yielding results due to people's tendency to violate traffic rules."

"It is not possible to change habits and behaviour in a month, but we are hopeful that people will gradually abide by the law."

Delhi to help Dhaka resolve Rohingya crisis

Says Indian finance minister

BSS, Dhaka

Indian Finance Minister Arun Jaitley yesterday assured Bangladesh of help in resolving the Rohingya issue at the earliest.

He came up with the assurance when Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal met him at his office in New Delhi, said a planning ministry press release.

Kamal was attending the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention arranged by the government of India in New Delhi.

During the meeting, Kamal urged the Indian finance minister to extend support to Bangladesh so that safe and dignified repatriation of Rohingyas is ensured.

Jaitley highly lauded the recent massive advancement and progress of Bangladesh achieved by the Awami League government under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in different socio-economic fields, the release said.

Listing several index where Bangladesh is advancing fast, especially the economic growth of 7.86 percent and life expectancy of 72 years, Jaitley talked about the present cross-border connectivity development

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Plan to shift Rohingyas to Bhashan Char postponed

AFP, Dhaka

Government has postponed plans to begin relocating Rohingya Muslims to a remote island, officials said yesterday, amid staunch opposition to the controversial idea among refugees living near the Myanmar border.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was slated to open the new settlement built to house 100,000 refugees on Bhashan Char on October 3, despite warnings the silty strip was prone to violent weather.

But a spokesman for Bangladesh's armed forces, which has overseen the \$280 million-effort to transform the muddy islet into a habitable camp, said the opening ceremony had been delayed.

"I will announce a new date soon," Lieutenant Colonel Alamgir Kabir told AFP, without providing further details.

The plan, first floated in 2015, was already well behind schedule.

Officials previously said they wanted to start moving refugees from overcrowded camps near the border with Myanmar to the island in June, before the monsoon season began.

A senior disaster management official told AFP in September that nearly three quarters of the project was complete, with the navy fast-tracking construction of shelters and evacuation centres.

No reason was provided for the latest delay.

But the proposal to uproot the refugees to a remote island that only rose from the sea in 2006 remains unpopular in the teeming Rohingya camps.

The island is one hour by boat from the nearest land but violent

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BNP top brass sued after rally

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standing committee members Mirza Abbas, Moudud Ahmed, Nazrul Islam Khan, Goyeshwar Chandra Roy, Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury and Moyeen Khan.

Filed with Hatirjheel Police Station, the case also names BNP leaders Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, Amanullah Aman and Ruhul Kuddus Talukder Dulu and 45 other party men as the accused.

The case statement reads that the leaders delivered "provocative and anti-government speeches" at the rally on Sunday, and party supporters committed the offences while returning from the programme.

Interestingly, Amir Khasru has been staying in the US since September 23 while Rizvi was not even present at the rally.

A reporter of The Daily Star yesterday evening visited Moghbazar Railgate, which is the place of alleged occurrence, and nearby areas and talked to around 100 shopkeepers, residents and pedestrians.

They all said they were unaware of any incident of vandalism and explosion of crude bombs on Sunday in their locality.

However, several street vendors said they saw some people were being picked up by a group of plainclothes men near Moghbazar flyover between 4:00pm and 5:30pm that day.

"It is not possible that any incident of vandalism and explosion of crude bomb will go unnoticed," said an employee of a shop located near the spot.

This apart, at least nine other cases were filed with the city's Ramna, Shahbagh, Motijheel, Paltan, Jatrabari,

Kadamtoli, Lalbagh and Dhanmondi police stations between Sunday afternoon and early yesterday against hundreds of named and unnamed BNP men.

They have been sued for subversive activities, vandalism and creating obstacles to duties of the law enforcers.

"The cases are all false and fabricated and meant to harass us," Fakhru, who now stands accused in a total of 87 cases, told The Daily Star last night.

The case statement, however, said five arrested accused told police that speeches delivered by Fakhru and other senior BNP-Jamaat leaders provoked them into committing the crimes.

The five are Mobashwer Alam Bhuyian, vice president of Cumilla BNP and an MP aspirant; Md Sharfuddin, a ward councillor in Gazipur; Rashed Bin Sulaiman, president of ward-18 BNP in Dhaka; Salauddin, general secretary of Bhaluka thana BNP, and Shamsul Haque, ward-41 Jubo Dal president of Dhaka.

They were held on the spot, police claimed.

Police also "recovered" five sticks, 1.5-litre petrol, pieces of exploded cocktails from the place of occurrence, said the statement.

An assistant sub-inspector and two constables were hurt being hit with brick chips. And unidentified 20-25 people fled after carrying out the subversive activities, it added.

As the charges are cognisable offences, law enforcers can arrest anyone anytime.

The accused will now appeal to the High Court, seeking anticipatory bail to avoid arrest, said Sanaulah Mia, a

pro-BNP lawyer who deals with such cases on behalf of party leaders.

Sanaulah said over 300 BNP leaders and activists, who were arrested in the 10 cases, were produced before different Dhaka courts yesterday. Some of them were placed on remand of different terms while others were sent to jail.

Sabuj Hawlader, who is a bus driver from Mirpur 1, was arrested from Shahbagh area on Sunday.

His wife Ishita Akhtar told this newspaper, "As I found no information about my husband till 11:00pm, I visited different police stations and the DB office, but failed to find him."

Finally around 11:00am yesterday, she said, someone from the DB office called her and asked her to go to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in Dhaka where her husband Sabuj, 32, would be taken.

Sabuj was sent to jail after being produced before the CMM's Court, she added.

Asked about her husband's political affiliation, Ishita said she does not know about any such connection.

Just a month ago, police filed dozens of cases against thousands of BNP leaders and activists across the country centring on the BNP's founding anniversary programmes.

Even, people who had died much before the date of alleged occurrence, an Oman expatriate and hajj pilgrims who were outside the country at the time were made accused in some of the cases. Even a man was named twice as accused in a single case.

Many accused had alleged that those cases were false and politically motivated.

AL now finalising strategy

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Now, the AL wants to finalise how many seats it would give to its allies.

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad had a meeting with AL President Sheikh Hasina at latter's parliament office on September 9 and discussed the possible alliance, said sources.

AL presidium member Kazi Zafarullah told The Daily Star, "We are holding meetings with several political parties. As the Election Commission will declare schedule next month and we only have one month's time. We will finalise our formula for the electoral alliance soon."

BNP Secretary General Mirza

Fakhru Islam Alamgir told The Daily Star, "We have placed our goals and said that if we got elected, we will achieve those goals."

"We have announced some programmes and we will announce our next course of action later."

He refused to elaborate further.

Other BNP leaders, however, said the party would have various programmes, like rallies, demonstrations, and human chains in October to mount pressure on the government to hold a free and fair election under a non-partisan interim government.

Meanwhile, the ruling party has started its week-long campaign across

the country yesterday. The decision to go for the campaign was made at an AL secretary-level meeting held hours after the BNP rally.

While inaugurating the campaign in Gulshan-2 yesterday, AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader said, "Awami League is not countering the BNP rather, it is holding its own programmes in an innocent manner."

"We are far from violence and enmity. If the communal force BNP along with other communal forces try to incite violence, then we will deter them with people by our side. This is our goal," he said.

Death toll tops 1,200

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1,500 km (930 miles) northeast of Jakarta. Hundreds more were feared buried in landslides that engulfed villages.

Of particular concern is Donggala, a region of 300,000 people north of Palu and close to the epicentre of the quake, and two other districts, where communication had been cut off.

The four districts have a combined population of about 1.4 million.

One woman was recovered alive from ruins overnight in the Palu neighbourhood of Balaroa, where about 1,700 houses were swallowed up when the earthquake caused soil to liquefy, the national rescue agency said.

"We don't know how many victims could be buried there, it's estimated hundreds," said Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, spokesman for the National Disaster Mitigation Agency.

All but 23 of the confirmed deaths were in Palu, a city of about 380,000 people, where workers were preparing a mass grave to bury the dead as soon

as they were identified.

Aid worker Lian Gogali, who had reached Donggala district by motorcycle, said hundreds of people facing a lack of food and medicine were trying to get out, but evacuation teams had yet to arrive and roads were blocked.

"It's devastating," she told Reuters by text.

Indonesian Red Cross spokeswoman Aulia Arriani said a church in an area of Sigi, south of Palu, had been engulfed in mud and debris. Officials said the area suffered liquefaction, when the shock of the quake temporarily destabilises the soil.

"My volunteers found 34 bodies ... children who had been doing a bible camp," Arriani said.

The UN's relief agency believes that 191,000 people are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance in Sulawesi, according to an assessment published yesterday, reported AFP.

Sulawesi is one of the earthquake-prone archipelago nation's five main islands and sits astride fault lines. Numerous aftershocks have rattled the

region.

Pictures showed expanses of splintered wood, washed-up cars and trees mashed together, with rooftops and roads split asunder. Access to many areas is being hampered by damaged roads, landslides and collapsed bridges.

A Reuters witness said queues at petrol stations on the approaches to Palu stretched for miles. Convoys carrying food, water and fuel awaited police escorts to prevent pilfering before heading towards the city while residents streamed out.

The state energy company said it was airlifting in 4,000 litres of fuel, while Indonesia's logistics agency said it would send hundreds of tonnes of rice. The government has allocated 560 billion rupiah (\$37.58 million) for the recovery.

The government has played down worries about looting though witnesses have seen incidents.

Chief security minister Wiranto said more than 2,800 troops had been deployed and plans were in place to

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natural defences killing cancer cells.

The Nobel Assembly said after announcing the prize in Stockholm that the therapy "has now revolutionised cancer treatment and has fundamentally changed the way we view how cancer can be managed".

In 1995, Allison was one of two scientists to identify the CTLA-4 molecule as an inhibitory receptor on T-cells.

T-cells are a type of white blood cell that play a central role in the body's natural immunity to disease.

Allison, 70, "realised the potential of releasing the brake and thereby unleashing our immune cells to attack tumours," the Nobel jury said.

Around the same time, Honjo discovered a protein on immune cells, the ligand PD-1, and eventually realised that it also worked a brake, but acted in a different way.

"HONOURED AND HUMBLER"
On the website of his University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Allison said he was "honoured and humbled to receive this prestigious recognition".

"I never dreamed my research would take the direction it has," he said.

"It's a great, emotional privilege to meet cancer patients who've been successfully treated with immune checkpoint blockade. They are living proof of the power of basic science, of following our urge to learn and to understand how things work."

Honjo, 76, meanwhile vowed to push ahead with his work.

"I want to continue my research... so that this immune therapy will save more cancer patients than ever," he told reporters at the University of Kyoto where he is based.

The Nobel jury said that "for more than 100 years, scientists attempted to engage the immune system in the fight against cancer".

"Until the seminal discoveries by the two laureates, progress into clinical development was modest."

Antibodies against PD-1 have been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration as an investigational new drug and developed for the treatment of cancer.

Research by Allison's team has meanwhile led to the development of a monoclonal antibody drug, which was approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 2011 for the

treatment of melanoma. It is known commercially as Yervoy.

His research also led to the first-ever immune checkpoint inhibitor drug.

Allison and Honjo have previously shared the 2014 Tang Prize, touted as Asia's version of the Nobels, for their research.

'DESPERATELY NEEDED'

Other cancer treatments have previously been awarded Nobel prizes, including methods for hormone treatment for prostate cancer in 1966, chemotherapy in 1988 and bone marrow transplantation for leukaemia in 1990.

"However, advanced cancer remains immensely difficult to treat, and novel therapeutic strategies are desperately needed," the Nobel Assembly said.

The duo will share the Nobel prize sum of nine million Swedish kronor (about \$1.01 million or 870,000 euros).

They will receive their prize from Sweden's King Carl XVI Gustaf at a formal ceremony in Stockholm on December 10, the anniversary of the 1896 death of Alfred Nobel who created the prizes in his last will and testament.

Yesterday's announcement was partially eclipsed by a Stockholm court's decision to sentence a Frenchman at the heart of a Nobel scandal to two years in prison for rape, in a scandal that emerged during the #MeToo campaign.

An influential figure in Stockholm's cultural scene, 72-year-old Jean-Claude Arnault was found guilty of a rape dating back to 2011.

Arnault is married to a member of the Swedish Academy which selects the Nobel Literature Prize winner, and his cultural club Forum received generous funding from the Academy.

The scandal has led to a bitter internal dispute that has prevented the Academy from functioning properly, and as a result it postponed this year's Literature Prize until 2019 -- the first time the prize has been delayed since 1949.

The winners of this year's physics prize will be announced today, followed by the chemistry prize on Wednesday. The peace prize will be announced on Friday, and the economics prize will wrap up the Nobel season on Monday, October 8.