



MATARBARI POWER PLANT Cox's Bazar

PROUD CONSTRUCTION **PARTNER**



Kalurghat Bridge

Fate depends on new study

Authorities failed to finalise design in last 7 years

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

More than seven years ago, in April 2014, the government had decided to build a new bridge at Kalurghat in Chattogram through a bilateral cooperation with South Korea.

Since then however, the authorities have not been able to reach a final decision on whether the bridge would be a dedicated single-track rail bridge, a double-track one or a road-slash-rail bridge.

Although the BR had decided to build a single-track rail and road bridge last year, it now depends on a fresh feasibility study -- six years after the first one -- to check whether a double-track-with-road option is technically and economically viable, rail officials said.

The decision to do a fresh feasibility study was taken at a meeting held yesterday at the Rail Bhaban in the presence of Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujan.

Top officials of the railways ministry, BR and Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) of Korea also took part in the meeting.

Railways ministry, through the Economic Relations Division, will now send a letter to EDCF to carry out the study and it may take six to seven months for the study to be completed, the officials said.

While the authorities have failed to take a decision, the British-era bridge over the Karnaphuli river has become unsafe, and has been so for a while.

Hundreds of vehicles plying the bridge are facing difficulties as the deck and iron fencing on both sides often



A microbus, heading to Brahmanbaria from Joypurhat, hit a parked covered van on the Dhaka-Tangail highway in Mirzapur upazila's Pakulla area around 5:00AM yesterday. The driver, helper and one passenger of the microbus died on the spot. story on page 2.

PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL

AL leaders expect justice for Rozina

Fakhrul for arrest of officials who harassed her

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday urged journalists to be patient and play a "responsible role" in dealing with the issue of

Rozina Islam. Addressing a discussion organised by Awami League's Relief and Social Welfare Sub-Committee, he hoped that the journalist concerned will get justice since a case has been filed and the matter is under

The AL general secretary, who joined the event virtually, said action would be taken as per the probe committee report if any evidence of wrongdoing against journalist Rozina is

Quader said such a misunderstanding would not have happened if someone from the health ministry briefed journalists

RHD project

gets Japanese

award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Roads and Highways

Department project, which

set a rare example being

complete on time and

saving around Tk 1,400

has received a prestigious

Technology Award of

Engineers Award 2021 was

conferred to the project

under which three new

bridges were constructed

and three old bridges were

crore from its budget,

Japan Society of Civil

Japanese award.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Biden expects 'de-escalation' in Gaza today

US again rebuffs Frenchbacked UNSC ceasefire resolution call

AFP, Gaza

US President Joe Biden yesterday told Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that he expects "significant deescalation" in the military confrontation with the Palestinians, amid intense efforts to reach a ceasefire.

Deafening air strikes and rocket fire once more shook Gaza in the conflict that has, since May 10, claimed 219 Palestinian lives according to the Gaza health ministry and killed 12 people in Israel according to Israeli police.

"The president conveyed to the prime minister that he expected a significant de-escalation today on the path to a ceasefire," the White House said after a fourth phone call in a little over a week.

As diplomatic efforts intensified to stem the bloodshed, Germany said its top diplomat was heading to Israel for talks today.

Netanyahu earlier yesterday issued a tough threat against the Gaza Strip's Islamist rulers Hamas, who Israel says has fired around 3,700 rockets at Israel since May 10.

"You can either conquer them, and that's always an open possibility, or you can deter them, and we are engaged right now in forceful deterrence," he told

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

'Our struggle is not opposed to Islam'

MAY 20, 1971

Shamsuddoza Sajen

INTERVIEW WITH AHM **KAMARUZZAMAN** The Pakistan military junta

has failed to restore civil administration in areas under its control in Bangladesh

despite desperate efforts and it would never be able to do so, Bangladesh Home Minister AHM Kamaruzzaman told UNI in an interview published in the Hindustan Times today. "The former civil servants of Bangladesh have vowed not to

support the occupational force, for every citizen in Bangladesh considers the army action as an attack on his legitimate right to live as a free citizen of a free nation," said Kamaruzzaman. If the Pakistani claim of normalcy in Bangladesh was was it still barring international organisations and bodies from

Bangladesh, he asked. The Pakistani rulers were concocting stories to hide the real state of affairs in Bangladesh from the outside "They know if any impartial body is allowed into Bangladesh,

the mischievous propaganda and designs will stand revealed." Regarding Pakistani propaganda that the troops had to intervene to put down racial and communal riots, he said the Liberation War was not against any religion.

"Our struggle is not opposed to Islam. The value and teachings of Islam shall be preserved. The values and teachings of other religions shall also be protected. We envisage a state which is free of exploitation. Our aim is to establish an egalitarian and classless society in which there will be no barrier between man and man, irrespective of his caste, colour and creed," Kamaruzzaman added.

The home minister further said, "Those who accept Bangladesh as their motherland and are connected with the Liberation War are our brothers. Those who are playing the role of quislings, whatever their religion, are our enemies and the enemies of Bangladesh. They shall be tried by people's courts.'

Kamaruzzaman reiterated, "The only solution to Pakistan's SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

law minister

Our Correspondent, New Delhi

Narada Case

In a new turn to the Narada sting operation case relating to alleged corruption, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Law Minister Moloy Ghatak have been made parties in a petition by the Central Bureau of Investigation before the Calcutta High Court seeking transfer of trial outside the state.

There was no relief for hour hearing till Thursday afternoon.

Mukherjee, Mitra, and Chatterjee would continue to remain in judicial custody.

before the High Court bench comprising acting Chief Justice Rajesh Bindal SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Rohingyas must Mamata, her now party in petition

livelihood. Otherwise, it is very risky to create a dependent

two senior Bengal ministers Firhad Hakim and Subrata Mukherjee and key TMC leader Madan Mitra and ex-Kolkata Mayor Shovan Chatterjee arrested in the Narada case on Monday as the High Court adjourned the nearly two-and-half-

As a result, Hakim,

There were two petitions

have access to livelihood

Says UNHCR chief Grandi

PORIMOL PALMA

UNHCR chief Filippo Grandi wants to use funds for the Rohingyas judiciously and create livelihood options for them.

In an exclusive interview with The Daily Star, he said, "Rohingyas should have [at least] the minimum access to

population. 'Also, it is difficult to mobilse humanitarian assistance

for many years."

Responding to a question, he said, "Repatriation is the ultimate solution but you cannot keep people in limbo for years and years.

He made the statements on Monday, a day before the UN and Bangladesh launched a Joint Response Plan (JRP) that seeks to mobilise \$943m for nearly a million Rohingyas and five lakh host community people in Cox's

Last year, Bangladesh made access to education available for the Rohingya children. Some of them are now engaged in different activities for their livelihoods.

However, a large number of youths at the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar are yet to find a job.

Some 750,000 Rohingyas fled to Bangladesh following a brutal military crackdown in Myanmar's Rakhine State

Despite repeated attempts by the Bangladesh government, not a single Rohingya could be repatriated.

On top of that, the military coup in Myanmar and the coronavirus pandemic further complicated the situation. Grandi said, "The impact of the presence [of the SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

repaired on the Dhaka-Chattogram highway, Roads and Highways Department (RHD) officials said yesterday.

The project officials completed the construction SEE PAGE 10 COL 3



AZAN 4-05 12-45 5-00 6-40 8-00 JAMAAT 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-45 8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

