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PADMA BRIDGE RAIL LINK May not be ready when bridge opens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is uncertain whether the rail and road communication on the long-cherished Padma Bridge can be opened for the public on the same day, likely in June next year.

The rail lines may not be ready for use by then.

Bangladesh Railway (BR) said it would take six months for the contractor to set up the tracks on the bridge, but Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA), has yet to officially clear the BR contractor to begin setting up the tracks.

BBA officials hinted that they may take up to March 2022 to let BR begin the installation. In that case, the tracks from Mawa-Bhanga will not be ready to be used by next June, said Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujan yesterday while visiting the project site.

Moreover, the BR wants both the road and the rail lines to be complete at the same time, because opening the road to traffic while the tracks are being set up on the bridge may cause problems for the installation work.

The double-decker Padma Bridge is being constructed by BBA at the cost of Tk around 30,000 crores. The road will be on the top while the railway on the bottom.

The BR is implementing the Padma Bridge Rail Link project, building a 169km rail line to connect the capital with Jashore via the Padma Bridge at a cost of TK 39,246.80 crore. Rail tracks on the bridge would be installed by the contractor.

Although the revised deadline of the railway project

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Around 1.5km stretch of rail line has been set up on the viaduct at Mawa end under the Padma Bridge Rail Link project. But the inauguration of the rail link and the opening of the bridge are unlikely to happen at the same time. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

‘He had his hands up’

Eyewitness tells court about how Maj Sinha was shot

Our Correspondent, Cox's Bazar

Despite putting his hands up, Maj (retd) Sinha Rashed Khan was shot by now-suspended police inspector Liaquat Ali, according to a witness named Hafez Mohammad Amin.

Amin said this while testifying before the Cox's Bazar District and Sessions Judge's Court yesterday in a case filed over the incident, said court sources.

Amin is the muezzin of a mosque situated close to the spot where Sinha was shot and killed.

"Amin told the court that he along with some students was on the mosque's rooftop at that night and they coincidentally saw the incident," said one of the sources.

"He said he saw a man coming out of a car with his hands up. Within a few moments, police inspector Liaquat shot him twice. The man fell on the ground," said the source.

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Badly cleaned schools can help spread dengue

Experts warn

HELEMI ALAM

Experts have expressed fear that the dengue fever may spread further in the country this year if the authorities concerned do not take appropriate measures before reopening educational institutions.

They suggested cleaning schools, colleges and universities properly to destroy Aedes mosquito larvae and breeding sources as well as applying adulticide and larvicide before reopening the institutions.

"As educational institutions remain closed for long, carrying out extensive cleaning work in and around those is very important. Otherwise, students will be under huge risk of contracting dengue fever," said entomologist Saifur Rahman.

He said school, college, and university authorities also will have to conduct extensive fogging at their institutions with the help of city corporations.

If a school is in the area of active clusters of Aedes mosquitoes, anti-mosquito drives and cleaning activities will have to be done there very sincerely and effectively, he said.

Entomologist Kabirul Basher said they found Aedes mosquito larvae in some primary schools in the capital's Mirpur and Jurain during their survey from Jahangirnagar University around 15 days ago.

"Primary schools are the most vulnerable to Aedes mosquitoes as those

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ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Free Bangladesh to join Commonwealth

SEPTEMBER 8, 1971
SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

RECOGNITION VERY SOON: KAUL

India had opened a meaningful dialogue with China and the USA, as with many other countries, on the Bangladesh issue. Some significant developments were expected soon after Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's visit to the USA.

Disclosing this in an interview today TN Kaul, Indian external affairs secretary, made it quite clear that in a similar manner India would strongly represent the Bangladesh issue at the forthcoming General Assembly meeting of the UN. India would also plead with the UN Secretary General U Thant to use his good offices to solve the Bangladesh problem, he assured.

Asked when India would extend recognition to the Bangladesh government, Kaul said: "very soon."

'90% OF BANGLADESH TERRITORY IS IN OUR CONTROL'

KM Shehabuddin, head of the Bangladesh mission in New Delhi, said today that Bangladesh as a free country would like to join the Commonwealth because of certain facilities available to its members. He added that was the reason M Hossain Ali had been named the Bangladesh high commissioner to India with headquarters in Calcutta.

The Bangladesh representative told a press club luncheon meeting: "Even Dacca, considered a safer place for Islamabad is no longer that safe for West Pakistan. We have achieved a lot of success in our struggle."

He claimed, "Nine-tenths of Bangladesh territory is in our control ... The control of the Pakistan Army is only up to cantonments."

Amjadul Haque, another diplomatic staffer of the Bangladesh mission, warned West Pakistan that any harm done to

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Jamuna group retracts plan to invest in Evaly

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamuna Group has retracted its plan to invest in Evaly after analysing the beleaguered e-commerce platform's assets and liabilities and business strategy, said a top official of Jamuna Group yesterday.

"We initially became interested to invest after Evaly invited us but now we are withdrawing," Mohammed Alamgir Alam, Jamuna Group's director of marketing, sales and operation, told The Daily Star.

Evaly's assets and liabilities, business, sales and marketing strategies did not meet Jamuna's criteria for investment, he added.

Jamuna does not want to put its reputation and money at stake, Alam said in a Facebook post earlier in the day.

In a Facebook post on July 27, Mohammad Rassel, chief executive officer of Evaly, disclosed that Jamuna Group has decided to invest Tk 1,000 crore in the company, which has disrupted Bangladesh's e-commerce

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Floating cow farm aims to curb climate impact



AFP, Rotterdam

Among the cranes and containers of the port of Rotterdam is a surreal sight: a herd of cows peacefully feeding on board what calls itself the world's first floating farm.

In the low-lying Netherlands where land is scarce and climate change is a daily threat, the three-storey glass and steel platform aims to show the "future of breeding".

The buoyant bovines live on the top floor, while their milk is turned into cheese, yoghurt and butter on the middle level, and the cheese is matured at the bottom.

"The world is under pressure," says Minke van Wingerden, 60, who runs the farm with her husband Peter.

"We want the farm to be as durable and self-sufficient as possible." The cows are a sharp contrast

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SUED UNDER DSA Court accepts charges against journo Kajol

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A tribunal in Dhaka yesterday accepted the charges pressed against photojournalist Shafiqul Islam Kajol in a case filed under the Digital Security Act.

Judge Mohammad Ash Sams Joglul Hossain also fixed October 20 to hear the framing of charges against Kajol.

Kajol was granted bail earlier in the day.

Awami League MP Saifuzzaman Shikhor of Magura-1 filed the case with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station on March 9, 2020, accusing Kajol and 31 others of publishing "false news and circulating it in social media".

After nearly a year-long probe, Sub-inspector

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PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 8

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:35 12:45 4:30 6:20 7:45
JAMAAT 5:10 1:15 4:45 6:25 8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Ignoring their safety and the law, two men ride motorcycle beside the Tejgaon-Moghobazar rail line in the capital while a column of people walk on the lines. The photo was taken near FDC level crossing yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

TREATMENT ABROAD Khaleda's plea sent to PMO

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Prime Minister's Office is to decide the fate of an application seeking the extension of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's jail sentence suspension and permission for her to have treatment abroad.

Law Minister Anisul Huq told The Daily Star, "An application has recently been submitted to the home ministry for extending the suspension of Khaleda Zia's jail sentence and permission for her going abroad for treatment. The home ministry forwarded the application to the law ministry for my opinion. I



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Our Heartfelt and warm Congratulations to

Mr. Habibur Rahman Habib

Deputy Managing Director, PROBASHI PALLI GROUP

On his being elected as a

Member of Parliament

from Sylhet-3 constituency. He has won the election with a landslide victory, held on 4th September 2021. We are overwhelmed with joy and we wish him the best from the bottom of our heart.



All officers & employees



Probashi Palli Group

Probashi o Shodeshider jonno