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KALURGHAT BRIDGE

A step closer to reality

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

After decades of anticipation, hope has finally arrived for thousands of commuters in Chattogram, as the foundation stone for the long-awaited Kalurghat Bridge was formally laid yesterday.

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus unveiled the foundation stone plaque at an event at the Chattogram Circuit House in the morning.

The new bridge, to be constructed over the Karnaphuli, will replace the existing century-old steel truss bridge, originally built in 1930.

Speaking at the event, Yunus expressed optimism that the bridge's completion would finally bring an end to the prolonged transportation hardships faced by the people of Chattogram.

"I have many memories associated with the Kalurghat Bridge. It holds great historical significance. Residents of

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Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus unveils the foundation stone plaque of the long-awaited Kalurghat Bridge at an event at the Chattogram Circuit House yesterday.

PHOTO: CA PRESS WING

Reform laws for women's equal inheritance rights: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday emphasised the need for urgent legal reforms to guarantee equal inheritance rights for women.

They highlighted the entrenched inequality in Bangladesh's inheritance laws, which are still governed by the outdated 1961 family law, and stressed that gender sensitivity and legal equality are essential to building a just and inclusive society.

The speakers criticised the outdated legal framework for discrimination against women across religious communities and called for a uniform, secular family code that guarantees equal property rights for all, regardless of gender.

The seminar, titled "Gender Sensitivity and Legal Equality are Necessary to Build a Non-Discriminatory and Humane Society", was organised by Bangladesh Nari Pragati Sangha (BNPS) at the Women's Voluntary Association in Dhanmondi.

BNPS coordinator Nasreen Begum, in her keynote presentation, stressed the need to secure women's rights to inheritance and property, and to foster a gender-sensitive environment that encourages women's involvement in all spheres of life.

Advocate Deepu Sikder, BNPS director of legal aid, called for abolishing the discriminatory 1961

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Cut waterlogging in Ctg by half

Yunus directs authorities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus has directed the authorities concerned to reduce waterlogging in Chattogram city by half compared to the previous rainy season, intending to gradually eliminate the entire issue.

He gave this directive while speaking as the chief guest at a views-exchange meeting on waterlogging held at the Chattogram Circuit House conference room yesterday.

Prof Yunus arrived in Chattogram yesterday morning for a day-long visit -- his first visit to the city since assuming office as chief adviser.

During the meeting, he listened to updates and experiences shared by representatives of the Chattogram City Corporation, Chattogram District Administration, and other local service organisations and civil society groups.

"We have had many theoretical discussions. We don't want those anymore. We want to permanently solve the waterlogging problem. While it won't happen all at once, we must work to gradually change the situation," said the chief adviser.

He acknowledged that since the rainy season has already begun this year, a complete solution is unlikely this time. However, he emphasised that if recent efforts

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'Plans on to turn Ctg port into a world-class hub'

Chief adviser says top global firms to be brought in to manage it

STAR REPORT

The interim government has taken initiatives to turn Chattogram Port into a "world-class" facility by involving top global port management companies, said Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday.

He made the remarks while speaking at the Chattogram Port during his day-long tour of the port city -- his first visit since assuming office, reports BSS.

"It will be a big opportunity for us," he said, adding that materialising the plans would boost the national economy and create thousands of jobs.

"To transform Bangladesh's economy, Chattogram Port is our hope. Without it, there's no alternative," the chief adviser said.

Describing the port as the "heart" of Bangladesh's economy, he added, "If the heart is weak, no physician can fix it. That's why we must make it world class." He noted that although top global port management firms were invited earlier, there had been no meaningful progress.

"This heart must be connected with our neighbours; that's why I mentioned Nepal and the seven

sisters (the seven northeastern states of India). They will benefit if they are connected to it, and so will we. Those not connected will be the losers," he said.

Recalling his childhood memories with the port, Prof Yunus

behind. No one seems to care. That's why I pushed for change," he added.

He called for handing over port operations to leading global firms, saying, "I hope everyone will understand the reality of the situation."



Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus visits the Chattogram Port as part of his daylong trip to the port city yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

said, "Chattogram Port is not new to me. I've known it since childhood. Though it has changed over time, progress has been slow. Since I got a chance, from day one, I have looked for ways to improve it." "The world has moved ahead, and we are far

Shipping Adviser Brig Gen (ret) Shakhawat Hossain said the construction of several new terminals would reduce container congestion. "I hope you'll see the difference within six months," he added.

2007 GRAFT CASE

Zubaida gets bail from HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted bail to Zubaida Rahman, wife of BNP



Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman, in a corruption case in which she was sentenced to three years' imprisonment by a lower court in 2023.

The HC bench of Justice Md Khasruzzaman passed the order after accepting an appeal filed by Zubaida challenging the trial court verdict.

The bail of Zubaida, who returned to Bangladesh on May 6 after 17 years from London, will continue until disposal of the appeal, the court said.

The HC stayed the realisation of the fine imposed by the lower court on Zubaida in this case and called for its record from the lower court, Zubaida's lawyer Maksud Ullah told

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DHAKA AIRPORT

Passenger traffic nears twice its capacity: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, the country's main aviation hub, is currently handling nearly twice its intended passenger capacity, leaving airport authorities struggling to maintain expected service standards.

Originally designed to accommodate 8 million passengers annually, the airport handled nearly 12.5 million passengers, both domestic and international, in 2024, compared to 11.7 million in 2023, according to the outgoing executive director of HSI, Group Captain Kamrul Islam.

He was speaking at an event organised by the Aviation and Tourism Journalists' Forum of Bangladesh at the Civil Aviation Authority headquarters in the capital.

The incoming Executive Director of HSI, Group Captain SM Ragib Samad, was also present at the event. Despite political volatility last year, passenger traffic through HSI rose by around 8 percent, primarily driven by the continued outbound flow of migrant workers.

Authorities expect the situation to improve once the much-anticipated third terminal becomes operational by the end of this year.

With the terminal, the airport will be able to handle more than 20 million passengers annually, leading to smoother operations and improved services. The added capacity will also allow more airlines to operate flights from Dhaka.

Kamrul also highlighted that introducing

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Several hundred nursing students blocked the Shahbagh intersection in Dhaka yesterday afternoon to press home their demand for upgrading the nursing diploma to Bachelor's degree. The blockade triggered a severe traffic congestion in the nearby areas and caused immense sufferings to commuters.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Excess salt intake linked to surge in NCDs: experts

- Limit daily salt intake to 5g as per WHO guidelines
- Implement national salt reduction strategy
- Mandate clear front-of-pack nutrition labelling
- Raise public awareness about hidden salt in processed foods
- Monitor, regulate salt content in packaged, restaurant foods



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Excessive daily salt intake is significantly increasing in the country, raising the risk of hypertension, heart disease, stroke, and kidney problems, said public health experts yesterday.

Citing a 2018 survey, they said Bangladeshi adults consume an average of 9 grammes of salt per day -- almost double the World Health Organization's recommended limit of 5 grammes.

They also noted that around 25,000 people die each year from salt-related health complications.

They made the remarks at a discussion marking World Salt Awareness Week 2025, held at the Jatiya Press Club and organised by the National Heart Foundation of Bangladesh, according to a press release.

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