



# Star chittagong

DHAKA WEDNESDAY JUNE 11, 2003

## Monsoon brings woes

*An hour-long shower is enough to trigger flash floods, water-logging in city*

**NURUL ALAM**  
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Flash floods and water-logging have become synonymous with monsoon for the residents of the port city.  
The drainage system is so poor that even an hour-long shower is enough to trigger flash floods in low-lying areas, paralysing normal life for hours together.  
But the authorities concerned remained indifferent to the woes of the people.  
With the advent of every rainy season, the residents become worried about how to survive the onslaught of floods.

Flash floods and water-logging gripped most of the low-lying areas here disrupting traffic movement after a heavy down-pour on June 7.  
Thousands of people were stranded at different points of the city and hundreds of vehicles stuck up when over three-foot rainwater inundated roads in the low-lying areas.  
The business people stayed indoors as Agrabad VIP Road was submerged under rainwater.  
The worst-hit areas due to the flash flood and water-logging are Chawkbazar, Chaktai Canal, Bakalia, DC Road, Ghasiapara, Muradpur, Bahaddarhat,

Kapashgola, Ghatforhadbeg, Khatunganj, Asadganj, Rajakali, Badurtola, Panchlaish Residential Area, Nasirabad, Dewan Bazar Masterpool, Bahubazar, Halishahar, Port Connecting Road, Reazuddin Bazar and Rahamatganj, residents said.  
Unplanned constructions and faulty drainage system had caused the flash flood and water-logging in the port city, Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) sources said.  
Even some buildings were constructed over the drains in the city obstructing the

flow of rainwater. It caused water-logging during rainy season, sources added.  
The drains were getting silted with the beginning of rainy season as the sands were flowing down following hill cutting in the port city, Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) sources said.  
The indiscriminate hill cutting in Chittagong created the problem of siltation, the sources added.  
The CCC needs conservancy workers to remove sands from the drains regularly to allow the passage of rainwater, sources said.



Katalgonj-Shulok Bahar interseccion goes under water following a downpour. The photo was taken on Sunday noon.

ZOBBER HOSSAIN SINCER



Traffic tailback at Bahadderhat intersection.

STAR PHOTO

## Traffic jam at Bahaddarhat

**MOHIT UL ALAM**  
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The traffic jam at Bahaddarhat is a permanent feature and a great worry for the city authorities.  
Road systems in a city operate like blood vessels. When the formation of bad cholesterol puffs up arteries and veins, the passage for the blood flow gets narrowed down and the liquid traffic to and from the heart is blocked. In the road map the increased volume of traffic may be considered as the bad cholesterol, which creates frequent bottlenecks all over the city.  
The Bahaddarhat intersection has proved to be the biggest bottleneck in the city. It is a source of great frustration for all kinds of vehicles and passengers, because passage through it is sometimes delayed by two hours at a time.

Twenty minutes to half an hour jam is almost a routine at Bahaddarhat at any time of the day. The residents of Chandgaon, Bahaddarhat, Bakalia and Farider Para are the unfortunate victims of this jam. Bahaddarhat provides the only passage for them to connect with the city to the west.  
And they fret, and out of frustration they are now learning to devise their work routine in such a way so as to avoid the high rush. So a mother will be seen taking her son to school almost at dawn just to be in time, whereas the child's school does not start before eight in the morning. Like the mother every resident in the vicinity of Bahaddarhat is making some kind of sacrifice everyday.  
Though the jam is to be seen at any time of the day, it becomes most acute in the afternoon and evening when buses, maxis, tempos, taxis and cars carry

homebound passengers returning from work, and when lorries and trucks and buses from the opposite end try to enter the city for the night.  
The residents of the aforesaid areas do also contribute to the jam as they come out in their respective vehicles to join weddings and parties at several city centres in the evening.  
This jamming of the traffic at Bahaddarhat has been prevailing since long, since, as it is said in the Bible, the year before the flood. But nowhere does anybody seem to give a fig about it. Is it the traffic authority, the City Corporation, the CDA, the Roads and Highways, the Ministry of Communications, or the newspaper that one should go to complain?  
Whoever is the direct authority, the solution of the problem seems to be simpler than it looks.

Enough land on both sides of the carpeted old road is left unused obviously as part of the widening plan of the road in future.  
So the two-lane road that has started from Berek Building about ten kilometers north and has inexplicably stopped at Bahaddarhat should now be extended further down to the south up to Kalurghat. That is, the old road from Bahaddarhat to Kalurghat should be built two-lane, and that will largely solve the problem.  
And a strong authority should discipline the Bahaddarhat Bus Terminal, which is responsible for causing all the jam.  
And, all the authorities concerned should coordinate to remove the bottleneck at Bahaddarhat.

### the week that was

#### Tk. 4000 crore for commercial capital demanded

Greater Chittagong Development Action Committee on Sunday in a memorandum to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia demanded allocation of Tk 4,000 crore in the next budget for implementation of the plan for commercial capital.  
The memorandum was handed over to the Deputy Commissioner, Chittagong.  
In its memorandum the committee said implementation of the cabinet division approved priority-based 16 plans was necessary for developing infrastructure of the commercial capital. The allocation was needed for this, it said.

#### Campaign on Thalassaemia in October

Thalassaemia Service Centre Bangladesh (TSCB) and Shilguri Thalassaemia Society (STC) of India would launch an awareness campaign on Thalassaemia.  
It was decided at a meeting between TSCB and STC at Nandan Kanon here on Friday. The STC General Secretary Shib Shankar Banik was present in the meeting.  
The awareness campaign titled, "From the Himalayas to the Sea" would be launched in October. Bhutan, Nepal, India, and Bangladesh would participate in the campaign. It would

#### Rajashree enthral audience

A circumcision programme for distressed children was held on the inaugural day.  
Rajashree, a local artiste, enthralled audience at the annual prize giving ceremony and cultural programme of Lever Brothers (BD) Ltd here recently.

The annual prize giving ceremony and cultural programme of Lever Brothers Sports and Recreation Club was held at the Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) auditorium here on Friday.  
Sanjib Meheta, the Chairman and Managing Director of Lever Brothers (BD) Ltd, addressed the ceremony as the chief guest.  
Meheta said Lever Brothers won confidence of consumers through producing and marketing world-class products keeping pace with the changing demand. Club president Md. Hasan Zafar Chowdhury chaired the function while Vice President Zulfiqar Ahmed and General Secretary Shafiqul Azam spoke. Coordinator Saleh U Ahmed made the address of welcome.

### Flightschedule

**Biman Bangladesh Domestic flight schedule effective from March 30 to October 25**

Flight No.	Departure	Arrival
BG 022 Monday & Thursday	08.45am (Chittagong)	9.30am (Dhaka)
BG 028 Thursday & Friday	09.15am (Chittagong)	10.00am (Dhaka)

### Trains

Inter-city	Departure	Arrival
Turna Nishitha	11pm (Chittagong)	5.30am (Dhaka)
Udayan (Saturday off)	9pm (Chittagong)	6.20am (Sylhet)
Meghna	5pm (Chittagong)	9pm (Chandpur)
Mohanagar Probhati	8.10am (Chittagong)	2pm (Dhaka)
Paharika (Friday off)	10.15am (Chittagong)	7.20pm (Sylhet)
Mohanagar Godhuli (Sunday off)	3pm (Chittagong)	9.15pm (Dhaka)
Subarna (Friday off)	7am (Chittagong)	12 noon (Dhaka)

### Mail Express

Chittagong Mail	Departure	Arrival
Jalalabad	10.30pm (Chittagong)	7.05am (Dhaka)
Rajshahi (Jaggonathgong) Ghat)	10.30pm (Chittagong)	11am (Sylhet)
Sagorika	12 noon (Chittagong)	6pm
Karnaphuli	2.10pm (Chittagong)	8.50pm (Chandpur)
	11.10am (Chittagong)	10.25pm (Dhaka)

### Local trains

Sylhet	Departure	Arrival
Chandpur	9am (Chittagong)	8.35pm (Sylhet)
(Chandpur)	7am (Chittagong)	4.55 pm