

## Inter-district buses take control of the busiest road

**NURUL ALAM**  
 Illegal parking of inter-district buses, mainly the Dhaka-bound luxury coaches, has been creating traffic jam at Station Road, the busiest road in the port city, as there is no terminal for them. Counters for inter-district bus services have been set up at Station Road and the buses and coaches are using the busy road as bus stand in violation of traffic rules. Consequently, the road faces a continuous traffic jam everyday causing serious inconvenience to hundreds of other vehicles passing there, witnesses said. Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) Commissioner SM Sabir Ali said, "We are aware of the problem. But we don't find any immediate solution as there is no designated terminal in the city for those inter-district buses and coaches." Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) should come forward to set up a terminal for the inter-district buses to solve the prob-

lem, he added. Deputy Commissioner (Traffic) of CMP Rafiqul Islam said, this is really creating regular traffic hazards at Station Road. "We are looking into the matter." "We have already written to CCC to set up a terminal for those inter-district buses and coaches in to ease traffic jam," Rafiqul Islam said. He said, "About one year back we launched an eviction drive against the illegal parking at the Station Road. Later in the face of demonstration by the bus owners we stopped it." So it is now very difficult to remove those vehicles until and unless a terminal is set up for them, he said. The CCC officials said there is no plan to set up any terminal immediately for the inter-district buses. They said traffic jam was created at Station Road due to negligence of traffic policemen. However, witnesses said traffic policemen hardly try to tackle

the traffic jam and haphazard parking of the inter-district buses and coaches at Station Road. The buses and coaches take passengers without any control while some coaches stay at the road for hours together, witnesses added. The situation at Station Road can not be tackled as the traffic police reportedly collect illegal tolls from the inter-district bus counters on monthly basis, sources said. So the traffic police hardly care for controlling the illegal parking at Station Road, sources added. The Station Road, located near the Chittagong Railway Station, Reazuddin Bazar, Nupur Market, fruit market and BRTC terminal, carries immense importance with a link-up to so many roads in the city that takes a load of thousands of transports. Meanwhile, some Dhaka-bound coaches also illegally parked at KC Day Road and GEC crossing.



**Banobithi Samobai Palli Chowdhury Nagar (Top)**, a well-planned residential area with well-laid network of drainage system, stands in sharp contrast to what is going on in the surrounding areas dotted with hill-ocks. Some 275 families of limited income organised under a cooperative society, Chowdhury Nagar Bahumukhi Samabaya Samity Ltd, developed the cooperative village on 62 acres of land at Chowdhury Nagar under Bayezid thana in the city. When the neighbouring areas of Chando Nagar, Ershad Nagar and Shahi Bayezid under Bayezid thana and West Khulshi under Khulshi thana witness hill-cutting spree, the residences of Banobithi Samobai Palli continue their efforts to protect the area from landslides by developing proper drainage system and erecting walls which cost lakhs of taka. Chowdhury Nagar Bahumukhi Samabaya Samity President Akkeruz-zaman Talukder said they also set up schools, madrassahs and mosques, bringing in a remarkable change in the social environment of the area. The Samity also helped set up a police camp on its land to improve law and order situation. Unfortunately, some unscrupulous elements of the neighbouring areas recently cut a passage for sewage and rainwater through a house and residential plots of the cooperative village (Bottom left). Onrush of rainwater and sewage now pose a threat to the main road at the entry point of the cooperative village (Bottom right).



Illegal parking of inter-district buses create traffic jam at Station Road in the city.

## PM's noble gesture to go in vain!

**MOHIT UL ALAM**  
 The prime minister in a show of noble gesture gave an audience to a abducted businessman Jamaluddin's wife and son last week. This was long expected of the PM that she should do so. But as soon as that had taken place, another incident of a similar nature happened on the highway near Senbagh, Noakhali, in which a very upcoming businessman from Chittagong, along with his brother-in-law, was forced out of his car by highwaymen and killed brutally, while his companion was fatally injured. The businessman was robbed of his money and car before he was killed. In between these two incidents,

there was another killing of a businessman (Zakir by the name), who was first abducted and then killed, his body being chopped into pieces. So, all these happenings in the port city bespeak a violent crime culture that has gone unabated in spite of the several shufflings and reshufflings in police force in Chittagong. That is, the law enforcing agencies in Chittagong are failing to stop the spiraling crime curve. If that is the case, then the system is failing. When a system fails, it becomes difficult to spot-identify which individuals are to be blamed. As it looks from outside, Chittagong police administration network has become a complex tangle in which the security factors

have become so interdependent on each other that the system of misrule has become an automatic thriving phenomenon by itself, not depending anymore on the individual officers or personnel. Chittagong police scenario has become an example where the system dominates over the individuals. That is why all these changes in the top brass have proved ineffective. Against this backdrop of paralysed police administration network, the PM's noble gesture to the victim's family may raise certain questions in the thinking group of the port city. While I am completely convinced about the justness in the PM's granting an audience to the victim's family,

and also think that it would be most in the fitness of things if she could manage time to see every afflicted person in the like manner. I think that while doing that she could well have considered certain implications that the interview automatically carried. The implications are: 1) The interview may mean that the PM had the solution to the matter (the rescue of Jamaluddin). If that is so, it means that the PM does not have to depend on the system, or the system (Chittagong Police's failure or success) does not matter for her. If that is so, the perception becomes highly improbable and impractical, particularly in a modern democracy, where the administration works through a

faceless impersonal way. 2) If after this visit, Jamaluddin is not yet rescued, then we must say that the PM has hazarded her position, her credibility, too, of being the chief of the government. It cannot be an act of political wisdom for her to preempt herself before the succour to the wound is actually provided. 3) In a way, the PM has predicated herself in an undesirably sensitive circumstance, which is that, if because of her exertion of power Jamaluddin is finally found out or rescued, then the layman will ask why did she not take this action before! Isn't the PM in a crucible!

### Seminar on higher study

A seminar for students interested in higher study at London-based Holborn College was held at the Chittagong Engineers Institution hall room on Thursday. Universal Study Counselling Services (USCS) organised the seminar chaired by its Chittagong representative Rabiul Hossain. Chief Executive Officer of Holborn College Prof CD Bell spoke as chief guest. USCS Dhaka representative Abul Bashir Sarker and Saniul Islam also addressed. Prof CD Bell in his speech said Holborn College is an internationally recognised educational institution that offers the world-standard teaching with relatively affordable fees and cost. Students during their study in this college can also undertake part-time jobs to meet extra expenses, he said.

### SCF protests government move

Leaders and activists of Samajtanrik Chhatra Front (SCF), Chittagong University unit held a rally on the Chittagong University Rail Station premises on Thursday protesting reported move of the government to curtail the autonomy of universities. SCF President Manzurul Haq presided. Vice-President Poppy Chakma and General Secretary Mehedi Hasan Tamal spoke. They said the government was going to introduce a unified policy for recruitment of teachers at the universities only to limit their autonomies. Later, a procession paraded the campus.

### Legal Aid Council's gift for prisoners

Bangladesh Legal Aid Council distributed some lungis to the poor and helpless prisoners of Chittagong Jail as a gift on the occasion of Eid. Senior Super of Chittagong Central Jail Mohammad Bazul Rashid received the gift at a simple ceremony on Wednesday on behalf of the prisoners from Nurul Islam, noted industrialist and chief patron of the Council. Council leaders Advocate Saleh Jahur, Advocate Khurshid Alam Dohdash, Selimuddin Chowdhury, Sheikh Kamaluddin and Md Monirul Alam were present at the function.

### Noman assures of PIB branch in Ctg

Food Minister Abdullah Al Noman assured of establishing a wing of Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) in the port city to meet the long-felt demand of Chittagong journalists and help develop their professional skill. The minister said this while he was inaugurating a three-day training workshop organised by Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ) at Press Club auditorium on Thursday. Noman regretted that most of the

### Publication of Dainik Bangla, Times demanded

Leaders of Chittagong Metropolitan Union of Journalists (CMUJ) at a meeting demanded immediate republication of now defunct Dainik Bangla and Bangaldesh Times. They said Awami League government had closed the newspapers in 1996 and leaving around 500 journalists unemployed. Shamsuddin Harun presided. The meeting was held at the CMUJ office on Friday.

### View exchange meeting on AIDS

Non-government organisation Young Power in Social Action (YPSA) organised a view exchange meeting with leaders of different political parties and representatives from professional groups at the auditorium of Chittagong Shilpakala Academy on "AIDS menace: Bangladesh perspective." CPB leader Shah Alam, Sitakunda Poursava Chairman and BNP leader Abul Kalam Azad, Kazi Shahjahan of BSD, Advocate Abdul Momen of NAP, Saifuddin Khan of Gonotantri Party, Amrita Barua of Workers Party, Ali Hadier of Gonotantrik Front, Dr. Mahfujur Rahman of JSD, journalist Sumi Khan, Dr. Sultanul Alam and Rafiqul Islam of YPSA took part in the

### Shun path of political difference

Noted scholar and scientist Professor Dr. Jamal Nazrul Islam urged all to shun the path of political differences and work for the well being of the poor and the destitute. Professor Jamal was speaking as chief guest at a discussion on Ramadan organised by Bangladesh Human Rights Commission, Chittagong Divisional Committee on Sunday. Committee chairperson Sitara Gaffar presided. General Secretary Abdur Rahim Chowdhury, Fayezer Rahman Belal, Prof MN Anwar, Engineer Dilder Hossain and Nazrul Islam Khan spoke.

### 'CHT an asset of Bangladesh'

The twelfth anniversary of Parbatya Bangalee Chhatra Parishad, Chittagong University (CU) unit was observed amid different programmes on Monday. CU Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr. Muhammad Shamsuddin inaugurated the anniversary as chief guest. In his speech Dr. Shamsuddin said, Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) is such a place of Bangladesh with rich and diversified cultural heritage, tradition and history. SM Jamsheul Azam chaired the function. Marketing Department teacher Mohammad Taiyab Chowdhury, Parishad president Yakub Ali Chowdhury and founder president Alkas Al Mamun also spoke.



Winners with crests posed with the guests at the prize-giving ceremony of Alokito-Konka Eid Fashion Competition at Hotel Agrabad here on Monday. Alokito Chattagram, the regional publication of the leading Bengali daily the Prothom Alo, organised the competition. Seated from right are Prothom Alo Editor Motiur Rahman, Principal Safia Rahman, film actor Ferdous, Prothom Alo Resident Editor and poet Abul Momen and Farhana Rahman.

the week that was