

Construction work leaves Manik Mia Avenue sidewalk in disarray

MATHEWS CHIRAN

Development work is an inseparable part of urbanisation. It is inevitable that sometimes even the busiest footpaths will have to be blocked, for the sake of maintaining the asphalt or repairing the utility lines that run underneath.

However, when this work stalls for a long time, it's the pedestrians who have to bear the brunt. As footpaths are the only allocated site for walking on roads, it becomes a problem when they are obstructed or cordoned off for months on end. Such a scene can be seen at the city's Manik Mia Avenue for nearly three months now.

While visiting the area on Friday, this correspondent saw the footpath on the NAM Bhaban side of the road resembling an obstacle course, as brickbats, sand, and other construction materials were scattered all over the place.

This is due to drainage work -- that started around three months ago, according to DNCC officials. The development work stretches from the opposite of Aarong to Indira Road T&T field.

Along with the difficulty of commuting on foot, the ongoing maintenance work also contributes to worsening air quality in the area as piles of sand and other construction materials are left uncovered, flouting the High Court order to cover up construction materials to curb air pollution.

Additionally, construction rods and drainage pipes are also cluttered across the footpath. This is forcing pedestrians



What's supposed to be walking space for pedestrians is now taken over by sand, pipes, and ditches, forcing pedestrians into the busy roadway of the Manik Mia Avenue.

PHOTO: STAR

to stray off the pavement and put themselves under risk of accident in one of the busiest roads in the city.

"We common people can't hold anyone responsible for this. We are used to seeing such disorderly construction work everywhere in Dhaka. No one usually thinks of the pedestrians; has the authority concerned thought of giving pedestrians alternative walkways before starting work in the area?" questioned Md Mizan, a pedestrian walking along the road.

Some pedestrians looked to avoid the hazardous and dusty construction side by crossing over to the other side

of the road. Md Sadman was one of them.

"Who wants to walk next to the construction area? Can't you see that there is dust everywhere? I prefer to walk by the National Parliament side -- it is much cleaner," Sadman said.

An Ansar personnel named Manik, posted at Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation which falls on the construction site area, said, "The sand piles are kept open for several days, which releases dust in the area. Sometimes we need to spray water so that dust does not blow in the air."

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Celebration without Khaleda won't be successful: Fakhru

UNB, Dhaka

BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday said the celebrations of "Mujib Borsho" will not be successful keeping Khaleda Zia in jail.

"Khaleda Zia fought for democracy throughout her life. She has been jailed numerous time in this regard. Even now she is in jail... only because of her efforts to restore democracy in the country," he said.

"So, [the celebration of] Mujib Borsho won't be successful, keeping her in jail," the BNP leader said.

Fakhru came up with the remarks while talking to reporters after placing wreaths at the grave of BNP founder Ziaur Rahman. Sheikh Rabiul Alam, party candidate for by-polls to Dhaka-10, accompanied him.

The BNP secretary general said democracy was the main spirit of Bangladesh's independence. "People fought for a long time for independence and thus we became independent," he said.

He also criticised the government for inviting Indian premier Narendra Modi at Mujib Borsho celebrations.

When his attention was drawn to ruling party leaders' remark that BNP is not serious about polls, Fakhru alleged that Awami League leaders are making various comments to mislead people since they have been in power without "the mandate of people and support".

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Women's Math Olympiad at DU today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women's Mathematics Olympiad Committee and AF Mujibur Rahman Foundation is set to organise the "Women's Mathematics Olympiad 2020" to mark the International Women's Day today. This will be the fourth iteration of the event.

The programme, to be facilitated by the Department of Mathematics of Dhaka University, will be held at AF Mujibur Rahman Ganit Bhaban at DU, said a press release.

More than 250 undergraduate female students from different public and private universities are set to participate in the Olympiad.

Prof Akhtaruzzaman, vice-chancellor of DU, will inaugurate the programme while Education Minister Dipu Moni will be present as chief guest at the certificate giving ceremony. Prof Muhammad

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DAKSHINKHAN TRIPLE MURDER Husband still traceless

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three weeks have passed since Munni Rahman and her two children were murdered in Dhaka's Dakshinkhan. Yet, Munni's husband Raquib Uddin Bhuiyan, the prime suspect, remains traceless.

Police suspect Raquib to be the killer after recovering a note, apparently written by him, admitting to the killings and saying his body would be found near a rail track.

"We are continuing our search for him," said Nasir Uddin, inspector (investigation) of Dakshinkhan Police Station.

"We will be able to confirm whether anyone else was involved after finding him... We have alerted all the railway police stations in this regard. We are also checking whenever police recover a body from a rail track," he added.

On February 14, police recovered the decomposed bodies of Munni (37) and her two children -- Farhan Uddin (12) and Layeeva Bhuiyan (3) -- from their Dakshinkhan flat and said they were murdered a couple of days ago.

Munni was beaten to death with a hammer while the two children were strangled, said a forensic doctor, who conducted their autopsy.

Inspector Nasir said they are waiting for the report to confirm whether Raquib wrote the note or not.

Raquib, an official of BTCL's Uttara office, was having some financial problems due to a loan, police said.

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President returns home

BSS, Dhaka

President Abdul Hamid returned home yesterday afternoon, wrapping up his 11-day visit to Uruguay and England.

A flight of Qatar Airways from London, carrying the president and his entourage, landed at Dhaka airport around 4pm.

On his arrival, the head of the state was received by Law Minister Anisul Huq,

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আমরা শোকাহত

ঢাকা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড এর সম্মানিত প্রতিষ্ঠাতা চেয়ারম্যান এবং পরিচালক জনাব আব্দুল হাই সরকার এর স্বাস্থ্য ও মরহম নূরুল ইসলাম খান এর স্ত্রী বেগম হাজেরা খানম (৮৯) গত ৫ মার্চ ২০২০, বৃহস্পতিবার রাত ৯৯টায় বার্বক্যজনিত কারণে ইন্তেকাল করেন (ইন্না লিল্লাহি ওয়া ইন্না ইলাহি রাজেউন)। মৃত্যুকালে তিনি পাঁচ পুত্র, তিন কন্যা ও নাতী-নাতনীসহ অসংখ্য গুণগ্রাহী রেখে গেছেন। পরে তাঁকে উত্তরা (৪ নং সেক্টর) কবরস্থানে দাফন করা হয়।

ঢাকা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড এর পরিচালনা পর্ষদ এবং সকল কর্মকর্তা-কর্মচারীদের পক্ষ থেকে শোক-সন্তপ্ত পরিবারের প্রতি গভীর সমবেদনা প্রকাশ ও মরহমার বিদেহী আত্মার শান্তি ও মাগফেরাত কামনা করছি।

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