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# Down to Earth

## Nightmares on City Roads

By ASM Nurunnabi

We are increasingly witnessing a steadily worsening picture of city's transport system. In the short run, we find no silver lining in the gloomy picture. Surely there is some heartening information for the future in the transport sector. For example, we have been told that the Metropolitan city of Dhaka may have eight commuter railway lines and seven sub-way lines to ease the pressure on the existing network by the year 2015, when Dhaka is expected to have a population of 17 million. This future projection and planning offers little solace to the teeming city dwellers daily braving the rigours of a run-down traffic system. They eagerly look forward to some measures which may relieve their distress without further delay.

A project preparatory mission of the World Bank that visited Dhaka last year made observation, among other things, that rickshaws being a major factor discouraging private bus operators to invest in premium services in city routes, besides a dictated tariff environment with low or no profit, a pilot scheme for some premium service bus routes was recommended by that mission. The suggested routes are (i) Uttara-Farm Gate-Shahbagh-Motijheel, (ii) Mirpur Section 10 Motijheel via Bijoy Swarni, (iii) Uttara-Mahakhalii-Maghbazar, (iv) Gabtoli-New Market-Shahbagh-Motijheel. The premium bus service in the private sector from Uttara to Motijheel via Farm Gate and Shahbagh has already been in operation since December last which is a welcome beginning, although the limited number of AC coaches operating on this route coupled with the non-queue habit of some waiting passengers at the specified bus stops create some problems, especially for the ladies and elderly

## Autonomy for Radio, TV

The three basic points of the 'code of conduct' are, a) nation's independence, sovereignty and cultural integrity, b) propriety and decorum and c) Plugging the loopholes for propagating party-ideology. In news value guideline, recommendations were made for discontinuing the 'protocol value' that often supersede news value. TV camera would not necessarily move to a spot just because of the Prime Minister's presence or to cover a minister cutting ribbons, rather news would be covered based on its importance in national interest. The Commission report also suggested higher pay for electronic media staff and enhanced rate of fees and royalties for artists. Besides, it said there should be at least one ENG (electronic news gathering) unit in each greater district. The Commission was formed on September 7 last year. During its nine-month work members of the Commission visited a number of countries to gather experience about how electronic media was functioning in those countries. UNDP provided funds for the visits. The media offices they

## Business leaders talk

benefit immensely by investing in Bangladesh. Haroon also stressed the need for more interaction between the business communities of the two countries. Haroon referred to the holding of the next joint meeting of Japan-Bangladesh Joint Committee for Commercial and Economic Cooperation in late October in Tokyo and hoped that it would create further opportunities for extensive interactions in the field of commerce and trade. He also observed that Japan could relocate its sunset industries including textiles in the Asian region including Bangladesh. Kajiro Tsushima, Vice Chairman of Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry and President of Yokohama Chamber, who led the Japanese team appreciated the investment climate in Bangladesh and said that in the next century Bangladesh would emerge as an important developing country in Asia. "I want to see a happy and prosperous Bangladesh in future," he said. The Bangladesh team included ASM Quasem, President of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI), Khorshed Alam of Dhaka Stock Exchange, M A Haq of FBCCL.

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## Janata Dal splits

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where he is chief minister. Yadav defied Gujral's order to stand down following the allegations then, fearing he was about to lose his job as Janata Dal president, announced he would form his own political party. Gujral became the prime minister in April after the Congress, the second largest group in the hung parliament after the Hindu nationalists, ousted the previous United Front government in an abortive bid to form its own coalition. Earlier today a Yadav supporter admitted a parting of the ways with Gujral was 'immi-

Two snatchers caught in city  
People caught two youngmen while they were fleeing away after snatching a gold necklace from a woman at Shantinagar in the city yesterday, reports UNB. Police said the two young men snatched the necklace from one Geeta Saha, 40, in Shantinagar area at about 8:30 am when she was going to Fakirerpool by a rickshaw from Siddheswari. When the woman and the rickshawpuller raised a hue and cry, pedestrians chased and caught the two snatchers - Jamal, 20, and Hanif, 22. They were later handed over to police.

Home Minister undergoes surgery  
By Staff Correspondent  
Home Minister Rafiqul Islam, Bir Uttam, underwent surgery at the Combined Hospital (CMH) in the city on Thursday. Sources at the CMH said that it was a minor operation and the health of the minister was improving. They, however, did not give any detail.

BNP, BCL hold protest rallies in Barisal  
From Staff Correspondent  
BARISAL, July 4: The district unit of BNP and BCL held separate protest rallies in the town this evening. The BNP rally protested the 'police action' on its supports during the hartal hours on Thursday while BCL rally condemned the BNP's act of 'terrorism' in the name of hartal. Some crackers were also exploded in Sadar road area that left 10 people injured. BNP held its rally in front of the Aswini Kumar Hall which was addressed by the district leaders. They protested police action demanded withdrawal of 'false cases' filed against the leaders of district BNP and its front organisation JCD. The BCL rally was held at Sohel Square. The speakers condemned the activities of BNP during hartal hours. Later, the BCL activists brought out a procession in the town.

Khaleda condemns anti-Islam poster  
Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia has strongly protested the printing and publication of derogatory poster by the Zionists on Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SM), reports UNB. In a statement yesterday, she said the Zionists' act of poster and sacrilege of the Holy Quran had seriously hurt the sentiments of crores of Muslims around the world. The BNP Chairperson said through this heinous act, the enemies of Islam have shown a serious arrogance. This incident can jeopardise world peace, she said. Begum Zia demanded exemplary punishment of those involved in the poster.



A countryboat being taken to a low-lying city suburb as the monsoon has set in. —Star photo

## WB: Mortgaged property

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The other major suggestions are: "To ensure the borrower a notice of the sale and an opportunity to bid at the auction. Notice of the sale should be published in two newspapers — one in Bengali and one in English — in the district where the defendant resides or works. A copy of the notice should also be sent under registered post to the last known address of the borrower, and to the occupant or lessee of the property. In addition, the notice should be displayed at a prominent place of the mortgaged property. This will not only give notice, but also encourage payment due to the social stigma attached to such display. A trustee or other individual designated in the mortgage loan document, will conduct the auction. The auction would occur one month after the date of publication. "If the borrower does not pay or otherwise settle the loan, the designated individual will conduct the auction. The notice should state the date, time and place of the sale. Generally the same place should be used to conduct all the sales — perhaps at the office of the Registrar. "At the auction, bids can be made by the bank, the borrower or third parties. Title will be passed to the buyer by a Certificate of Sale issued by the designated individual, which can be recorded with the Registrar. If the bank purchases the property, the amount of the bank's bid will be credited against the amount owed by the borrower. "If any of the procedures stated above are violated by the bank or by the designated individual, the borrower shall have the right to go to the court for an injunction only after depositing 50 per cent of the defaulted loan amount in court. The court shall dispose of such application within two months from the date of filing. "If a property is mortgaged for more than one loan to the bank, the bank shall have the right to foreclose any or all loans secured by that property although only one facility is in default. "Obstructing an auction should be an offence punishable under the criminal law of the country. "After selling the property, the bank shall recover first the cost of sale and second the total amount due to the bank. If there is a remaining balance, it shall be returned to the borrower if there are no further mortgages. "In the event of borrower or any person claiming occupation on behalf of the borrower is in possession of the property,

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Pitiable condition of a road in Gulistan area in the city. —Star photo

## One beaten to death in Cox's Bazar

From Our Correspondent  
COX'S BAZAR, July 4: A young man was beaten to death at Chokoria village under Chokoria thana of the district this afternoon. Police said Osman Goni, 28, an autorickshaw driver was seriously assaulted when trying to resolve a feud between two groups of his relatives in the village at about 2 pm. He died on the spot. Osman's father Ali Ahmed filed a murder case accusing five people with Chokoria thana in this regard. However, none was arrested in this connection. The body of Osman was sent to Cox's Bazar hospital for autopsy.

## Shop owner found dead in Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent  
JHENIDAH, July 4: A shop owner was found dead inside his grocery at village Uttar Kasatosagra in Jhenidah thana this morning. The victim was identified as Tofazal Hossain. He used to stay in his shop at night.

## Doctorate for Hasina

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natural disasters and an ever increasing population she is facing. It said. Overcoming countless setbacks and difficulties, according to the citation, she has devoted most of her adult life to the people of Bangladesh. On the international scene, it said, her positive involvement in the movement toward peace and disarmament, her concern about problems such as racial conflict, human rights and the status of women, and her contribution to the improvement of relations with India have all made a significant contribution toward an improvement of relations between the people and nations of this world. Accordingly, the President, Executive Board, Board of Trustees and Faculty of Waseda University are unanimous in conferring upon Sheikh Hasina the Doctor of Laws degree; honoris causa. Waseda University also referred the visit of late Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to Japan in 1973 and said the visit was followed by a steady improvement of cordial relations between Bangladesh and Japan. The honorary degree is conferred on persons who are felt to be particularly deserving of such honour in recognition of their manifest contribution to learning, arts, society and mankind. The first honorary doctorate was conferred upon the then Prime Minister Tanzan Ishibashi, an alumnus of Waseda. The other outstanding personalities who received the degree included Kenzo Matsumura, Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, Herbat von Karajan, J William Fulbright, Corazon Aquino, Ikuo Hirayama, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Kim Young Sam, Nelson Mandela and Roman Herzog. Hasina was the 48th personality to receive the degree. In her acceptance remarks Sheikh Hasina said, "I along with millions will raise our voices in announcing that for us there is no ideal more dominant than democracy, that there is no foundation of democracy stronger than freedom and that there is no greater guarantee for freedom than that of civilised law and rule of that law. "Our prime objective is to build a society free from poverty and hunger," the Prime Minister said adding "keeping this in view we have laid the highest importance on education as a society free from hunger and poverty is not achievable without educated society. She said that government is firmly committed to rooting out illiteracy from society within the next 10 years.

## Gas bubbles

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contacts with Occidental over the safety situation. Communications Minister Anwar Hossain told The Daily Star on Thursday. He said the BR might restore train services after Occidental gave a safety certificate. The Minister said BR would use goods trains initially to avoid any accidents in the area, but once the area was safe they would permit passenger trains to use the rail line. Diverting routes was not an immediate solution because it would take at least two years to move the tracks away from the gasfield, he pointed out. Petro Bangla Chairman Mosharraf Hossain, however, said Occidental couldn't rule out another blow-out. "It will be wise to keep train service suspended until the situation improves substantially." He further said if the gas bubbles were near the tracks, train operation would not be safe. "But if these are at a distance enough to maintain safety, BR can run trains."

## Sampras

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Pioline of France — both players were undecided in this championship. The final will be played on Sunday, July 6. Meanwhile, Jana Novotna, who plays Martina Hingis in the finals tomorrow, has withdrawn from the doubles competition because of thigh muscle pain. But she is expected to be fit for her important singles match.

## Ganges barrage

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other investors will also come forward to establish industry in our EPZs following their example," she added. The prime minister pointed out that the government had enacted necessary laws to establish private export processing zones to facilitate the foreign investors to set up their own EPZ and regulate those in a way suiting their own needs. She referred to a package of attractive incentives and facilities being provided by her government to foreign investors and said, "I believe the return of your investment in Bangladesh would be more than that of your expectation." The prime minister noted with deep appreciation that the government of Japan extended cooperation for rehabilitation and reconstruction of war-ravaged Bangladesh. Seeking more active cooperation from Japan in her government's endeavour for economic development, the prime minister said that the success of her government's sincere efforts for attaining economic emancipation of the people is mostly dependent on this cooperation. Besides, the majority of the world's refugees are children and women who are forced to live outside of their countries along with millions of people for civil conflict, political persecution and natural disasters. "To make matters worse, refugee and displaced children are known to be targeted for rape and sexual abuse by adult perpetrators from within their own communities and from external exploiters taking advantage of these environments in which children's rights are often violated." Asking why babies born in poorer countries are at greater risk, the report said the probability that an HIV-positive woman's baby will have the virus is between 25 per cent and 44 per cent in developing countries and between 13 per cent and 25 per cent in industrialised country. A depressed immune status, poor nutrition, complications in pregnancy and protracted labour after the waters break may increase a woman's risk of having an infected baby. The US Bureau of the Census estimates that by the year 2010, if the spread of HIV is not contained, AIDS may increase infant mortality by as much as 75 per cent and mortality in children under five by more than 100 per cent in those regions most affected by the disease.