



An unbearable traffic gridlock is a common phenomenon at some two-kilometre stretch from Dewanhat to Barek Building intersection at the Agrabad Commercial Area. Making the road off-limits to rickshaws and developing by-pass roads for long distant vehicles may help ease the traffic jam there.

## Commercial city without terminal for vehicles

Drivers use 100 points on busy thoroughfares as parking lots, causing traffic gridlock

SHAHIDUL ISLAM

Amazing though it may sound, yet true it is, the port city has no terminal whatsoever for buses, trucks and other vehicles. And in absence of this, the drivers or owners of all modes of transport take extra freedom to park their vehicles on busy thoroughfares and streets creating gridlock that pushes the city dwellers into untold sufferings.

The drivers use no less than 100 points throughout the city as their haphazard parking space. These illegal and unplanned stands of bus, truck, human hauler, taxicab, minibus, private car, microbus, auto-rickshaw and tempo create a hazardous and chaotic situation on the city streets and also hinder smooth vehicle movement.

Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) First Vice President MA Salami raised the issue as one of the major ob-

stacles for investment in the commercial capital at the concluding session of Chittagong Apparel, Fabric and Accessories Exposition (Cafaxpo) on Saturday.

"The road communications system in Chittagong is in so disorderly state that gives such an impression as if the entire city is either a bus stand or parking lot for trucks," Salami told the function. He also urged the authorities concerned to act in this regard.

Unwanted traffic congestion apart, the vehicles at these stands emit thick smoke and create noise pollution resulting in health hazards and various diseases.

A project taken some 20 years ago to establish a planned terminal for tank lorry, truck and inter-district bus has also been shelved. A project taken by Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) about 10 years ago for construction of new roads and expansion of older ones to lessen the gridlock also faces the same fate.

The CDA, however, bulldozed some wayside illegal structures and markets at Anderkilla and Sholoshahar recently to widen the roads for better traffic.

"The CDA deserves thanks for this and we hope that they will continue such commendable moves to give us at least some solace," Shawkat Hossain, a businessman of Chittagong Shopping Complex at Sholoshahar said.

However, illegal and makeshift parking lots are being erected at key points such as Bahaddarhat, Cinema Palace, KC Dey Road, Dhaka Trunk Road, Oxygen Intersection, Mansurabad (near WAPDA colony), Kadamtali, Chittagong Port area, Laldighipar, New Market, Station Road, Garibullah Shah Shrine, Dampara, Muradpur, GEC Intersection, Kathgar, Patenga, Pahartali, Dewanhat, Olonkar Crossing, Madarbari Strand Road, Barik Building, Chittagong Export Processing Zone (CEPZ), Port Connecting Road, Majheerghat, Kalurghat,

Dhanjalpara, Bayezid Bostami, Boxirhat, Asadganj and Khatunganj area.

Hundreds of trucks loaded with goods enter the city daily from other parts of the country but hardly find a space close to their destination and the drivers don't hesitate to make a halt on the busy streets. And, they often cause serious traffic jam on way to and from CEPZ, Shah Amanat International Airport, Chittagong Port, Customs, Bangladesh Shipping Corporation, Naval Base and Patenga Seabeach.

It provides treatment to 4500 patients annually

ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD

With thousands of successful operations and treatment of patients, the Paediatrics Surgery Department at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) stands high in the country's medical sector.

The department provides treatment to 4500 patients and operates on over 1500 of them annually.

It conducts critical operations needed badly for survival for children with congenital malformations.

Paediatrics Surgery Department, country's largest paediatrics department at government level, opened in 1993.

Different foreign organisations and specialists, particularly from Australia and the UK, came forward with their supports and expertise. The government provided the department with a Laparoscope's to conduct Minimal Invasive Surgery.

And the personality who, with all dedication and compassion for ailing newborn babies, brought the department at its present position is Professor Dr. Tahmina Banu, the first female paediatric urologist of the country.

The Paediatrics Surgery Department had been far more advanced in complicated surgeries involving posterior urethral valve, intussusceptions, ambiguous genitalia and cloacae.

Till 2004, the Paediatric Department of CMCH was the country's lone centre for the surgery of Posterior Urethral Valve (PUV) responsible for blocking urethral system.

Dr Tahmina procured Neonatal Cystoscope for conducting PUV surgery at her department in 1997. On an average some 350 PUV operations are done at the centre a year.

Paediatric patients from across the country and neighbouring Myanmar come here for treatment.

Dr Tahmina said that one, out of 150 children, suffers from PUV disorder that, if remains untreated, leads to renal failure and consequent death. Proper treatment in childhood can bring down the number of kidney patients significantly in the country, she said.

Use of betel leaf is an appre-

ciable cost reducing process Professor Tahmina applies during colostomy. Colostomy is a temporary diversionary opening (made on the belly of newborn babies without having anus) for passage of stools until the anal track is reconstructed through surgery after one or two months.

She said that after the colostomy is done they paste zinc oxide around the opening and place a betel leaf with a hole in the middle over it instead of daily

disposable colostomy bag that costs Tk30 each.

Dr Tahmina was also a pioneering figure to conduct the Ambiguous Genitalia (sex disorder found in Hizra) determining sex and Estopia Vesicae at the CMCH.

She conducted strenuous surgery for Cloacae constructing separate urethral, genital, rectum and anal tracks of the patient.

Another treatment provided to

the paediatric patients at the department is intussusceptions through hydrostatic reduction.

When the critical operation like Cloacae costs over Tk 1 lakh in a private hospital, it costs Tk 5,000 only for a patient at the department.

"The hospital provided me with 66 beds, officially only 15, while the departments of radiology and other diagnosis also helped me a lot," said Dr Tahmina.



US Ambassador Harry K Thomas Junior enquires about the condition of a trauma patient during his visit to Paediatrics Surgery Department at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) on February 23. CMCH Director Brigadier General Ismail Hossain Siraji, right, and head of the department Professor Dr. Tahmina Banu, left, are also seen.

## the week that was

### Concern over price hike of essentials

Leaders of Chittagong city Awami League at a meeting on Friday expressed grave concern over the continued price hike of essentials and urged the government to take immediate measures to reduce the suffering of city dwellers.

"The prices of almost all essentials especially the edible oil and rice have gone beyond the buying capacity of poorer section of the society," they said.

Former minister MA Mannan presided.

They also expressed discontent at the erratic power and water supply for the last few weeks.

City AL Vice President Nurul Islam and General Secretary ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury also addressed the meeting.

### "Stop hill cutting"

Members of the civil society here on Friday emphasised the immediate halt to illegal hill cutting at Pahartali for construction of the proposed Asian Women University.

The speakers made the call at a slide and discussion on the proposed drawing and plan for construction of the proposed Asian Women University.

Institute of Architectures, Bangladesh (IAB), Chittagong, and Forum for Planned Chittagong, a citizens' volunteering organisation, jointly organised the slide show and discussion at the Institute of

Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB), Chittagong centre seminar hall.

Scientist Professor Dr. Jamal Nazrul Islam chaired the meeting and IAB, Chittagong leader Architect Zarina Hossain presented the slide show.

Former Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University (CU) Professor Alamgir Md. Sirajuddin, former chairman of Chittagong Port Authority Mahmudul Islam, IEB, Chittagong President Engineer Fazlullah Bhuiyan, Professor Dr. Shahidul Islam of Chittagong University, town planner Engineer Ali Ashraf, Architect Ahmed Zillur Chowdhury, Architect Bidhan Barua, former CU professor Asma Sirajuddin, artiste and social worker Shahriar Khaled and YPSA executive officer Masud Rana also addressed the meeting.

Speakers at a discussion on Saturday said the families and the government both have equal responsibility to ensure the rights of children.

"The families are the main foundation to establish child rights while the state or government is to provide and meet their basic needs," they said.

Bright Bangladesh Forum organised the discussion at Karitas auditorium with its Chief Executive Utpal Barua in the chair. Deputy Commissioner of Chittagong Dr Syed Nesar Ahmad Rumi was present as chief guest while Deputy Director of Social Welfare Department Syeda Ferdous Akhtar, General Secretary of Chittagong Press Club Kalim Sarwar, Programme Coordinator of Manusher Jonno Project AQM Julhas Alam and Regional Director of NGO Forum Abdulla Mamun were the special guests.

Women activist Jasmine Sultana Paru, ward commissioner Rehena Kabir Ranu, Shahidul Alam and members from different NGOs also spoke.

### CMUJ annual sports begins

The annual sports competition of Chittagong Metropolitan Union of Journalists (CMUJ) began at its

office on Thursday.

SM Iqbal Hossain, chairman of football committee, Mohammedi Sporting Club, inaugurated the competition as the chief guest.

With CMUJ President Eskander Ali Chowdhury in the chair, General Secretary Kashem Mahmud, CMUJ Welfare Fund Chairman AZM Omar, Bangladesh Sports Journalists Association, Chittagong unit General Secretary Kamal Parvez also addressed the inaugural ceremony. CMUJ Sports Secretary Saifulah Chowdhury conducted the competition that included seven events.

### Annual sports of Kapashgola School

The annual sports of Kapashgola City Corporation Girls High School and College was held on Friday.

City Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury gave away prizes among the winners. City Corporation's Chief Education Officer Professor ATM Saleh Jahan and School Governing Body Chairman, Ward Commissioner Sayed Golam Haider Minto were present as special guests with Principal Sudhir Bikas Dev in the chair.

In college branch, Jannatul Hama became the champion. Khaleda Akhtar (primary), Hasina Parvin (Junior) and Bobby Das (Senior) share the championships in school branch.

Chittagong Education Board Chairman Professor AJM Shahidullah inaugurated the competition.



Young girls adorn themselves with traditional attires and garlands representing the spring, top, while, bottom, Hammadur Rahman, left, and Aunima Murti, right, sing Baul (folk) songs at a function titled "Basanta Utsab" on the Chittagong Art College premises on Friday. Charushilpi Sammilen organised the event to welcome the spring.



STAR PHOTO  
Young girls adorn themselves with traditional attires and garlands representing the spring, top, while, bottom, Hammadur Rahman, left, and Aunima Murti, right, sing Baul (folk) songs at a function titled "Basanta Utsab" on the Chittagong Art College premises on Friday. Charushilpi Sammilen organised the event to welcome the spring.