

Two-stroke autorickshaws still ply Ctg city streets

70 owned by CCC

ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD, Ctg

A good number of two-stroke autorickshaws ply the streets of port city escaping eyes of the authorities concerned till date.

Some 70 of them are owned by none other than Chittagong City Corporation (CCC), one of the government agencies responsible for taking care of the environment in the city.

The CCC runs two-stroke autorickshaws disregarding the restriction on their movement inside the metropolitan area to carry its officials.

The government has stopped registration of such petrol-run autorickshaws to restrict their movement within the metropolitan areas as they caused massive air pollution.

The CCC-owned two-stroke autorickshaws also do not have any fitness certificate or route permit as well.

All painted in blue, these three-wheelers ply with certificate that reads "These vehicles run under special arrangements having all necessary documents preserved with the concerned department of the CCC."

The certificate bears the signature of Abul Hasnat, former executive engineer (Mechanical) of the CCC.

"Beside causing air pollution, these are also raising our fuel cost and hampering our movement," said the concerned CCC officials who use the three-wheelers with two-stroke engine.

"Our movement is restricted due

to these vehicles for which we are allocated fixed and little quantity of petrol on daily basis," said a CCC engineer on condition of anonymity, adding, "Whereas a single cylinder of CNG could have enabled us to travel as much as required."

He, however, feared that a sudden withdrawal of these autorickshaws without procuring CNG-run ones would only increase the transportation problem.

There is allegation that the CCC did not take any initiative so far to replace the two-stroke autorickshaws which provide scope for pilfering fuel by a section of dishonest officials and staffs of the CCC.

No senior officials including the chief executive officer, chief engineer or secretary could be contacted for comments in this regard.

CCC Public Relations Officer Saifuddin Ahmed said, "Most of the CCC vehicles are CNG-run excepting some 40 petrol-run autorickshaws."

"As these autorickshaws could neither be sold out nor left unused, the CCC is using them only during the office hours," he added.

"The CCC has been trying to replace them, but could not do so due to fund constraint," he claimed.

According to sources concerned, the CCC has five jeeps, 12 private cars, three minibuses, 70 petrol-run autorickshaws and 13 CNG-run autorickshaws providing transport service to its officials as per ranks.

But different CCC officials have given different information regarding the number of these autorickshaws

and the quantity of fuel used for these vehicles.

Executive Engineer (Mechanical) Abdul Malek, in-charge of CCC vehicles, said they have 69 three-wheelers including 23 petrol-run ones, each having an allocation of three to four litres of petrol a day.

Assistant Engineer (Mechanical) Fazlul Quader, who is also an officer of the transport pool, put the number of three-wheelers at 87.

He said around half of these three-wheelers are CNG-run while the rest are petrol-run with an allocation of 180 litres petrol a day.

Meanwhile, officials of Bangladesh Road and Transport Authority (BRTA), Traffic Department of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) and Department of Environment (DoE) here have expressed their ignorance on the matter.

They also could not say anything about the number of petrol-run autorickshaws plying the city streets at present.

When asked, BRTA Assistant Director Sheikh Ataulah Chowdhury said as far as he knew, local BRTA office did not receive any official order imposing ban on the plying of petrol-run autorickshaws in the port city.

"But they automatically went off the road in a race with the CNG-run ones," he observed.

"We have not been giving registration for such vehicles for plying in the city since 2001," said Ataulah, adding that no two-stroke autorickshaws came to them for renewal of route permits in the last six

years, and if comes they won't renew the permit.

Deputy Commissioner (Traffic) Md Ali Miah of CMP said they could not detect any petrol-run autorickshaw plying the city streets since long and the traffic department was sure to take strict measures like seizure and legal suit against them if there was any.

As attention was drawn to CCC-owned ones, the DC referred this correspondent to Traffic Inspector Abhijit who also expressed his ignorance on the existence of the two-stroke three-wheelers here.

"It is also beyond my knowledge if the ban was applicable for the vehicles owned by a government organisation like the CCC," he added.

In this regard, Director Nazmul Haq said the environment department also could take measures like conducting mobile court and filing case against such vehicles that defied ban.

He, however, could not say whether his department had taken any measure in this regard or had any record of petrol-run autorickshaws that might ply the city streets as he took the office just on last Sunday, the day he talked to The Daily Star.



PHOTO: STAR

Winners of a quiz competition on Harry Potter pose for photograph with the guests at Public Library in the city yesterday.

'Modernise teaching method to develop talents of students'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The teaching method of the country should be changed in order to develop the inner skills and talents of students.

Educationists said this at a reception ceremony for meritorious students who achieved GPA-5 in the SSC examinations this year.

They also said the teaching method should be updated and modernised and the teachers should be trained on modern teaching method so that they can help students become creative.

Rajshahi Committee of Bangladesh Teachers' Association (BTA) organised the reception at

Rajshahi on Wednesday, with Prof M Enamul Haq, chairman of Rajshahi Secondary and Higher Secondary Board, as the chief guest.

A total of 147 GPA-5 achievers were given crests and English dictionaries at the reception.

"Students could not develop human qualities even after passing SSC examinations with good results because the existing teaching method has failed to impart real education to them," said Prof M Enamul Haq.

Prof Selim Bhuiyan, secretary general of central BTA, said the traditional teaching method has slowed the mental growth of students.

"The teachers of non-government

high schools should be trained on modern teaching method first because 98 percent of students of secondary level come from non-government high schools," he said.

He also urged the teachers to come forward to help the caretaker government in its fight against corruption.

Mostafizur Rahman, school inspector of Rajshahi Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board, Rajshahi District Education Officer Dr Sadhan Kumar Biswas, Bangladesh Madrasa Teachers Association Chairman M Abdul Latif and BTA Assistant Secretary General Zakir Hossain also spoke.

Dhaka University Day tomorrow

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka University Day will be observed tomorrow amid huge enthusiasm and celebrations by the students, teachers and other concerned of the university.

The Day, an annual celebration for all of the university family, popularly known as Open Day, is going to revive after 18 years.

On the day, all classes will be suspended, but the scheduled examinations will be held and university offices will remain open.

Academic activities of the university will resume from July 2, after the ongoing month-long summer vacation.

University halls, all departments and institutes will remain open for the guardians and former students from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. Special lunch will be served at the hall canteens and messes from 1:00pm to 2:00pm.

Two friendly soccer matches will be held at university playground from 4:00pm. VC Eleven will take on DU Alumni Association (DUAA) President Eleven in the first match while former students will play against present students in the second one.

The celebration will begin at 10:00am with a discussion at Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) in participation of former vice chancellors (VCs), distinguished people, teachers, students and their guardians. Treasurer Prof Syed Abul Kalam Azad will chair the discussion.

VC Prof SMA Faiz will lead the DU Day rally from TSC at 11:00am that will march different thoroughfares of the university. Teachers, officials, employees, students and guests will participate in the rally.

Dhaka University Debating Society (DUDS) will organise a debate competition at 12:00pm while DU Science Club will organise a power-point presentation on DNA at 1:00pm, both at TSC.

In the evening, a cultural programme and a concert will be held at TSC.

Voluntary organisation Badhan will organise a blood donation programme at TSC from the morning.

The Day celebrations started in 1983 to mark the last day of university studies in a bid to introduce another culture rather than rag day. The day was celebrated five times in the following years in the month of February.

The University Day was last observed on March 31, 1989. The present generation of DU students hardly know about the event.

TSC will organise the celebration programme with the cooperation of DUDS and DUAA.

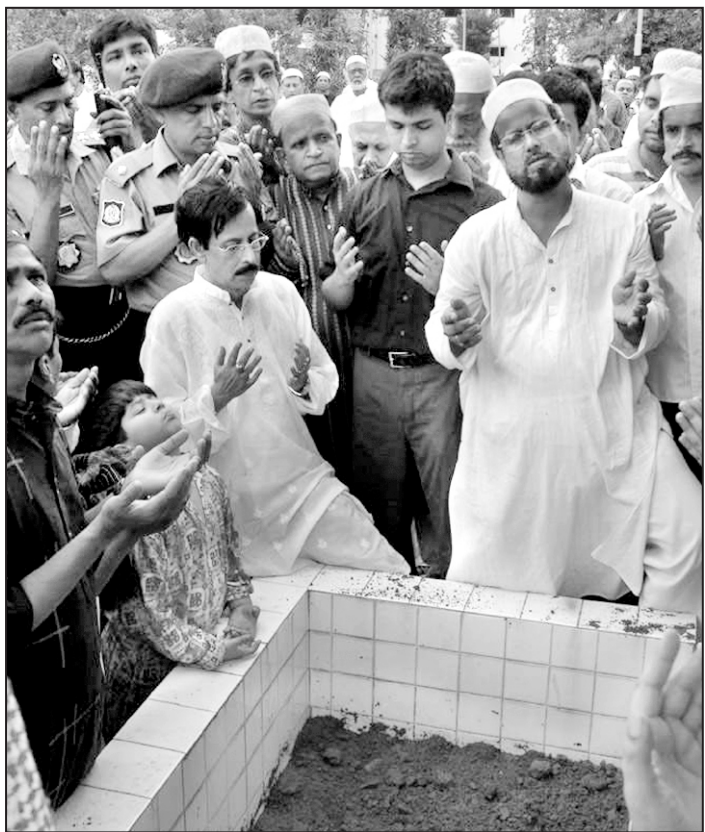


PHOTO: STAR

Awami League Presidium member Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim offers munajat beside the grave of his mother at Banani graveyard in the city yesterday.

WEATHER TODAY

Light to moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at most places over Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna divisions and at many places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy rainfalls are also likely at places, Met Office said in a forecast.

It predicted that day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Highest temperature 33.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sayedpur and lowest 25.2 degree Celsius at Cox's Bazar.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:50pm today and rises at 5:14am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	29.8	26.2	81	85
Chittagong	28.5	25.6	87	89
Rajshahi	32.0	27.3	81	73
Khulna	31.5	26.5	71	76
Barisal	30.0	26.0	77	86
Sylhet	31.5	27.0	80	100
Cox's Bazar	26.3	25.2	100	98

Sheikh Selim's mother laid to rest

UNB, Dhaka

Asia Khatun, mother of detained Awami League presidium member Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, was buried at the Banani graveyard in the city yesterday afternoon.

She was buried at about 2:30pm after a namaz-e-janaza at Gulshan Azad Mosque after Juma prayers, family sources said.

The jail authorities brought Sheikh Selim on parole at about 11:00am and took him back to the jail after the burial.

AL presidium members Abdur Razzak and Tofail Ahmed, AL leaders Abdul Matin Khasru, Maj Gen (Retd) M Subid Ali Bhuiyan and KM Jahangir and Bangladesh Jatiya Party (Nazir) Chairman Nazir Rahman Manju attended the janaza.

Earlier, AL President Sheikh Hasina and acting General Secretary Mukul Bose, presidium members Motia Chowdhury and Suranjit Sengupta visited the residence of the deceased.

Asia Khatun, elder sister of the father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, passed away due to old age complications at ZH Shikdar Medical College Hospital on Thursday.

Her kulkhwani will be held at Sheikh Selim's Banani residence after Asr prayers tomorrow.

One held for offering bribe at ZIA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Immigration police at Zia International Airport detained a China-bound passenger on charges of offering bribe to an immigration official yesterday.

Immigration officials said they arrested Akhter Hossain Khandaker at around 1:00pm as he put a Tk 500 note inside his passport and submitted it to an official at a checking counter.

As the official concerned asked the passenger why he provided the money, he (passenger) replied that it is his tips.

"Soon our officer informed the matter to top officials, prompting them to detain Akhter," Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Immigration police at the ZIA told The Daily Star.

Akhter was handed over to Airport Police Station.

Education officer arrested for taking bribes

UNB, Gopalganj

Joint forces arrested an assistant education officer of Sadar upazila while he was taking bribes from a teacher on Thursday.

The joint forces caught the officer, Hafizur Rahman, red-handed when he was receiving Tk 2000 in bribes from Minoti Biswas, assistant teacher of Boro Dumrasur Government Primary School, at his office at 3:30 pm.

A case was filed with the police.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Two housewives suffer burns

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two housewives sustained severe burns as they fell victim to domestic violence in separate incidents in Dhaka and Mymensingh in the early hours of yesterday.

Of them, Rina Begum, 25, was injured severely when her husband allegedly poured boiled water on her in her sleep at South Badda in Dhaka at around 2:00am.

The other victim is Shahnaz Begum, 20, of Mymensingh Sadar upazila. She was injured seriously when her mother-in-law allegedly set fire to her after pouring kerosene on her shortly after midnight on

Thursday.

Both the victims are now undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Rina, a garments worker, told The Daily Star that her husband Jahangir Alam, a rickshaw-van puller, poured boiled water on her when she was sleeping at their residence.

Earlier in the evening, they were locked in an altercation as Jahangir suspects that she has an affair with one of her colleagues at the garment factory at Tejgaon.

In the other incident, Shahnaz Begum sustained severe burns in Mymensingh.

Rafiqul Islam, brother of

Shahnaz, alleged that her mother-in-law Bakuli Begum set fire to his sister as his family could not provide Tk 50,000 in dowry.

Mohammad Sujon, husband of Shahnaz, also suffered injuries when he tried to extinguish the fire.

Sujon told The Daily Star that he woke at around 12:00 midnight to screaming of his wife. But he denies the allegation that his mother set fire to his wife.

Shahnaz was rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital before being shifted to DMCH.

Bakuli Begum went into hiding soon after the incident.



PHOTO: STAR

Young politician Mahi B Chowdhury speaks at a roundtable styled "Electoral Thoughts of New Generation" organised by National Youth Forum of Bangladesh at the Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday. On his right are National Youth Forum President Dr GM Rabbani Nayan, Dhaka University professor Sabbir Ahmed and Sayeed Khokan. (Story on Page 1)

DHAKA TODAY

Debate

The concluding ceremony of 3rd Inter Department Debate Competition of Stamford University will be held. Venue: Siddheshwari campus of the university. Time: 2:00pm.

Founding anniversary

South East Asia University will celebrate its 5th founding anniversary. Venue: University seminar hall. Time: 10:55am.

Seminar

PROBE News Magazine organises a seminar on 'Sharing the anti-corruption experience.' Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:00pm.

Reception

International Grainger Challenge Prize winners Dr Abul Hussam and Dr AKM Munir will be accorded a reception. Venue: TSC auditorium, Dhaka University. Time: 4:00pm.

Certificate distribution ceremony

Action on Disability Development will distribute certificates among the participants of a training course titled 'Legal empowerment of the persons with disabilities.' Venue: LGED Bhawan. Time: 1:00pm.

Seminar

Bangladesh Dalit's Human Rights (BDHR) organises a seminar titled 'Housing problem of the dalits in Dhaka city and our responsibilities.' Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

Orientation programme

The orientation programme of the Summer Semester 2007 of Eastern University will be held. Venue: University auditorium, campus-2, Dhanmondi-4. Time: 10:00am.

Discussion

The North Bengal Express will hold a discussion on the occasion of its 28th founding anniversary. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:30pm.

Santal Rebellion

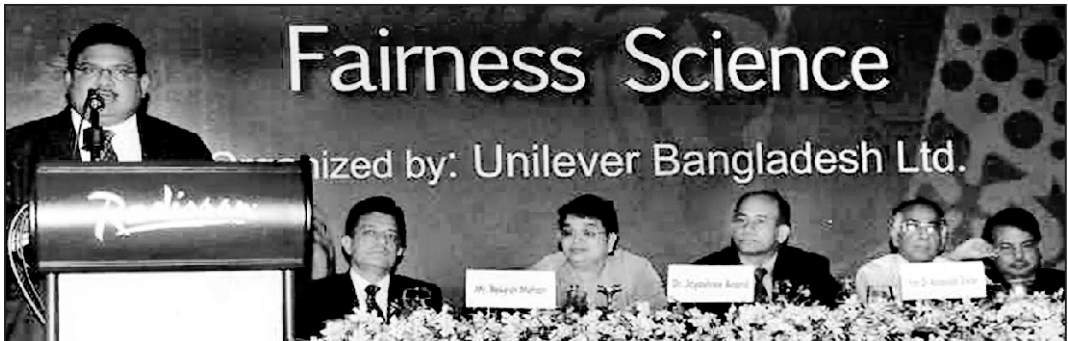
Bangladesh Advishi Odhikar Andolon organises a programme to mark the 152nd anniversary of the Santal Rebellion. Venue: National Museum. Time: 11:00am.

Debate festival

The concluding and prize giving ceremony of Prime Bank- JDC debate Festival 2007 will be held. Venue: St Joseph School premises. Time: 9:30am.

Rotary Dhaka Central

The regular meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka central will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 1:30pm.



Unilever Bangladesh Limited organised a seminar in the city recently highlighting the latest discoveries in the field of fairness science. The photo shows Brands and Development Director of Unilever Naushad Chowdhury speaking at the seminar. Sitting from left are Chairman and Managing Director of Unilever Rakesh Mohan, Unilever scientist Dr Jayashree Anand, Prof Dr Akramullah Sikdar, Prof Dr Mujibul Haque and Prof MA Wadud, president of Dermatological Association of Bangladesh.