

## DIT system speeds up Ctg Customs House

ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD

With a view to bringing Chittagong Customs House under automation process, the authorities introduced Direct Traders' Input (DIT) system for import of cargoes on Monday.

The system has been introduced at Section 1 of Customs (Import) on an experimental basis and if proved success it would be introduced to all sections gradually, sources said.

On the first day of its introduction at Customs (Import), the DIT system helped clear 96 Bill of Entries while clearance of each Bill of Entry usually takes several hours, they said.

Earlier, the system at Customs (export) proved success in helping Chittagong customs realise revenue through easing taxation system.

The DIT system at the Customs (export) helped the authorities realise a record amount of revenue of Tk 82 crore on Thursday while the previous record of realising revenue on a single day was Tk 68 crore as against the daily target of Tk 45 crore, sources said.

Both the import and export customs are going for automation of taxation system as a part of the reform process initiated jointly by the customs authorities and the taskforce formed by the joint forces at Chittagong Customs House.

Of the reform proposals that are being implemented since June, automation of taxation system is the most remarkable one.

The businessmen hailed the automation of taxation system, which will help perform export and import activities from home and

remove boisterousness of the middlemen.

Chittagong Customs House (import) and Customs House (export) officials and members of joint forces started primary task on July 3 for completion of the implementation of the automation system by January next year.

The meeting on the day decided to raise Development Service Fund through collecting additional amount of Tk 70 along with the fixed document processing fees of Tk 30 against each bill of entry and bill of export.

The fund is needed for procuring computer and other equipment for implementing the automation system and developing other facilities at both the customs (export and import) at an approximate cost of Tk 11.70 crore, sources said.

A committee was also formed to

implement the project.

As a part of the reforms, steps have also been taken to check fraud practised by a section of dishonest importers in connivance with some Pre-shipment Inspection (PSI) companies.

Two meetings will be held every month in this regard and instant meeting in case of detection of any such fraud.

The monthly meetings and other punitive measures have started paying back and the number of writ petitions against PSI related cases have come down to two in July whereas some 30 to 40 petitions were lodged a month earlier.

Introduction of Direct Trade Input (DTI) and Management Information System (MIS) will help proper monitoring and check tax evasion, sources said.



Trains and other vehicles usually cross the Kadamtali railway crossing simultaneously everyday, risking accidents. The picture was taken on September 16.



Chittagong Press Club (CPC) President Ali Abbas speaks at a meeting to condole the death of Mohammad Yusuf Chowdhury, founder chairman of local daily the Purbokone, jointly organised by CPC and Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ) on

## CMP action on auto-rickshaws cuts crimes

SHAHIDUL ISLAM

A syndicate of criminals based on CNG-run auto-rickshaws created a reign of terror to such an extent few weeks ago that the commuters feared to travel on board the auto-rickshaws as it turned into a 'vehicle of panic' in the port city.

But some recent actions by the Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) against the syndicate have brought back some relief and increased sense of security among the city dwellers.

The Detective Branch (DB) of Police recently arrested six muggers, including four drivers, who were allegedly involved in three sensational murders by using CNG auto-rickshaws.

The CNG drivers made some

startling and horrifying revelations about their 'operation' in confessional statements before the court and police. According to their depositions, police continued drives to arrest other members of the syndicate.

"We have almost traced out the entire gang of CNG-based criminals and are hopeful that the others will soon be caught," said Ashikul Haq Bhuiyan, senior assistant commissioner of DB.

Belal, Zakir, Shahid Raza and Shahabuddin, the drivers-cum-muggers, in their statements revealed details of the murders of Advocate Deen Mohammad, Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) official Priti Ranjan Chakma and expatriate businessman Mohammad Rafique.

Deen Mohammad was mur-

dered on June 19, Priti Ranjan on July 19 and Rafique on August 14.

"We generally start our operation in the evening and use auto-rickshaws in which the victim passenger gets in and the other for cover of our accomplices and the entire operation takes only 10 to 15 minutes," Zakir and Belal told the police.

They said, "The driver who takes the lone passenger from a spot used to stop or slow down his vehicle on the pretext of dear light or technical problem after going few metres. Another auto-rickshaw along with three to four members of our gang follows it from behind and instantly get into the vehicle from both the sides and start our operation."

"We first overpower the passenger, strangle in case of any

resistance, snatch all his cash and other belongings and dump him in a quiet roadside area," Belal and Zakir said. Advocate Deen, Priti Chakma and Rafique were killed in the similar method, they added.

They said they usually earn Tk 300 to Tk 10,000 from each operation. Zakir, who was involved in at least 100 incidents of mugging, said he got Tk 7,000, highest in his life, from the Priti Chakma case.

Police seized the two vehicles used in the muggings and murders of Priti Chakma and Rafique. They also recovered the mobile set of Priti Chakma from one Harun from Chandranagar area in the city under Bayezid Bostami Police Station. The muggers sold the set to Harun at only Tk 3,000,

police said. Police also arrested Harun.

Journalist Zakir Hossain Lulu, brother of Rafique, thanked the police for detecting the criminals' syndicate and arresting the killers of his brother. He urged the police to fresh launch drives to catch all the members of the syndicate and increase patrol in important points in the city to that end.

He said police should proceed with the case in such a way that would ensure exemplary punishment to the criminals. Otherwise, their actions will go in vain, he added.

AC (DB) Ashikul said they have already enhanced their patrol in different city points to ward off recurrence of such incidents.

## the week that was

### Ctg top cop assures law and order

Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) Commissioner Md Mainur Rahman Chowdhury assured the business leaders of taking effective measures for the maintenance of law and order situation at different city markets during the month of Ramadan.

He was addressing a view exchange meeting with the leaders and representatives of different business and traders' associations of different markets in the port city on Wednesday.

Mainur listened to demands and views of the business leaders and said

additional police forces will be deployed at different kitchen markets and shopping malls and the adjoining areas during the holy month to avert any criminal activity.

Appropriate measures will also be taken to maintain the traffic system at the same time, he added.

Chittagong Shop Owners' Association Federation President Mohammad Salamat Ali, General Secretary Kalam Uddin Talukder, Bangladesh Shop Owners' Federation Central Committee Vice Chairman SM Mahmudul Tuku, Karnaphuli Market Shop Owners' Association President Abdul Ali, Acting General Secretary of New Market Merchant Welfare Committee Nurul Absar and Singapore-Bangkok Market Shop Owners'

Association President Khaleda Akther also spoke.

### OFA distributes relief

Old Faujians' Association (OFA) Chittagong chapter, an organisation of the former students of Faujdarhat Cadet College, distributed relief among the flood-hit people of Brahmanbaria and Habiganj on Friday.

They distributed relief among 800 families of Khandura, Chhatian, Pandao, Atura and Nasir Nagar areas of the districts.

Tea Traders' Association of Bangladesh donated 300 blankets for

the distressed people while Sharif Tea and Prativa Sangha of Habiganj supported the association.

OFA Chittagong Chapter President Saiful Islam, General Secretary Dr Mezbah, Joint General Secretary Fakhrul Haider, Belal and Shahjahan were present on the occasion.

The teachers, students, officers and employees of Chittagong Medical College and Hospital (CMCH) also distributed relief among the flood-hit people of Rangunia upazila on Thursday.

They distributed 10,000 packets of saline and huge cloths among the people of Ghat Tek area under the upazila.

The Relief Committee Member Secretary Dr Abul Kashem, teachers'

representative Dr Jafor Sadek, student representatives Mohammad Omar Faruk, Masum and Ovik, nurse representatives Ratan Kumar and Rupna Chowdhury were present.

### Computer training course ends

Certificate giving ceremony of the third phase of four-month long computer training course titled "Basic PC and Internet" was held in the port city on Wednesday.

Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industries (CCCI) and South Asia Enterprise Development Facility (SEDF) Knowledge Centre organised the training course.

CCCI President Saifuzzaman Chowdhury handed over the certificates among the participants while Senior Vice President MA Latif and Director SM Nur Uddin were present among others.

Saifuzzaman in his speech emphasised the need for computer literacy to keep pace with the modern world of information technology.

He said computer literacy is very necessary in all sectors including education and business.

A total of 70 participants from different organisations, including small and medium entrepreneurs, took part in the course.

The highest number achiever among the participants was given a desktop computer.

### Workshop on recitation held

Speakers said correct pronunciation is not only essential in practising art and culture but it plays a vital role on everyday life.

They said this at a function marking the ending of a workshop on 'correct pronunciation and recitation', organised by Prama Abirity Sangathan at Shilpakala Academy on Wednesday.

Former Professor of Bengali Department of Chittagong University Dr



Dr Abdur Nur Tusher speaks at the Uni-Imperial Debate Workshop, organised by Drishty at Theatre Institute of Chittagong (TIC) on Saturday.

Maniruzzaman was the chief speaker with Prama President Rashed Hasan in the chair.

Assistant Commissioner (AC) Mostak Ahmad of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) traffic department inaugurated the month-long activity at a ceremony with association President Osman Gani Chowdhury in the chair on Wednesday.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Kotwali Police Station Haniful Islam, Ward Commissioner of Dewan Bazar ward Chowdhury Hasan Mahmud Hasni, local female ward commissioner Anjuman Ara and association General Secretary Belayet Hossain addressed among others.

Mostak thanked the association leaders for their self-initiated arrangement for checking law and order situation recruiting additional security guards during the month of Ramadan.

He said such a security programme will play effective role to ensure safety of the pedestrians and shoppers.

YPSA Coordinator (Finance) Palash Chowdhury inaugurated the workshop while Programme Officer Mohammad Syed Akhter coordinated it.



Vehicles brave tidal water that inundates around two kilometres of road in Chandgaon and C&B area on the Chittagong-Cox's Bazar Highway during the high tide twice a day during every full moon.

ZOBIR HOSSAIN SKIDER

A four-day long training workshop on "Group Acceleration, Saving and Loan Management" concluded here on Wednesday.

Young Power in Social Action (YPSA) and Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) jointly organised the workshop at Manab Sampad Unnayan Kendra in Sitakunda upazila.

A total of 25 field organisers from 12 field offices of micro-finance and micro-enterprise programme of YPSA took part in the workshop.

Knowledge on YPSA and PKSF credit component, social analysis, development and communication, group acceleration, saving collection and profit distribution, responsibilities and duties of the field organisers, preparing reports, disaster management and tactics of training were discussed in the workshop.

YPSA Coordinator (Finance) Palash Chowdhury inaugurated the workshop while Programme Officer Mohammad Syed Akhter coordinated it.

Traders' Association of Terri Bazar in the port city launched a month-long security and advertisement activity with a view to controlling law and situation in

the market during the month of Ramadan.

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