

DHAKA WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 31, 2007

## CDA drive only benefits street vendors, shop owners

### One third of evicted portions of Andarkilla-Chawk Bazar Road occupied

SHAHIDUL ISLAM

Street vendors and roadside shop owners have occupied one-third of the evicted portions of the Andarkilla-Chawk Bazar Road from Andarkilla to Dewan Bazar.

The Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) in 2006 bulldozed parts or whole of over 1,000 structures, hotels, dwelling houses, pharmacies, departmental stores or grocery shops, commercial buildings and apartments to widen the one-and-a-half-kilometre Andarkilla-Chawk Bazar Road.

The four-day massive eviction drive along the road, one of the oldest thoroughfares in the port city, was launched also to remove the unauthorised structures and recover valuable government lands to lessen suffering of the commuters and pedestrians.

But the entire stretch of the road remained uncared for since then and it has now virtually

become inaccessible for the commuters and pedestrians, thanks largely to the inaction of CDA.

The road, interlacing some densely populated localities such as Andarkilla, Nawab Sirajuddoula Road, Dewan Bazar, Didar Market, Ghat Farhadbeg, Masua Jharna Lane, Chandanpura, Chittagong College area, parts of Rahmatganj, Chawk Bazar and Kapashgola, was quite good and smooth for vehicular movement before the drive, despite its narrowness.

After the drive that started on February 12 in 2006, the road appeared as a nightmare to the commuters as well as the pedestrians with hundreds of cracks and holes, not to mention the untold sufferings of several thousand people of the localities.

Sumi Akhtar, a college student, said being a frequent traveller on the road for the last few years she is to experience heavy

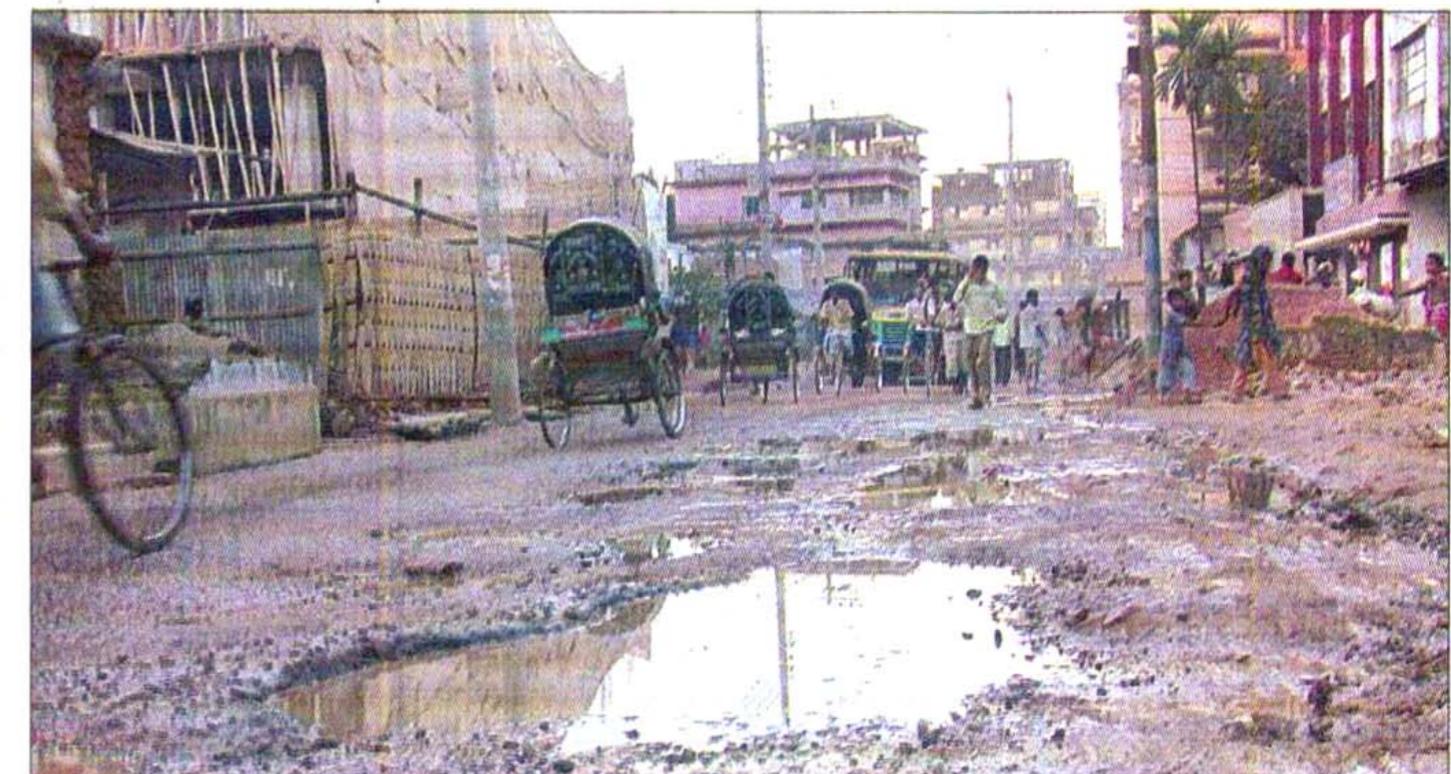
tilt and jerk everyday while goes to college by a rickshaw or any other vehicle due to multiple cracks and holes. The problem has been created after the CDA ends its eviction drive on the road in 2006, she added.

She said the objective of CDA may be good but what is the benefit of such a drive if the road is left uncared for around two years?

Yakub Sawdagar, who was evicted during the drive, said they do not see any positive outcome of the CDA drive yet. He said he runs his hardware business now from a small rented store at Telipatti Road at the northern most part of Chawk Bazar since 1985.

Mohammad Mohsin, owner of the Concrete Traders near College Road, said was quite happy during the drive believing that it would expand the road and benefit the pedestrians and commuters. He said he is now frustrated as due to the dilapidation

state of the road.



The Andarkilla-Chawk Bazar road remains uncared for for around two years.

PHOTO STAR



New coaches for inter-city trains of the Bangladesh Railway East Zone.

## Move to launch smooth train service

### Fifty new coaches for Railway East Zone by December

DWAIPAYAN BARUA

Fifty new coaches will be added to the Bangladesh Railway East Zone by December with a view to launching a smooth train service on different routes in the region.

The Railway authorities are importing these coaches from China under a project of Tk 130 crore in three phases. These include several spacious and comfortable chair coaches, railway sources said.

The coaches, manufactured by China National Machinery Import and Export Corporation, include 29 Shobhan chair coaches, seven air-conditioned (A/C) chair coaches, three A/C sleeping coaches, seven dining-cum-break coaches and four power cars.

Eleven coaches have reached at Chittagong Port on October 23 under first phases while 17 are scheduled to arrive on the first week of December and 22 more by December-end, said the sources at Mechanical Department.

Of 11 coaches, three are A/C chair coaches, one A/C sleeping coaches, three dining-cum-break, two Shobhan chair coaches and two power cars.

Chief Mechanical Engineer (CME) of Bangladesh Railway (East Zone) Khalilur Rahman, also the project director, said the coaches are spacious and comfortable ones and will surely attract the passengers.

He said the coaches will replace the inoperative ones and two more inter-city services might be launched on Dhaka-Chittagong and Chittagong-Sylhet routes with the new additions, he said.

The decision, however, will be taken in this regard after arrival of all 50 coaches, he added.

Khalil said 30 A/C more coaches under a Tk 106 project are scheduled to arrive in the next year to launch a complete air-conditioned express train on Dhaka-Chittagong route.

He said, "To keep the service operative on inter-city routes we require 290 coaches, including 53 spare coaches for replacement in case of problem when we can hardly provide 270."

The worst situation prevails in providing coaches for mail and local trains, used by common people.

For mail and local trains, 239 coaches and 48 spare coaches are needed while the East Zone can provide at best 174 during the busy hours, causing immense sufferings to the passengers, sources said.

Sometimes local trains ply with only one or two coaches on Chittagong-Chandpur and Chittagong-Akhaura routes and on the local branch lines like Chittagong-Dohazari and Chittagong-Nazirhat routes due to shortage of coaches, passengers said.

Rezaur Rahman, a passenger from Akhaura, said he did not get coach on many occasions even after buying tickets.

Many coaches that are not in good condition are being used on different routes, posing risk of accident.

Five mail trains ply on Chittagong-Dhaka route, one on Chittagong-Sylhet and one leaves Chittagong for Jagannathganj while two local trains up to Chittagong and Akhaura.

Besides, two other trains ply on Chittagong-Nazirhat and Chittagong-Dohazari routes.

Railway East zone needs 686 coaches, including 368 for inter-city trains and 318 second class coaches for mail and local trains, for smooth services, said Abdul Wahab, chief operating superintendent of Railways East Zone.

About 45 percent of coaches in the zone are now lying out of service, said an official of oper-

### Relief for flood-hit people

Jubilee Road Merchant Association distributed relief among the flood-hit

people of Rangunia upazila on Friday.

The association distributed the relief among 600 distressed families of Kodala and Sarabhatia unions under the upazila.

Association President Nasir Uddin Ahmed led the relief team. Association General Secretary Humayun Kabir, members Emdad Hossain Chowdhury, Abdul Mannan, Anwarul Haq, Mohammad Karim Uddin, Mohammad Arif and Kodala Union Chairman Abdul Kayum also took part in the relief operation.

They pledge to continue to extend helping hands to the flood-affected people in future as well.

### 'Come to aid of autistic children'

Speakers at a workshop in the port city on Saturday called upon all to come forward to the aid of the autistic children.

Chittagong Autistic Foundation organised the workshop on 'Autism' at the school run by the foundation at Mirza Pole.

Specialist Therapist Nurunnahar Nupur conducted a training on increasing the sense among the autistic children for the teachers of the school and the guardians.

Addressing the programme Lieutenant Colonel Tofayel Ahmed, one of the organisers of the foundation, said there are many autistic children who need cooperation for leading a better life.

He said at least two to four children come to the school for admission

### Mobile court realises Tk 2 crore

A mobile court in separate drives realised Tk 2 crore from domestic vessels as arrear port dues, fine and compensation here in the last nine months until September.

The court also penalised 55 vessels for movement in violation of maritime law.

In the drives, the mobile court realised Tk 1.35 crore as pending mooring charge, Tk 50 lakh as river and port dues and Tk 10 lakh as compensation, said the sources.

It also served notices to all the owners and local agents of vessels having the mooring charges, port and river dues pending for immediate payment of the dues and alerted them against tax dodging mentality.

Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Magistrate Muhammad Munir Chowdhury led the drives where members from Port Security Force and Marine Department assisted him.

They were addressing the meeting organised by Bangladesh Mohila Parishad at Islambadi Memorial Hall on Saturday.

Women leader Chitra Biswas presided over the meeting while Prof Ashok Saha, Prof Kanai Lal Das, Prof Mohammad Jahangir, Daily Independent Staff Reporter Nazim Shyamal, women leaders Jesmin Sultan Paru, Nur Jahan Khan, Sugata Barua and Shirin Akter Hena spoke at meeting.

Mohammad Mohiuddin Ahmed announced it as there was no other panel for contesting.

The office-bearers are Vice-Presidents: Colonel (Retd) Walilullah, Ali Abbas and Kazi Mohiuddin Bulbul, General Secretary: Sirazuddin Mohammad Alamgir, Assistant General Secretary: Dewan Arshad Ali, Joint Secretary: Moin Uddin Chowdhury Kamru and Aminul Islam and Treasurer: Abdul Khele.

Members are Nazmul Ahsan Romen, ANM Wahid, Mohammad Abdur Rab Shamim, Shamsuddin Ahmed Chowdhury, Fazle Rabbi Khan Sajjad, Begum Lili Aziz and Sharmista Roy.

### 'Ensure women's rights'

Speakers at a view exchange meeting urged the government to formulate policies and implement them for ensuring women's rights.

Economic development of a country is not possible keeping the women in dark, they said.

They were addressing the meeting organised by Bangladesh Mohila Parishad at Islambadi Memorial Hall on Saturday.

Women leader Chitra Biswas presided over the meeting while Prof Ashok Saha, Prof Kanai Lal Das, Prof Mohammad Jahangir, Daily Independent Staff Reporter Nazim Shyamal, women leaders Jesmin Sultan Paru, Nur Jahan Khan, Sugata Barua and Shirin Akter Hena spoke at meeting.



Artistes of Proma, a cultural organisation, perform a group recitation on Sojan Badlya Ghat of poet Jashim Uddin at Shilpakala Academy auditorium on Friday.

PHOTO STAR