

Unfit vehicles rule Ctg roads

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Over 21,000 unfit vehicles have been plying the roads, causing frequent road accidents that marked a sharp rise in the city and district recently.

Non-renewal of fitness, route permit, road tax and income tax certificates by a section of dishonest vehicle owners also causes the government to lose a huge amount of revenue every year, sources said.

Sources at Bangladesh Road

Transport Authority (BRTA) Chittagong said 38,497 fitness certificates were renewed last year against around 60,000 heavy and light vehicles, including bus, truck, pick-up, microbus, private car, motorbike and tempo plying in the city and district.

Fee for renewing fitness certificates of a heavy vehicle is Tk 945 and a light vehicle is Tk 645. For failure to renew timely a heavy vehicle is to pay Tk 300 as late fee and a light vehicle Tk 150 a month.

BRTA earns around Tk 48 crore against renewal of fitness, route permit, road tax and income taxes while over 21,000 vehicles do not turn up for renewal, depriving the country of around one third of revenue, said the sources.

The unfit vehicles run by unskilled or untrained drivers, sometimes by helpers, had given rise to road accidents in the recent months, said the sources.

BRTA Traffic Inspector Mohammad Shamsul Kabir said

45 accidents took place in the city and district in the last four months since January.

The accidents left 37 dead and 76 injured, 48 critically.

Cases were filed in connection with these accidents while two of the damaged and age-old vehicles were ordered to go off the road, he said.

"We issue letters giving a 15-day time to the vehicle owners concerned to renew the fitness certificate and pay taxes immediately after the time for renewal expires every year," he said.

BRTA acting Assistant Director Sheikh Mohammad Ataulah Chowdhury said out of around 60,000 motor vehicles, only 38,497 got the fitness certificates renewed in 2007.

Besides, the two-stroke three wheelers, which were banned in the metropolitan areas but still plying in the city and districts after CNG-conversion, don't come for renewal, he said.

He said they will take action against the vehicles plying the roads without legal documents and in violation of traffic rules through mobile courts with the help of police.

"The highway police can play a remarkable role in this regard while upazila administration and district police can help seize the unfit vehicles that crowd mostly the upazila areas to avoid penalty," he said.

Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) Assistant Commissioner (Traffic) Mizanur Rahman said they always launch drives against the vehicles running without fitness and road tax certificates and in violation of traffic rules.

He said they seize the unfit vehicles and fine those for dodging fitness tests and revenue. He said they also file cases for reckless driving.



A number of unfit vehicles ply the city roads, posing a threat of accidents. The photo was taken at Port Connecting Road on Monday.

48 CNG stations disregard rules

ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD

Out of 56 CNG filling stations, as many as 48 are facing notice for developing structures without or in deviation of approved plan in the port city.

Constructed in violation of building construction rules they seriously hamper vehicular movement and cause environmental degradation as well, sources said.

Besides, without having required clearance from the authorities concerned these CNG stations also run the risk of accidents and pose a threat to life and properties, they said.

The joint forces formed a traffic management committee to formulate a set of rules to remove mismanagement and ensure development of CNG stations.

The committee at a meeting at Bangladesh Military Academy on May 8 formed a 12-member committee headed by Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Md Mofazzel Hossain to set up a one-stop service for the CNG station owners.

At present 33 CNG filling stations are operational and 23 are under the process of construction, sources said.

Of 33 stations, only three have clearances from the authorities concerned and are set up properly with approved design, said the sources.

They are Navana CNG of Cricketer Akram Khan near Wasw, Shykat CNG at Halishahar PC Road and Speed Track CNG at Zakir Hossain Road.

Of five other filling stations, two are under Chittagong Cantonment Board; two are yet to go for construction while another submitted plan for



Vehicles wait in a long queue on the busy CDA Avenue to refuel at a nearby compressed natural gas (CNG) station.

approval, said the sources in Chittagong Development Authority (CDA).

Of 48 filling stations, 20, including 12 operational ones, do not have any approved plan, 16 have deviated approved plans, one initiates construction at different place while one has failed to go for construction before the time expired, they said.

Of 12 operational CNG stations set up illegally without having any approved plan, three had cases against them in the court.

Of these three, Southern CNG of Arakan Road (near Bahadurhat) faces case in the High Court while CNG Station of Chittagong City Corporation and Messers Four Star Refuelling Station of Kadamtali intersection have been sued for posing threat to public safety and environment.

Messers Four Star Refuelling Station has restored operation taking connection from Bakharabad Gas System Limited (BGS) despite having a case under trial and a portion already demolished by CDA for ignoring building construction rules, sources said.

Magistrate Maniruzzaman, member secretary of the committee, said the committee at a meeting on May 22 discussed the rules one should follow during construction of a CNG station.

The rules aim at ensuring that the CNG stations follow CDA masterplan, have minimum quantity of land and permission from the authorities like Department of Environment, Fire Service and Civil Defence, Department of Explosive, Traffic Department, Bangladesh Road Transport Authority, BGS and CDA.

Maniruzzaman said the rules will help check mismanagement and disorders in CNG stations and unplanned development that cause traffic congestion in the city.

He said there are many allegations against the CNG stations for disregarding rules.

"We very often start up and fear for explosion when loud sound come from the CNG conversion centre at the down stair," said Mushfiqur Rahman, a student of Premier University that sits on the CCC CNG Refuelling station and Conversion center at Dampara.

In absence of monitoring many of these CNG stations without having Nasals (dispensers) of required diameter also deprive the consumers through faulty measurement, alleged Shamsur Rahman Manzur, a businessman of Muradpur area.

the week that was

Call to check money laundering

Speakers at a workshop urged the bank officials to follow the rules of 'Money Laundering Prevention Ordinance 2008' to curb the ill practice of money laundering.

The Premier Bank Limited Chittagong organised the workshop on 'Prevention of Money Laundering' on Saturday.

Additional Managing Director of the bank Md Moklesur Rahman was the chief guest at the inaugural session at the Karnaphuli hall of Agrabad Hotel.

General Manager of Bangladesh Bank Dhaka Mahfuzur Rahman was the main speaker at the function while Bangladesh Bank Chittagong GM SK Sur Chowdhury was the special guest.

Principal of Premier Bank Training Institute Ashok Bandhu Das and First Vice President Md Shahjahan also spoke.

Speakers presented discussed about the negative aspects of money laundering while Mahfuzur Rahman presented the keynote paper at the workshop.

Sixty officials of different branches including Agrabad, Khatunganj and OR Nizam Road participated in the workshop.

Satsangha observes founding anniversary

Speakers at a discussion on Friday said a man can be a perfect one through entering the world of music as it helps for mental development.

They were addressing a discussion marking the 19th founding anniversary of Satsangha Sangeet Niketan at a local community centre at Halishahar.

Local female ward commissioner Advocate Rehana Kabir Ranu was the chief guest at the discussion with

institute director Rita Chowdhury in the chair.

Director of Emon Sangskritik Academy Dr Ratan Kanti Devnath and director of Surangan Sangeet Bidyapith Mridul Kanti Das were the special guests.

Speakers urged the students to continue their learning in Bangla song with much practice and devotion.

Later, the students of the institute perform at a cultural programme.

'Help police establish justice'

Speakers at a view exchange meeting urged the non-government organisations (NGO) to continue their awareness campaign with a view to helping police in establishing justice in the society.

They made the call at the meeting between police and different NGOs at the office of Superintendent of Police



Artists of Sangeet Bhaban sing in the chorus at a function at the open stage of DC Hill on Sunday on the occasion of the 109th birth anniversary of national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam. Sammlito Nazrul Janma Jayanti Uddipan Parishad organised the event.

(SP) Chittagong on Tuesday.

SP Quamrul Hasan presided over the meeting where representatives from different NGOs participated.

Quamrul in his speech sought cooperation of the NGOs to make Police Nari Kalyan Samity (PUNAK) more effective.

He underscored the need for creating awareness among the people against child marriage, dowry and repression on women.

Deputy director of Youth Development Department Shamsul Huda, Assistant Superintendent of Police (Headquarters) Md Sarwar Alam, deputy director of district Social Welfare office Md Nurul Amin Chowdhury, chief executive of Naojao Imam Hossain Chowdhury, director of ADAB and Probyashi Subrata Datta, Masud Rana from Ipsa, Md Muntasir Ali from Care Bangladesh, Md Nasir Uddin

of Codec, Sabbir Ahmad Chowdhury of the Karitas, Salahuddin Kabir of Barnail, William Gomez of World Vision and Md Rafiqul Islam of Asha spoke at the meeting.

Ctg CPB memo to CA

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) Chittagong submitted a memorandum to the chief adviser to meet their 15-point demand to solve present food crisis.

Leaders of CPB Chittagong unit handed over the memorandum to the Additional Deputy Commissioner Md Mojamal Hossain at his office on Monday.

CPB submitted the memorandum as part of its central party programme.

The demands include ensuring procurement of paddy and rice directly from farmers through government procurement centres at village level.

CPB Chittagong unit President Mrinal Chowdhury and General Secretary Shah Alam handed over the memorandum on behalf of the party.

Liakat Memorial scholarship distributed

Speakers laid emphasis on giving scholarship by private initiatives to find out meritorious students from grass-roots level.

They urged the non-government and private organisations to encourage meritorious students as they play a vital

role in socio-economic development of the country.

They were speaking at the prize giving ceremony of Martyred Liakat Memorial Scholarship at a local community centre on Monday.

Managing director of MEB Group Shamsul Islam was the chief guest at the ceremony with AM Mainuddin Chowdhury in the chair.

Advocate M Abu Naser Talukder, SM Farid Uddin, ASM Borhan Uddin, SM Hamed Hossain, HN Hossain, Shahidul Alam Rijvi and Wahed Murad spoke among others.

Premier University debate held

The final round of the inter-semester debate competition was held at

Premier University on Thursday organised by Prochhaya Debate Club of Law Department of the university.

Fourth semester became champion at the final round of the parliamentary debate defeating sixth semester.

The title of the final round was 'Neutral and credible election is the main solution to the present crisis of the nation' where students of the 4th semester were government side and the students of the 6th semester were opposition.

Whip of the government side Sharmin Ferdousi was adjudged the best debater.

Lecturer of the Law Department Badiul Alam Pavel was the speaker.

Law Department Chairman Prof M Badar Uddin was the chief guest at the prize giving ceremony with moderator of the club Prof Shahriar Parvez in the chair.



Artistes of a dance company of Cultural Foundation of National Museum of Korea perform dance at a function organised by Korean Embassy at Theatre Institute Chittagong on Sunday.