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PHOTO STAR

This 41-foot wide road at Senpara Parbata in Mirpur in the capital remained in this utterly dilapidated state for a long time as the DCC took no initiative to repair it.

Senpara Parbata roads in miserable condition

ROADS UNCARED FOR 2

HELEMUL ALAM

Years of neglect has remodelled most of the roads of Senpara Parbata in Mirpur Section 10 with huge bumps and potholes, bringing about everyday misery for the residents of the neighbourhood.

The roads 5 and 6 under Ward 14 here did not see any repair in the last 20 years, said Delwar Hossain, resident of Road 6. Usually the roads get damaged within couple of years of construction or repair, so 20 years is a long time to cause enough damage on the roads, he added.

Abdul Halim, a shopkeeper on Road 8, said since construction seven years ago, the road

never witnessed any repairing and is now in a very pitiable condition.

Many other roads in the locality witnessed the same fate. These roads, though two decades old, don't even have a name.

Md Jahir of Senpara Parbata said most of the roads are in a miserable condition and go under ankle-to-knee-deep water even after a moderate rain. People living here don't get any rickshaw during or after rain, he said.

"It's tough to get a rickshaw during the rain and if we get one, they charge double or even more," Jahir added.

"My wife and six-year-old daughter also suffer much to go to her school through these roads," he added.

Tamanna, a first-year student of Eden College, said she

has to walk a long way on these badly damaged roads. "Most of the times I don't get any rickshaw as the rickshaw-pullers also don't want to come to this area."

The sick people are the worst sufferers as vehicles, especially rickshaws, carrying them shudder due to the potholes on the roads. Children going to schools in their school vans often get hurt as the congested three-wheelers bump over the roads.

"It is very hard to pull a school van on these roads as I have to give threefold physical labour," said Shahid, a school van driver of Glory International School.

Abdul Kader, commissioner of Ward 14, said there was an allocation of Tk 50 lakh for the area in the last fiscal year, but they did not get a single penny.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Polls will be held on schedule, reaffirms CA

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhruddin Ahmed has said the stalled general election in the country will be held on schedule.

"I'm optimistic and confident. Undoubtedly, the election will be held on schedule," he said in an interview with Xinhua on Thursday.

"We're moving towards the election. We've just completed the voter list with photographs, which includes more than 80 million people," said the CA who will pay an official visit to China on September 15.

The CA said the government is providing all facilities for holding a free, fair and credible election. "We'll overcome all the challenges and hold the election on schedule," he said.

When asked whether the election would be held under the state of emergency, the head of the caretaker government said, "We'll

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Thai ruling party pulls ousted PM out of race

AP, Bangkok

Thailand's ruling party yesterday abandoned its bid to put its ousted Prime Minister back in power, raising hopes of an end to a political crisis that has tied up the country for months.

After a daylong meeting, the People's Power Party agreed it will not endorse Samak Sundaravej for a parliamentary vote Wednesday to elect a new prime minister because of opposition from the other five parties in the ruling coalition.

About 70 lawmakers of Samak's own party also opposed him.

The abrasive 73-year-old Samak was booted out Tuesday by a Constitutional Court ruling for violating a conflict-of-interest law by hosting two television cooking shows while in office. Initially, the party had said it would re-nominate him since the court ruling did not bar him from politics.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

EDUCATIONISTS ON HSC RESULTS

Record success does not mean qualitative change

PORIMOL PALMA

Eminent educationists say the record growth in percentage of pass and GPA-5 achievers in this year's HSC examinations does not necessarily reflect qualitative improvement of education in the country.

Principals of some renowned colleges however said comparatively good academic atmosphere and guardians' increased interest in education of their children contributed to the outstanding results.

Some academics alleged that examiners were instructed to give more marks than the students deserved. They however could not explain why this was done.

About 6.2 lakh students took the HSC and equivalent examinations

HSC Results in Last 4 Years

Year	Pass Rate		GPA 5	
	Total (%)	Growth (%)	Total	Growth (%)
2005	59.74	11.88	5534	81.61
2006	65.65	5.91	9864	78.24
2007	65.60	(-) 0.05	11,140	12.93
2008	76.19	10.59	22,045	97.89

under the nine education boards this year and about 4.66 lakh or 76.19 percent passed. Pass rate was 65.6 percent last year.

Moreover, 22,045 students secured GPA-5 this year compared to last year's 11,140.

The pass rate in both papers of

English this year is nearly 90 percent as against around 70 percent in the last couple of years. The number of A+ achievers in English this year is more than that in Bengali, according to sources in the education boards.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Indian cabinet okays biofuel policy

PTI, New Delhi

Government has set 2017 as the target for selling petrol mixed with one-fifth of sugarcane extracted ethanol and diesel doped with non-edible oil with a view to cut the nation's dependence on expensive oil imports.

While petrol mixed with five percent ethanol is at present sold in the country, pilot projects are on to check viability of selling diesel doped with non-edible oil.

The percentage of ethanol in petrol is to double from next month but availability of sugarcane has cast doubts on meeting of the deadline.

The Cabinet Thursday approved implementation of the National Biofuel Policy that has set an indicative target of blending 20 percent ethanol in petrol and non-edible oil from plants like Jatropha in diesel by 2017, an official statement said.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8



PHOTO STAR

Developers installed piling posts on a footpath at the city's Purana Paltan, causing suffering to pedestrians and posing risks.

STEPS TO ENSURE SAFE JOURNEY Rab deployed at bus terminals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) has taken measures to ease sufferings and harassment of home-bound passengers at bus and launch terminals in the capital ahead of the Eid.

As part of the initiatives, Rab-10 members were deployed at Sayedabad bus terminal yesterday. The elite force has also set up a

control room there.

Rab members asked transport operators at the terminal not to charge passengers more than the BRTA-fixed fares or sell tickets beyond the vehicle's seat capacity and hang government-fixed fare charts in buses and at counters.

The transport operators were also asked not to park or repair any vehicle near the terminal gate.

The law enforcers also requested the passengers to inform the Rab control room about any incident of passenger harassment or violation of rules by transport operators.

Rab-4 officials said plainclothes Rab members have already been deployed at Gabtoli bus terminal to see whether the passengers are harassed or charged extra fares.

"We held a meeting with transport owners at Gabtoli Bus Terminal yesterday and asked them not to charge more than the BRTA-fixed fares," said Moshikul Alam of Rab-4.

Rab-10 officials said members of the elite crime-busting force will also be deployed at Sadarghat

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Travel chaos in Britain as tunnel closed

AFP, London

Britain was plunged into travel turmoil yesterday as the country's third largest tour operator went bust at the same time as the Channel Tunnel remained closed due to a fire.

Airports saw chaotic scenes after the XL Leisure Group called in the administrators, leaving tens of thousands of passengers stranded, while travellers booked for the tunnel scrambled to find alternative routes.

At Gatwick airport south of London the two travel crunches combined, with thousands of people seeking to fly to France due to the tunnel closure, at the same time as XL customers were left grounded by the operator's woes.

"We arrived at our check-in desk this morning and were just handed

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Severe water crisis in west Rampura

HELEMUL ALAM

Around 1,000 families in Ulon of west Rampura in the capital have been suffering from severe water crisis for over 10 days as the water Dhaka Wasa supplies is very dirty, coloured and stinking. The water is totally unusable.

A large number of the residents of the area between Ulon Bazar and Ulon main road have suffered diarrhoea because of the poor quality water, residents of the area claimed.

People of the area are now using water brought in from neighbouring areas or buying mineral water to meet their needs, they said.

Officials of Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) have so far failed to take any effective measures to solve the problem even though they claimed to be

SEE PAGE 2 COL 8



PHOTO STAR

Contaminated water coming out of a Dhaka Wasa supply line in Ulon of west Rampura in the city.

Suspected US missile kills 12 in Pakistan

Pak troops kill 123 militants

AFP, Miranshah/Khar

A missile from a suspected US drone killed 12 people yesterday in a Pakistani tribal area where US forces have been aggressively targeting al-Qaeda militants -- fuelling anger from its key "war on terror" ally.

The missile hit a house on the outskirts of Miranshah, the main town in North Waziristan, a local official said, in the fourth such strike in a week aimed at Taliban or al-Qaeda fighters hiding out in the rugged tribal area.

"The pre-dawn strike destroyed

the house and 12 people were killed," the official told AFP, adding that another 14 people were wounded.

The 12 were believed to be rebel fighters, locals said, adding that the house hit in the Tol Khel area had been rented by an Afghan militant organisation, Al Badar, and was being used as an office.

Earlier Pakistani troops bombed Taliban positions for the second day running yesterday in a tribal town near the Afghan border, killing up to 23 militants in the latest action, officials said.

Up to 100 Islamic fighters had

been killed in bombing on Thursday in different areas of Bajaur district, a hotbed of al-Qaeda and Taliban militants.

Helicopter gunships pounded rebel hideouts Friday in the Rashakai and Taang Khata areas, 10km northwest of the main town of Khar, killing 13 to 15 militants, security and administration officials said.

"Security forces received information that militants were planning to ambush security forces. The army helicopter gunships struck the rebels' positions killing 13-15,"

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Star Campus helps link young minds together.



IN MEMORIAM

The 10th Death Anniversary of Late M. Noorul Quader, Founder Chairman of Desh Group of Companies, is on 13th September, 2008.

On this occasion, a Quran Khani and Milad Mahfil will be held at his residence in Dhaka after Asr prayer at 5:00 p.m. Friends, relatives and well wishers are requested to join the Milad Mahfil and pray for the eternal peace of his departed soul.

- Family Members

