

City roads in bad shape

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A number of busy roads in the port city have become dilapidated with multiple cracks that developed at different points following continuous rain for the last few weeks, causing sufferings to the pedestrians as well as the motorists.

Though the Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) started repair work, many of the busy city roads and lanes and by-lanes are still in bad shape hampering vehicular movement as well as causing serious gridlock.

Commuters as well as the CCC engineers blamed faulty construction work at the very beginning for the sorry state of the roads as they get severely damaged following a short period of rain.

Due to heavy rain, waterlogging and lack of proper maintenance a number of cracks and potholes developed on many parts of the roads in the 60 square

kilometre city under CCC, Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) and Roads and Highways Department (RHD) leaving them unfit for safe traffic, both for the motorists and commuters.

Residents of the northern part of city including Chandgaon, Mohara, Moulvibazar and Kalurghat suffer most while travelling to the city centres like Agrabad or to the Chittagong Port as numerous potholes have developed on the Arakan road stretching from Bahodderhat to Kalurghat Bridge. The road is under the CDA.

Mamun, a resident of Kalurghat area, said a number of cracks have developed at several points of the Arakan Road like Kazir Hat, C&B Moor, Bahir Signal, in front of Sanwara Corporation and Usmania Glass Factory and near Hazera Tazu College.

Mukesh Chowdhury, living at Moulavibazar, said condition of the road has

become so bad that vehicular movement remained stopped on one side at several points since last week.

Serious traffic jam has become a regular feature during the office hour, Mukesh said, adding that earlier he could reach his office at Agrabad from his residence by one hour but now it takes half an hour more to travel the same distance for the gridlock.

Condition of the road stretching from Bahodderhat to Shah Amanat Bridge under the RHD also remains in a sorry state.

Besides, potholes have developed on several places of many busy city roads like Sheikh Mujib Road, Port Connecting Road, Port Access Road, CDA Avenue, OR Nizam Road, Dhaka Trunk (DT) Road and Airport Road.

Two busy roads connecting Dewanhat with Olonkar and Nayabazar have become unfit for vehicular



Most roads in the port city are in bad shape. The photo was taken from city's Bohodderhat area on Sunday.

movement with holes developed at many points.

Moreover, the lanes and by-lanes at different parts of the city, including Chandgaon, Bakalia, Pahartali, Madarbari, Agrabad, Halishahar, Nasirabad, Goshaldanga

and Patenga areas have become dilapidated, causing sufferings to the commuters.

CCC Executive Engineer Abu Saleh told The Daily Star that they have already filled up most of the potholes developed on the main

thoroughfares stretching from Airport to Bahodderhat.

They would start repair work at the internal linking roads and lanes gradually, he said.

Several CCC engineers preferring anonymity said

most of the roads in the port city have been constructed by the CDA and RHD decades ago that CCC maintains only. They said every body blames the CCC for the damage due to rain but the real problem began with faulty construction.

Many city roads have been developed by CDA or RHD on the weak soil following wrong method, they said, adding that Reinforce Cement Concrete (RCC) method should be followed during the constructing on weak soil.



Artistes of Chittagong Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Sangstha sing in the chorus at a function organised by Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Parishad at Theatre Institute, Chittagong (TIC) auditorium on Saturday, marking the death anniversary of poet Rabindranath Tagore.

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Matiranga Library opens

SHAHIDUL ISLAM, back from Matiranga

Although built on a tiny space, the Matiranga Open Library ushered in a hope for a large number of marginalised students to acquire extra curricular knowledge and enlighten their inner faculty by reading books on diverse topics.

Matiranga is by and large a quiet upazila town of Khagrachhari hill district, about 80 kilometres off Chittagong city and nestled with lush green, meandering roads and diverse tribal habitat. And the library is

located another 500 metres south off the upazila headquarters, adjacent to Chittagong-Khagrachhari road.

Despite all these richness, from Mother Nature's bounty to strong agro-based economy, and existence of around 100 educational institutions, including one college and 10 high schools, the only 'deficit' that Matiranga and its over one lakh populace would lament for is the absence of a library.

And that lone deficit or 'wound' (as perfectly said by the initiators) has been

removed recently, thanks to the sincere efforts of 26 Field Regiment Artillery or Matiranga Zone of Bangladesh Army.

"The absence of a library in Matiranga remained as a painful wound for its people for years and today that wound has successfully been removed with the opening of an open library," said Brigadier General Latiful Haider, region commander of Guimara, while speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the library.

He said, "We as a nation still lags far behind as far as the habit of reading is concerned in comparison to our neighbours. We want to stimulate reading habit into our students because we believe this will not only enrich the faculty of knowledge but also help our students find a good space in the society in their later years."

Brig Gen Latif urged all to contribute to the library by donating at least two books and encourage their children in frequenting the library.

Lt Col Md Mainuddin, zone commander of Matiranga, and Upazila

chairman and president of the library Md Shamsul Haque also spoke at the function.

The library, launched on August 2 at a simple ceremony, started off its journey with around 2,500 books nicely placed in 10 shelves. The striking feature of the library is its wide range of collection that virtually touches entire gamut of knowledge -- history, literature, contemporary world, liberation war of Bangladesh, poetry, novel, story, science fiction, essay, religion etc.

The library has separate section for some famous and popular litterateurs and writers like Rabindranath Tagore, Shirshendu Mukhopadhyaya, Sunil Gongopadhyaya, Samores Majumder, Humayun Ahmed and Imdadul Hoque Milon. Books like "My Life" by former US president Bill Clinton, "A Ranking of The Most Influential Persons in History" by Michael H Hurt and "The Vinci Code" by Dan Brown are also stored in the library to feed the interest of few, if not many.

The library remains open for all from 9.00am to 5.00pm everyday.



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Matiranga Open Library.

the week that was

'Take steps to tackle recession'

Speakers at a seminar called for immediate measures to face the probable impact of global recession on the economy of the country.

Bangladesh Economic Association, Chittagong chapter and East Delta University (EDU) jointly organised the seminar at EDU auditorium in the port city on Saturday.

Prof Emeritus Dr Jamal Nazrul Islam was the chief guest at the seminar with EDU Vice-Chancellor and Bangladesh Economic Association, Chittagong chapter President Prof Muhammad Sikander Khan in the chair.

EDU Board of Advisers Chairman Prof Dr Debashish Chakrabarty, also a teacher of Economics Department at Central Michigan University and consultant for Chrysler Corporation and General Motors in the USA, presented the key-note paper titled "Global financial recession and its impact on global economy" at the seminar.

Prof Chakrabarty in his paper said some decisions taken by Democratic or Republican whoever was in power in the last two decades could be blamed for economic recession in the USA and its negative impact on the global economy.

Prof Sikander underscored the need for measures and immediate implementation of recommendations made by economy experts to face impact of global recession on our economy.

Need for technical education underscored

Commerce Minister Faruk Khan said technical education is a must in the modern world and the present government is also giving priority to this education for the development of the country.

The minister said this while inaugurating Nurul Islam B Sc Technical Institute at Bakalia as the chief guest on Sunday.

Such institutes would take ahead the

government forward march to establish a technology-based digital Bangladesh, he said.

He also lauded Nurul Islam B Sc, the local lawmaker and Vice-President of Chittagong City unit of Awami League (AL), for his contributing to the advancement of the society through social activities like setting up educational institutions.

Former Minister MA Mannan presided over the inaugural ceremony where Nurul Islam B Sc, former lawmaker Ishaq Mia and Cox's Bazar Awami League General Secretary Salahuddin Ahmed CIP also spoke at the function.

Contribution of Jamal Uddin recalled

Speakers at a condolence meeting recalled the contribution of SM Jamal Uddin, founding chairman of Greater Chittagong Development Action Committee and a freedom fighter, to the movement for development of the port city.

Terming Jamal Uddin as an iconic figure for his 22 years social movement, they said he helped develop Chittagong.

Primary and Mass Education Minister Dr Afsarul Ameen was the chief guest at the meeting held on the Lusal Bhaban premises in the Cheragi Pahar area on Saturday.

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, State Minister for Environment and Forest Dr Hasan Mahmud and National Professor Dr Nurul Islam were special guests.

Greater Chittagong Development Action Committee Chairman Architect Taslimuddin Chowdhury, also the editor of the Dainik Purbokone, presided over the meeting.

Reception to 2 journo, music teacher

Former Adviser to a caretaker government Dr Akbar Ali Khan underscored the need for giving recognition and proper honour to the talented persons of the society for keeping the conscience of a society alive.

Addressing a reception ceremony here on Saturday he said reception to someone helps others to develop a sense of honour and pride for respected son of the soil.

Chittagong Press Club organised the reception ceremony titled 'Gunijon O Krity Sangbadik Sangbardhona '09' at the CPC Engineer Abdul Khalek conference room.

Reuters correspondent Nizam Uddin Ahmad, Mafasswal incharge of local daily the Azadi Sultan Ahmad Ashrafi and noted music teacher Ustad Manoranjan Barua were accorded the reception with CPC President Abu Sufian in the chair.

Dr Akbar said local talents are not properly treated when selection of persons for state awards show lack of accountability to some extent.

He emphasised more media focus on the contribution of the local talents as well as different local issues, crisis and prospects to draw proper attention of the high-ups of the state.

BGMEA training workshop for mid-level officers

A day-long training workshop for mid-level officers of garments sector was held at BGMEA Swastha Kendra in the port city on Saturday.

The workshop was organised as a part of a series of workshops being held under a project titled, "Gender equity, women empowerment and rights of reproductive health" organised jointly by Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and UNFPA.

A M Chowdhury Salim inaugurated the workshop. Khandoker Belayet Hossain, SM Manjurul Huda Chowdhury and Abu Haider Chowdhury Amjad and Rakib Al Naser and Ashoke Paul spoke.

The BGMEA leaders at the workshop urged the mid-level officers like compliance, welfare and administrative officers to help improve further the relation between workers and management.

They also urged them to create awareness about healthcare and reproductive health among the female garments workers.

Guests pose for photograph with former adviser to caretaker government Dr Akbar Ali Khan at a reception ceremony at Chittagong Press Club on Saturday.

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