

Over 18,000 unfit vehicles ply Ctg roads

NUR UDDIN ALAMGIR

Over 18,253 unfit light and heavy vehicles have been plying the roads in Chittagong without fitness certificates, depriving the government of huge revenue for lack of proper monitoring.

Out of 78,778 light and heavy vehicles, 60,525 renewed their certificates and paid tax as of June 30 despite having an exemption from fine for delayed renewal of fitness certificates and late payment of tax, said the sources at Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA), Chittagong.

The rest 18,253 vehicles are running without fitness certificates till date dodging around one fourth of the revenue last fiscal year.

BRTA earned around Tk 81.15 crore from fitness certificates as fee and road tax this fiscal year against Tk 61.14 crore from 42,236 vehicles last fiscal year, sources said.

Fee for renewal of a heavy vehicle is Tk 945 and a light vehicle Tk 645. For failure, late fee for a heavy vehicle have been fixed at Tk 300 and a light vehicle Tk 150 for each additional month.

Road tax for different

mode of vehicles ranges from Tk 5,545 to Tk 9,045, said the sources.

The unfit vehicles are usually run by untrained drivers or helpers, causing road accidents that leave a good number of people killed and injured every year.

BRTA Motor Vehicle



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Worn-out trucks ply the Port Connecting Road in Chittagong city.

Inspector Mohammad Shamsul Kabir said 141 accidents took place in Chittagong and Bandarban districts under Chittagong zone in 2008-2009, leaving 127 people dead and 163 injured while many of such accidents and casualties remain unreported.

Kabir said they send data of the unfit vehicles after every six months to the traffic department of police for checking them and realising revenue.

BRTA Assistant Director Mohammad Masud Alam said they issue notices regularly to the defaulting vehi-

Police (CMP) Assistant Commissioner (Traffic) Mohammad Hasan admitted the contribution of the unfit vehicles to the road accidents, saying that their drive against the unfit vehicles would continue.

He emphasised the need for enhanced combined efforts by the traffic department and BRTA to check the unfit vehicles.

Meanwhile, at the directive of Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Asaduzzaman Mia of Chittagong range, police launched a two-day drive against the vehicles plying without fitness certificates under 14 police station in Chittagong on Thursday and Friday, said the sources in Chittagong district police.

"During the drive three check posts were set up at Sitakunda on Dhaka-Chittagong highway, at Hathazari on Chittagong-Hathazari Road and at Patiya on Chittagong-Cox's Bazar highway," said Acting Superintendent of Police (SP) Amena Begum of Chittagong.

"Cases were filed against 291 vehicles and 28 vehicles were seized during drive," Amena said.



ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER

This natural spring at Himchhari in Cox's Bazar attracts many a tourist, but the authorities have not taken any measures to develop it as an attractive tourist spot.

the week that was

ICU, HDU units at Metropolitan Hospital

Chittagong Metropolitan Hospital (Private) Limited launched an ICU (Intensive Care Unit) and a HDU (High Dependency Unit), first of its kind in private sector in the port city, on Sunday.

The hospital authorities at a press briefing on Thursday said a five-bed ICU and eight-bed HDU opened at the hospital to ensure treatment of critical patients under constant and close supervision round-the-clock.

The hospital that had a 10-bed CCU (Coronary Care Unit) from before aimed at providing all sorts of treatments and service to the patients, said Managing Director Dr AKM Fazlul Haque at the briefing where hospital Chairman Prof Dr AQM Mohsen, an specialist on gastroenterology and hepatology, and members of the board of directors and management were present.

Putting up the future plan they said procurement and installation of equipments were going on to open a Total Cardiac Centre at the hospital soon.

Setting up of a separate Gastroenterology Unit, Dialysis Centre for kidney patients, Physiotherapy Centre and Cancer Centre is also under process, they said.

Established as a 27-bed one in 1989, the hospital started its journey as a modern 120-bed hospital on its own building at OR Nizam Road in May 2007 and provided treatment to 2719 patients until June 30 this year, they said.

BGMEA hands over pick-up van to CMP

The garments factory owners on behalf of Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) on Sunday handed over a pick-up van to Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) for use in the garments sector.

CMP Commissioner Md Maniruzzaman received the van from BGMEA First Vice-President Nasir Uddin Chowdhury at a simple ceremony at BGMEA conference room.

Maniruzzaman in his speech assured the

factory owners of taking stern action on the basis of information provided by BGMEA-CMP Monitoring cell against the culprits involved in conspiracy for creating unrest in this sector here.

The commissioner also stressed taking steps jointly by CMP and BGMEA after discussion to check any untoward incident in future.

Earlier, Nasir in his speech lauded the role of CMP in maintaining law and order and dealing with any untoward incident in garments sector in Chittagong.

He emphasised further intensified joint supervision of BGMEA-CMP Monitoring Cell to check any unrest that might result in from decreasing orders of buyers due to global economic recession.

Shamsul Haq Chowdhury, a ruling party lawmaker from Patiya, other officials of CMP and BGMEA leaders were present at the function.

SEC, CSE hold training programme

A two-day training programme for the representatives of member companies of Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) ended here on Friday.

Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Member Mohammad Yasin Ali inaugurated the programme organised jointly by SEC and CSE at the CSE conference room.

Addressing as the chief guest Yasin Ali said knowledge and efficiency were must for success in the capital market.

He urged the representatives to acquire knowledge about rules of the capital market and to be introduced with new technologies to adapt themselves with any change.

SEC Executive Director Mohammad Abdul Hannan Joarder put up different aspects of the Bangladesh Capital Market.

CSE Head of Finance and Company Secretary Ahmed Daud also attended the programme among others.

A total of 62 representatives from the CSE member companies participated in the training programme.

Demand for execution of verdict

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) Chittagong

Law College unit organised a programme here on Friday demanding immediate execution of the verdict in the Bangabandhu murder case.

Four people covering their faces with black clothes and tying ropes in their necks stood in a makeshift gallows representing convicted murderers Col Faruk, Col Rashid, Major Dalim and Captain Mohiuddin during the programme in front of Chittagong Press Club.

Leaders at the rally said rule of law could not be established in the country in the last 34 years as the verdict in the heinous killing of the Father of the Nation and his family members could not be executed.

BCL Chittagong Law College unit President Mohiul Islam, General Secretary Samar Kanti Bhupal, Vice President (VP) of college student union Arif Moiuiddin and GS Asma Ferdous spoke at a rally held during the programme.

Later, a procession paraded different city roads.

Sonali Bank support for small, medium entrepreneurs

Chittagong Divisional Biannual Conference of Sonali Bank Limited was held here on Friday with a call for providing more loan to small and medium entrepreneurs of productive sector.

The Bank Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director SA Chowdhury was the chief guest at the conference held at a local hotel with Chittagong Division General Manager Tapan Kumar Ghosh in the chair.

The chief guest in his speech said there was vast scope to increase bank investment in Chittagong region.

He urged branch managers to avail the scope and increase flow of loan to the productive sectors and help small and medium entrepreneurs.

Deputy General Managers Mohammad Ilias Ali, Nani Gopal Nath, SM Abul Kalam Azad, Jasim Uddin Khandaker and SM Mahfuzul Islam spoke at the conference.

A total of 106 branch managers and five regional chiefs from Chittagong, Rangamati, Khagrachhari, Bandarban and Cox's Bazar attended the conference.

Making underprivileged self-reliant

ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD

To help improve quality of life and standard of living of the underprivileged people in Chittagong, the district administration here has taken a special project alongside the regular development programmes.

Chittagong Zila Parishad has conducted several vocational training courses under a project titled, "Poverty Alleviation and Women Development Project" on its Laldighi Par building premises in January this year.

The three-month courses include sewing and cutting, block and boutique, boutique and design, solar power production, mushroom cultivation, garments accessories and vegetable cultivation.

The administration is now preparing to conduct such courses in the rural areas of Lohagara, Fatikchhari, Chandanaish and Satkania upazilas and off-shore upazila of Sandwip in the district under the same project to train women and youths for self-employment and income-generating projects.

It would provide training on handicrafts, sewing and cutting, cattle and

poultry farming and vegetable cultivations. It will give sewing machines free of cost to the distressed women in the five upazilas. A budget of Tk 10.26 lakh has been approved in this regard, said the sources.

Sources said, a total of 89 unemployed women and youths have received training from Zila Parishad, Chittagong in the city till June while 60 others will participate in three courses now.

The second batch students, who completed training in June, received certificates from CEO Syeda Sarwar Jahan on Wednesday.

Some of the students have also been provided with boutique materials free of cost.

The district administration is awaiting approval from the LGRD ministry to introduce five other courses on food and nutrition, bee cultivation, biogas production, mobile repair and embroidery.

While talking to this correspondent at his office, Jahan said they are constructing structures to house five showrooms just beside the Zila Parishad Super Market at Laldighi Par to help the trained youths and women

market their products.

Under the poverty alleviation and women development programmes a four-storey building is being constructed replacing the existing drivers' shed-cum-garage inside the Zila Parishad complex, Jahan said.

Under the same project the administration is also planning to install 41 solar plants in the remote areas of Rangunia, Raozan and Patiya upazilas involving Tk 17 lakh in the first phase.

"The unemployed youths getting trained up from the newly introduced solar power and solar energy training courses would be engaged in the project to be implemented by June next year," Jahan added.

She said Chittagong Zila Parishad recovered 19.74 acres of land during the last nine months since October 15, 2008 as against 5.85 acres recovered in the previous years.

Sources said, Zila Parishad has a total of 14,568 acres of land including roads, ponds, Bungalows, S.O Quarters and passenger sheds. The authority is facing 75 cases over land dispute and 26 cases in connection with the 32 ferry ghats.



STAR PHOTO

Women receive training at Zila Parishad, Chittagong on Monday.