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Pedestrians left to suffer

All govts, DCC turn a blind eye to basic amenities

TAWFIQUE ALI

Successive governments and Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) have always deprived pedestrians of their basic amenities even though they constitute half the commuters in the capital.

DCC entrusted with providing facilities to pedestrians has made it a norm to let Dhaka footpaths remain occupied with illegal structures, car parking, makeshift shops and construction materials, said experts.

DCC has only a 390-kilometre long footpath while it has 1900 kilometres of roads including major arterial roads, alleys and lanes, said officials.

A total of 52-foot over-bridges for pedestrians in the city remain unused, as the pedestrians don't prefer to use them.

There are only four underpasses at Gulistan intersection, Gabtoli bus terminal, Sayedabad (Dhalpur) and Karwan Bazar. Except for the underpass at Sayedabad the rest are lying in dilapidated state.

DCC gets a block allocation of Tk 2.5 crore from the government for repairs to the roads every fiscal year. Only a small fraction of it is spent on footpaths.

It, however, sometimes works with donor funds to improve facilities for city pedestrians.

Mainly DCC and Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) are responsible for constructing roads and providing other facilities to pedestrians including pavements in the city.

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Trenches dug by Dhaka Wasa to replace sewerage pipelines remain a nightmare for people of Rayerbazar area.

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

BDR TRIAL MODE Two more jurists against army act

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two more amici curiae yesterday opposed trial of BDR personnel accused of different offences committed during the February 25-26 BDR mutiny under the military law.

Advocate Mahmudul Islam and barrister Ajmalul Hossain yesterday told the Supreme Court that the provisions of the Army Act 1952 cannot be applied to the BDR personnel involved in the mutiny even by issuing notifications to give the act retrospective effect.

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Results of 28th BCS published

Results of the written test of 28th Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) examinations came out yesterday. A total of 5,881 candidates passed the examinations provisionally. For details, see page-12.

List Dhaka canal grabbers in month

JS body also asks to free rivers in 2 months

RASHIDUL HASAN

A parliamentary committee yesterday gave one more month to the Department of Land Record and Survey to come up with an accurate elaborate list of individuals and organisations who encroached upon 43 canals in the capital.

It also asked the land ministry to complete within the next two months, the task of freeing the rivers in and around the capital from encroachment, and to restore their navigability.

The previous deadline for submitting the list was August 8, which had been set at a committee meeting on July 8 this year.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Land also asked the ministry to provide all facilities to the land record department, including arranging modern equipment within a week for proper identification of illegal structures built on different city canals.

"The land record and survey department is having difficulties in identifying the illegal structures on city canals with conventional equipment, so they sought modern equipment for conducting aerial survey," AKM Mozammel Huq, chairman of the committee told reporters.

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US role in 1971 a tragic mistake

Moriarty says his country recovered from the mistake to recognise Bangladesh early

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

US Ambassador James F Moriarty yesterday in an oblique criticism said the role of his country during the Liberation War of Bangladesh was a 'tragic mistake'.

Speaking at a memorial meeting on Edward Kennedy at the Liberation War Museum in the city, Moriarty said the US had recovered from the mistake by giving early recognition to Bangladesh.

"Senator Kennedy helped my country to correct the mistake back in 1971 and we expressed that by quickly recognising Bangladesh," Moriarty added.

"I think we expressed that view by very quickly recognising Bangladesh," Moriarty added.

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Extended primary education to be free

Final report on education policy placed to govt

WASIM BIN HABIB

The National Education Policy Formulation Committee has suggested extension of free primary education up to class VIII and secondary education up to class XII.

The committee yesterday submitted its final report on National Education Policy 2009 seeking to educate all irrespective of their religion, gender, socio-economic condition and geographical location.

Even indigenous people and physically disabled children will be brought under the

programme, the new education policy said. The policy also recommends modernisation of Madrasa education, uniform curriculum in primary and secondary levels for students of all mediums and formation of a permanent education commission.

The committee Chairman National Professor Kabir Chowdhury and Co-chairman Dr Quazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad submitted the report to the education minister at around 12:00 noon at the secretariat.

After receiving the copy of the policy Education Minister

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Suffered to hear 'no'

Mother, son spend in vain 6 hours for test

ALPHA ARZU

A desperate mother of a seven-year-old ailing boy failed to receive any assistance after six agonising hours spent rushing to four different hospitals, which the government said to be providing treatment for swine flu or flu-like illness.

"I came home without any solution, though I have been to Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), Suhrawardi Hospital, BSMMU and National Institute for Disease of Chest and Hospital (NIDCH) with my son," said the mother, a resident of Tejgaon area.

The boy has severe cough and respiratory problem. Confused whether he is suffering from typical flu or swine flu, the mother wanted

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A lone pedestrian is seen wearing a precautionary mask in a crowd of people oblivious to the swine flu situation. The photo was taken at Farmgate in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: SHAFIQUL ALAM

Most hospitals not yet fit to fight flu

12 fresh swine flu infection reported

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government's swine flu management system seems to have failed to keep pace with the increasing number of patients as most of the 15 hospitals brought under the system are yet to set up separate corners at their outdoor departments.

The government has made repeated declarations on preparing these 15 public and private hospitals for swine flu management with trained manpower, but patients with flu-like illness are still suffering badly to get treatment from these hospitals.

The number of swine flu patients in the country meanwhile stood at 259 yesterday with 12 more reported cases.

A 25-year-old woman from Savar was admitted to the 10-bed isolation ward of Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) in a critical condition while three were admitted to National Institute for Disease of Chest and Hospital (NIDCH) and one at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) yesterday.

Health Minister AFM Ruhul Haque also expressed dissatisfaction with the swine flu management system at DMCH after a visit there yesterday.

Even the government's awareness campaign has still

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Medicine available only in govt hospitals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-viral drug Oseltamivir is available in all public medical colleges, hospitals, civil surgeon's offices in districts and upazila hospitals free of cost.

Oseltamivir slows the spread of non-resistant strains of influenza virus in body cells. It is used in the treatment and prophylaxis of influenza virus A and B infection. "It acts as a transition-state analogue inhibitor of influenza neuraminidase, preventing progeny virions from detaching from infected cells," medical experts said.

Earlier, sale of such drugs was allowed in open market, but now it has been restricted, said Dr Syed Modasser Ali.

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Tarique's case to be dropped

Extortion lawsuit deemed politically motivated

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The metropolitan public prosecutor (MPP) of Dhaka yesterday recommended withdrawal of one of the 11 cases filed against former BNP senior joint secretary general Tarique Rahman, considering it 'politically motivated' and meant for 'harassment'.

The case was filed on May 4 in 2007 with Gulshan Police Station accusing businessman Giasuddin Al Mamun of extorting Tk 2.20 crore from another businessman.

But later Tarique, elder son of former prime minister Khaleda Zia, was shown arrested in the case on the basis of Mamun's confessional statement.

This is the first time the government recommended withdrawal of one of the 20 cases filed against BNP Chairperson Khaleda and her family members during the last caretaker government's rule.

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Local mobile, laptop, solar panel soon

Digital phone sets hit the market next month; fibre-optic cables on the cards

RASHIDUL HASAN

Telephone Shilpo Sangstha and Cable Shilpo Sangstha have taken up three mega projects to produce digital telephone sets, cellphones, fibre-optic cables, solar panels and laptops in the country.

Of the five products, the digital telephone sets costing as low as Tk 500 will hit the market next month while cellphones priced between Tk 1,500 and 10,000 will be sold from January next year. Fibre optic cables will arrive in December next year.

Bangladesh-made laptops and solar panels will also hit the market soon. Estimated prices of laptops, solar panels and fibre-optic cables are yet to be fixed.

Hasanul Haq Inu, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on post and telecommunications ministry, told this to reporters after a meeting of the committee held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

"Telephone Shilpo Sangstha and Cable Shilpo Sangstha, two organisations under Bangladesh Telecommunications Regulatory Commission, have taken up three mega projects to produce mobile phones, digital telephone sets, laptops, fibre-optic cables and solar panels which will help build a digital Bangladesh," Inu, also president of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, said.

Inu also said TSS and CSS will become profitable ventures once they implement these mega projects.

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আপনার স্বপ্ন নীড়কে করুন সত্যি, আমাদের হোম লোন নিয়ে।

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