

# Unfit vehicles reign over Ctg roads

*Increase risk of accidents and cause frequent gridlocks*

**NUR UDDIN ALAMGIR**  
Over 19,500 unfit vehicles have been plying the roads in the city and district increasing the risk of accidents and causing frequent gridlocks. Apart from the fitness certificate, the unfit vehicles also dodge the fees for route permit and road taxes depriving the government of revenue every year. A total of 58,221 fitness certificates have been renewed against 81,627 heavy and light registered vehicles

including bus, truck, pick-up, microbus, private car, tempo and motorbike last fiscal year (2009-2010), sources in Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA), Chittagong said. BRTA earned Tk 78.33 crore for renewal of the fitness certificate, route permit and road taxes last fiscal year while over 19,500 other vehicles deprived the government of around one-fourth of the revenue, the sources added. The government has been deprived

of Tk 3.15 crore last fiscal year due to non-payment of fees for fitness certificates by the vehicles while the outstanding taxes stand at around Tk 22 crore, they added. Meanwhile, revenue has dropped to around Tk 2.82 crore last fiscal year as the government has earned around Tk 81.15 crore from 60,525 heavy and light vehicles in 2008-2009 while it was around Tk 61.14 crore from 42,236 vehicles in 2007-2008. A heavy vehicle is to pay Tk 945 while

a light vehicle Tk 645 for renewing fitness certificates and for failure, a heavy vehicle is to pay Tk 300 as fine and a light vehicle Tk 150 for each month. Road taxes for different types of vehicles range from Tk 5,545 to Tk 9,045, they added. BRTA Motor Vehicle Inspector Mohammad Shamsul Kabir said most of the age-old vehicles and those which dodge fitness and road taxes run in the remote areas of the district to avoid punishment.

Kabir said they issue letters extending time to the vehicle owners if they fail to renew the fitness certificates and pay taxes timely. He said cooperation from the upazila administration and district police is needed to seize the unfit vehicles in the remote areas. BRTA, Chittagong Assistant Director Masud Alam admitting the contribution of unfit vehicles to the frequent road accidents and traffic congestions, said they have sent a letter to head office in Dhaka seeking direction for

action against the 20-year-old buses and minibuses and 25-year-old trucks in April this year. He said they are yet to get any response from the higher authorities in this regard. Masud said drives against the vehicles plying the roads without legal documents and paying government fees are going on with the help of traffic department of police. He said they seize the faulty vehicles and file cases against them as well as fine them.



**Worn-out trucks ply the roads in the port city of Chittagong posing risk of accidents and causing gridlock as well as air pollution. Drives against the vehicles plying the roads without legal documents and paying government fees are going on with the help of traffic department of police.**

Photo: ANURUP KANTI DAS

## the week that was

### CCC body to end waterlogging, traffic jam

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) at its first general meeting of its newly elected mayor and councillors on Monday formed 20 standing committees, including two bodies, to rid the city of waterlogging and traffic congestion.

The meeting with Mayor Md Manjur Alam in the chair also decided to form a 51-member advisory committee to help introduce plans and implement them for overall development of the city. The advisory committee is to include former CCC mayor, lawmakers and experts.

All the councillors were present at the meeting that discussed development projects and the proposed budget for 2010-2011 fiscal year.

The meeting decided to announce the CCC budget and hold election to panel mayors in the special general meeting scheduled for today (July 29).

Nineteen ward councillors and nine female councillors submitted nomination papers to the mayor for election to the panel mayors.

### Cardiac centre opens

A full-fledged modern cardiac centre was launched at Chattagram Metropolitan Hashpatal (Pvt) Ltd in the port city on Friday.

Completion of a successful angiogram on a heart patient Sajeda Begum, marking the inauguration of the cardiac centre at the Cathlab of the hospital.

Cardiologist Dr Zahir Uddin Mahmud Ilias conducted the angiogram.

Metropolitan Hospital Chairman Dr AQM Mohsen, Managing Director Dr AKM Fazlul Haq and other medical directors and board members were also present at this time.

### Vow to resist plot

Chittagong District Newspaper Hawkers League at a view exchange meeting in the port city on Saturday vowed to resist any conspiracy against the organisation.

At the meeting the Hawkers League leaders alleged that a section of so-called hawkers under the banner of Sangbadpatra Bikreta League have been carrying out criminal activities as a part of a conspiracy against Hawkers League.

The "so-called hawkers" recently vandalised buses carrying newspapers from Dhaka and beat up the drivers for a little delay in arriving in Chittagong.

In the name of realising demand they are also making newspaper agents hostage, obstructing other hawkers in duties and depriving the readers of reading newspapers.

The hawkers league leaders sought cooperation from Sramik

League and front organisations of ruling Awami League and readers to resist the "so called hawkers".

Hawkers League President Md Sarwar Alam presided over the meeting at the Nasirabad office where Nurul Anwar, Shakhawat Hossain, Debashish Nath, Babu Tapan Chakraborty, Sajal Kanti Dash, Ratan Chowdhury, Delwar Hossain and Nesar Ahmed spoke.

### Call to start giving gas connection

Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Limited (KGDCL) Contractor Welfare Association, Chittagong on Monday called upon government to start giving residential gas connection.

The association leaders at a press conference said Petrobangla in a circular dated September 24, 2009 stopped giving gas connection to industrial and commercial as well as new areas until it could overcome the problems resulting from low-pressure in the supply line. But, the circular gave clearance to give residential connection for around 8000 consumers in Chittagong.

But, it could not be started till date, alleged the leaders, who blamed non-supply of required materials from Bakharabad Gas Systems Limited in this regard.

Suspension of giving gas connection caused over 200 contractors to become jobless and pass miserable life with families, they said. The leaders called upon the authorities concerned to take measures to start giving residential gas connection.

The KGDCL Contractors Association Vice-President Zahed Hossain read out a written statement at the press conference at Chittagong Press Club. General Secretary Shah Mohammad Liakur Rahman Azad and other leaders were present.

### CCC tree fair begins

A 15-day tree fair organised by Chittagong City Corporation at MA Aziz Stadium adjoining CJKS Gymnasium premise inaugurated in the port city on Saturday.

Inaugurating the fair as the chief guest CCC Mayor Md Manjur Alam said that CCC is taking initiative to turn the city as an environment-friendly and green city.

The main objective of the fair is to encourage tree plantation and help achieve 25 percent forest land in the country, he said. Prof Dr ANM Munir Ahmed, Prof Dr Atiqur Rahman, educationist Shah Alam and Ward Councillors Md Gias Uddin and Rehana Begum Ranu also spoke at the inaugural meeting.

CCC Chief Executive Officer Md Manjur-e-Elahi made the address of welcome at the inaugural ceremony presided over by local Ward Councillor Abdul Malek.

# Process on to construct Kadamtali flyover

DWAIPAYAN BARUA

Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) has started process to construct a flyover on Kadamtali intersection to ease gridlock in the port city of Chittagong as well as to reduce pressure on the 40-year-old Dewanhat flyover.

The proposed four-lane 645-metre long and 15-metre wide flyover would be constructed at an estimated cost of Tk 59 crore under the Housing and Public Works Ministry and CDA.

Dewanhat flyover, the only connecting way between the northern and southern portion of the city, is now taking huge pressure of vehicles everyday posing a threat of accident.

CDA has floated tender for appointment of consultant of the project after the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Ecneec) had approved it recently.

Ecneec at its second meeting of the current fiscal year on July 13 chaired by its Chairperson and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina approved the Kadamtali flyover project.

Dewanhat flyover is one of the key parts of the city's lone main thoroughfare stretching from Kalurghat to Patenga.

It was constructed 40 years ago to facilitate movement of trucks and other vehicles weighing five to seven tons. But with passage of time pressure of traffic on it has increased by several times.

Many goods-laden trucks and heavy containers weighing over 40 to 50 tons from Chittagong port are now plying

through this aged flyover everyday posing a threat to accident.

Ali Ashraf, a commuter, said, "If the flyover faces any problem in near future the whole traffic system of the port city will collapse due to lack of its proper alternative way."

An alternative way is essential since people of the northern part of the city solely depend on the flyover to reach destinations like Agrabad Commercial area, Chittagong port, Chittagong Shah

appointment of consultant of the project. With this all the five projects CDA took last year for constructing five flyovers in the port city have got approval of the Ecneec.

Four other flyovers would be built on four busy intersections including Bahodderhat, Muradpur, Sholoshahar Gate No-2 and GEC.

Salam said the present government approved its several projects including construction of the five flyovers involving around Tk342 crore in last one and a half years and the amount is highest in the 50-year history of the organisation.

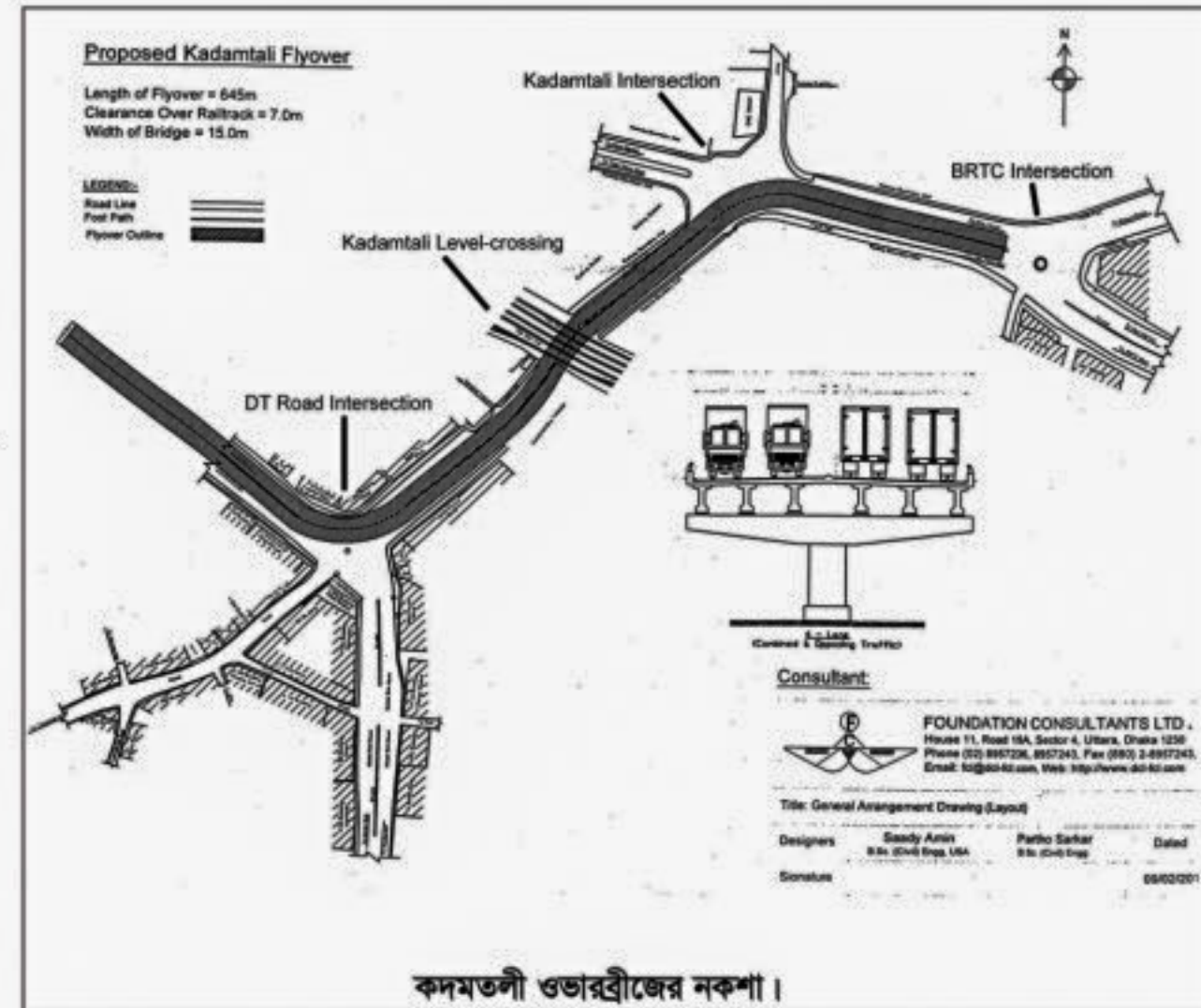
CDA took the projects to develop the city's road network keeping pace with the increasing volume of vehicular movement, he said.

Sources at CDA said the Bahodderhat flyover project is now under consideration of the cabinet's purchase committee. The construction work would start after getting nod from the committee, sources added.

Consultants have already been appointed for the detailed design of the projects to construct three other flyovers, they said.

Salam said they have completed different development projects including expansion of several important roads involving Tk 58 crore in last fiscal year from July 2009 to June 2010.

He said construction of the flyover and expansion of some other important roads would solve the acute gridlock and ensure smooth movement of vehicles in the port city.



Amanat International Airport and Chittagong Export Processing Zone in the southern part, he added.

Hailing the CDA initiative of constructing a flyover on Kadamtali intersection,

Mohammad Akhter hoped that it would also ease the acute gridlock at Tigerpass and Dewanhat.

CDA Chairman Abdu Salam said they have already floated tender for