

# Tangail turning into a town of serious traffic jam

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

Important roads in the district town, especially those leading to New Bus Terminal and Old Bus Terminal areas, often see serious traffic jam, much to the sufferings of the passengers and pedestrians. Vehicles going to important offices including those under civil and police administrations and courts from northern Tangail face long tailbacks in New Bus Terminal area as different types of vehicles like buses,

trucks, three-wheelers, rickshaws and motorcycles use the same road. Lack sufficient space for turning vehicles adds to the situation. Vehicular movement from capital Dhaka to the northern districts through Tangail town saw an overwhelming rise after construction of Bangabandhu Bridge on the Jamuna River in 1998. The town bypass was constructed to facilitate movement of such vehicles

but long route passenger buses often move through the main town and stop at places to take passengers and let others get down, adding to the traffic jam, said locals. Around six thousand CNG-run auto-rickshaws (three-wheelers) ply the streets in the town against one thousand approved ones. Battery-run three-wheelers started plying the town roads two years ago,

making the situation all the more complicated, sources at the Traffic Police Office said, adding that now there are over 3,000 battery-run three-wheelers in the town and they park and move without caring for any discipline. Most of the important roads in the town do not have separate walkways while a few ones mostly remain under the occupation of vendors. A good number of high-

rise buildings and big markets have been constructed in the town during the last few years. Although most of these buildings have parking spaces, these are often used for other purposes while the vehicles are parked on the adjacent roads, causing problem to vehicular movement. Buses frequently take turning in New Bus Terminal area and it often causes vehicles to get stuck on two sides of the road, said Sohail Miah, driver of a battery-run auto-rickshaw. "The number of cars and auto-rickshaws plying the town is too high for the existing roads. Most of the auto-rickshaw drivers hardly care about traffic rules. They take passengers and let them get down here and there and often take turning on the roads," he added. Bus driver Goutam Bhoumik said arrangement of separate roads for plying of large vehicles like buses and trucks and small vehicles like three-wheelers and rickshaws can help reduce traffic jam in the town. Rafiqul Islam, traffic inspector in Tangail, said, "Arrangement of separate parking spaces for three-wheelers and keeping their number and movement under control can help ease traffic jam. Besides, the parking spaces of the high-rise buildings and markets should be used properly."



PHOTO: STAR

Important roads in Tangail town often see serious traffic jam, much to the suffering of the passengers and pedestrians. The photo was taken from Victoria Road a couple of days ago.

## BSF injures two in Kurigram, picks up another in Jhenidah

*BDR, BSF hold meeting to resolve 'disputes'*

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kurigram

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) shot and injured two Bangladeshi cattle traders in Phulbari border area in the district on Wednesday. The injured are Enamul Haque, 28, son of Tafsir Ali and Mominul Islam, 25, son of Jabeed Ali of Krishnananda village in the upazila. According to Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and local sources, a group of cattle traders with about 40 cows were coming to Bangladesh from India through Krishnananda border at around 10:30pm. BSF men at Narayanjan camp in Cooch Behar district in India opened fire on them, leaving Enamul Haque and Mominul Islam seriously injured. In Jhenidah, BSF picked up a Bangladeshi along Srinathpur border in Moheshpur upazila yesterday. The man was identified as Zia Malik, 35, son of Mosharraf Malik of Shyamkur Purba Para of the upazila, reports UNB. Solaiman Hossain, Srinathpur BGB camp commander, said BSF members caught Zia and took him to their camp when he was going to India through the border illegally at about 6am. The BSF authorities did not return the kidnapped Bangladeshi till 5:00pm yesterday

despite a flag meeting between BGB and BSF held at Laraihat at about 12:30pm on the day. Meanwhile, BGB and BSF at a sector commander level meeting in Chuadanga yesterday agreed to resolve 'major disputes' through discussion and vowed not to open fire on innocent people. Lt Col Farid Uddin, sector commander of Mirpur, Kushtia, led the 8-member Bangladesh team while Col RC Gore, Deputy Inspector General of Krishnangar BSF, led the eight-member Indian team at the day-long meeting held at Darshana check-post, reports our Kushtia correspondent. At the meeting, BGB raised several issues, including killing of Bangladeshis especially cattle traders by BSF, smuggling of small firearms, explosives and contraband items from India and sought help from its Indian counterpart to stop those. The other issues discussed in the meeting included human trafficking and push-in incidents. In reply, the Indian officials agreed in principle to stop firing at Bangladeshis and take effective steps to stop smuggling of firearms, explosives and contraband goods, sources said. At the meeting, they also alleged illegal entry of Bangladeshis into India and urged the BGB to check it.

## Three bullet-ridden bodies recovered in Munshiganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Police recovered three bullet-hit bodies from Sirajdikhan and Sreenagar upazilas under the district yesterday. Another person allegedly committed suicide in Sirajdikhan upazila while a man left the body of his wife at Munsiganj General Hospital the same day. Police recovered the body of Ibrahim, 20, son of Khorshed Alam of Sreenagar upazila, from under Rashunia Bridge in Sirajdikhan upazila around 9:00am. He received three bullets on the head. "Ibrahim went missing after he started for Banani in the capital for his medical check-up on January 16 as he was preparing to go abroad. His mother Nazma Begum filed a general diary with Kadamtoli police station the following day,"

Ibrahim's maternal uncle Abdus Sattar said. Mahbubur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Sirajdikhan police station, said Ibrahim was an accused in the case for murder of Awami League leader Ismail in the capital on December 31 last year. Around 11:00am, police recovered bullet-hit body of Abdul Kuddus, 42, son of Abdul Khaled of Madaripur, also from near Roshunia Bridge. Kuddus, owner of a shop in Keraniganj, remained missing for the last two weeks after he went out of his shop, said Sarwar Hossain, elder brother of the victim. Informed by locals, police recovered the bullet-hit body of Masud, 32, from beside Sreedharpur road in Sreenagar upazila yesterday noon, said Mizanur Rahman, officer in charge of Sreenagar police station. "Masud went out of his house on January 11 to realise Tk 20 thousand that one Nazmul owed to him. Afterwards he went missing," said Masud's sister-in-law Nurjahan Begum. Criminals may have killed them somewhere else on Wednesday night and later dumped the bodies, police said, adding that there might have been a link among the three incidents as the three people received bullets on the head while their hands were tied with new scarves. Police recovered the hanging body of Al Amin, 35, from Shialdi village in Sirajdikhan upazila yesterday morning. Family sources said he committed suicide. Noor Alam of Sarisabon village in Tongibari upazila accompanied by a man brought his wife Shirin Akhtar, 20, to Munsiganj General Hospital yesterday morning when the on-duty doctors declared her dead. Noor Alam fled the scene, leaving the body at the hospital, police said.



PHOTO: COURTESY

The annual prize distribution and cultural ceremony of Velayet Hossain Bahumukhi Uchcha Bidyalay was held on the school campus at Nallapara of Delduar in Tangail recently. Food Minister Dr Abdur Razzaque attended the function as chief guest while lawmaker Khondaker Abdul Baten, internationally reputed mathematician Prof Jamal Nazrul Islam, US Ambassador Dan W Mozena, ex-chief information commissioner Mohammad Zamir and ambassador-at-large Mohammad Ziauddin were present as special guests. School's founder president Mohammad Delwar Hossain, also a recipient of Ekushey Padak-2011, chaired the function. Boys and girls of the institution took part in an impressive march past, Bratachari programme and displays, highlighting the rural heritage and spirit of the liberation struggle. The function also included opening of the school's auditorium-cum-examination hall by Prof Jamal Nazrul Islam. A cultural programme was held at the auditorium where students rendered songs, recited poems and performed dances. The programme ended with a thanksgiving speech by Mohammad Delwar Hossain.



PHOTO: STAR

A mango tree gets adorned with buds heralding the advent of the Spring. This photo was taken from court area of Rajshahi city a few days ago.

## RCC MONEY WITH LGED Jhantu gives 10-day deadline for refunding the amount

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Shorfuddin Ahmed Jhantu, newly elected mayor of Rangpur City Corporation (RCC), gave a 10-day ultimatum to the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) for refunding the money of Shyma-Sundari Canal Re-excavation Project to the account of RCC. The mayor announced the deadline at a public meeting at Rangpur Central Shaheed Minar premises yesterday afternoon. Earlier, the local government ministry transferred the fund of the project to the account of LGED. At a press conference on January 21, Jhantu had declared that if the fund was not returned to RCC, he would hold a rally on January 24 and take the next steps. Jhantu claimed that to hide irregularities, Abu Alam Md. Shahid Khan, secretary, LGED



Shorfuddin Ahmed Jhantu

under the Ministry of LGRD and Cooperatives and AKM Abdur Rouf Manik, former municipality mayor of Rangpur had transferred over Tk3 crore to LGED from RCC. He threatened that if they did not return the money within next 10 days, people of Rangpur would declare Abu Alam Md. Shahid Khan as *persona non-grata*. Zahurul Islam Ajbar, councillor of ward 17 of RCC, presided the rally. Among others, councillors Abul Kasem, Nizamul

Hasan, Shajalal Bakul, Akram Khan, Abdur Razzaq of RCC spoke at the rally. Jhantu at the press conference on January 21 also expressed deep concern as the government was yet to formally give him the charge of mayor. He alleged the project was implemented by the brother, nephew and brother-in-law of the LGED secretary. Emdad Ali, chief engineer of RCC, said Tk 23 crore was allocated for the project. Of them, Tk 9.95 crore was deposited to the bank account of RCC, he said. Four construction firms implemented the work under six packages of the project, said the engineer. Of the RCC amount, over Tk six crore was paid to the construction firms for the work of the project and the rest was transferred to the account of LGED, Rangpur following an order issued by the higher authorities, he added.

## Criminals ransack, loot 17 rooms of Barisal edn board

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Armed criminals looted 10 tolas of gold ornaments and over 50 thousand taka in cash after breaking locks of 26 steel almirahs and 5 file cabinets in 17 rooms of the four-storied building of Barisal Education Board (BEB) early yesterday. They committed the crime after tying up five on-duty Ansars at the office, who were 'sleeping' when the criminals entered the building. "The miscreants entered the building by breaking grills of a window on the ground floor. Sukharanjan Basak, a section officer staying inside the building, informed me about the robbery at about 2:00am on Thursday and we informed police," said Abdul Motalib, secretary of BEB. Of the looted money, 5,280 taka was collected by the board as different fees, and the rest belonged to a few office staffs. The looted gold ornament belonged to



PHOTO: STAR

An armed gang takes away gold ornaments and money, breaking locks of steel almirahs and file cabinets in 17 rooms of the four-storey building of Barisal Education Board early yesterday.

two office staffs who kept it there, thinking the place as safe, said Prof Dr Bimal Krishna Majumdar, chairman of BEB. No valuable document was missing or destroyed, he said. Md Khalil, commander of the on-duty Ansars, told police in presence of journalists, "All of us were sleeping in our room. Suddenly a group of 5/6 armed miscreants entered the building. They came to our room, tied us, and then broke the locks of rooms and almiras on ground and first floors of the building." "Informed, police went to the spot soon and the secretary of BEB lodged a case in this connection without mentioning any name as accused.

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### EXHIBITIONS

CUPPA COFFEE CLUB  
Road 46, Building 11  
Gulshan Circle 2

January, Friday 25th &  
Saturday 26th  
11am-5pm