

Stuck on the Highway

Dhaka-Chittagong Highway. People were allowed a day of respite when the week long blockade was stopped for a whole 24 hours on Friday, December 6. However, this off-day for blockade proponents proved to be hellish for the thousands of vehicles which were stranded for several hours on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway. The goods-laden vehicles that set off on Thursday night could not reach their destinations even early Saturday. The tailback stretched for around 60-70 kilometres, and police escorted some 4,000 vehicles in phases throughout Saturday. Some vehicles took 22-24 hours to reach their destinations on the Dhaka-Chittagong route, instead of six to seven hours on normal days.

Trains Made to Derail Again

Gaibandha. Three passengers were killed and 35 others injured as four coaches and the engine of Padmarag Express veered off the tracks in Gaibandha after blockaders ripped apart fish plates and clips from the rail lines. Similar acts of sabotage caused the derailment of two trains in Khulna and Chandpur, leaving at least 10 passengers injured and suspending Dhaka-Khulna and Chandpur-Chittagong rail communications.

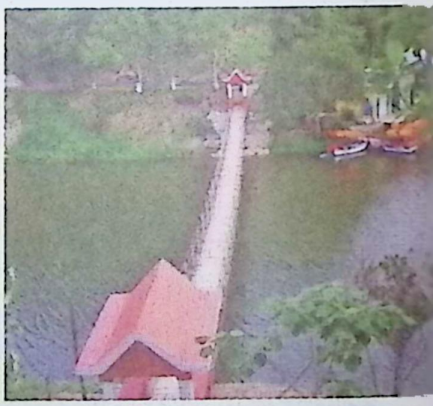


PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

No Social Consciousness

Patenga, Chittagong. There's an extent to selfishness but Triple Superphosphate Complex Limited, a state-owned fertiliser factory situated in Chittagong city's Patenga industrial area, has gone far and beyond the limit. The factory spews out gases which, residents of adjacent neighbourhoods allege, intermittently creates smog every winter and causes skin and eye irritation and induces nausea and breathlessness.

Deserted During Peak Season



Bandarban. Bandarban is one of the most visited tourist spots during the winter. The scenic area, however, sports a deserted look even during its peak season. Meghla, like the other spots in Bandarban district, witnessed a dull season this year due to hartals and blockades. The scenic tourist spots of the district, which usually remain crowded with a large number of tourists from different parts of the country during this peak time of the year, now see only a few visitors due to the ongoing hartal and blockade programmes.

30,000

The number of illegal Bangladeshi workers who returned home after receiving general amnesty from the Saudi Arabia government.

67

Percentage of Rajya Sabha (RS) members of India who are millionaires. Furthermore, according to a report based on analysis of 227 out of 245 members, 38 RS members have criminal cases against them.

24,000

Amount in taka given to each family of the 159 Rana Plaza victims as financial assistance under the supervision of the Bangladesh Army's ninth infantry division at Savar Cantonment.