



DIGGING DISTURBANCE

Left, the photo taken on June 23 shows Moghbazar-Mouchak road is a complete mess while digging continues, obstructing traffic flow. The rest of the photos shot yesterday show roads in Mirpur are also in an extremely bad shape. They are either being dug or waiting for repairs.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ/PALASH KHAN



Must they dig roads in rain?

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In Gulshan-2, digging on Road-35, 43 and 16A has been causing huge traffic congestions over the last one month. The work is behind schedule as the tender process was not completed in time, officials say.

Since the work began, traffic pressure on Gulshan-2 main road has increased a lot, he added. Sharif Uddin, executive engineer of DNCC zone-3, said they were installing a 200-foot stretch of a 2.5km storm sewer line on an emergency basis to reduce waterlogging in the area.

In Mirpur-6, the road that has a link with Milk Vita point in section-7 has been blocked since last week due to digging by the DNCC to set up a storm sewer line. This was also late because of the delay in bidding.

The digging of roads from the bus stoppage of Pallabi extension to Duaripara has been going on for around three months. "Because of the work, we now have to use Road-2,6,7,8 and 9 but their conditions are so bad that anyone would fear a serious accident," said

Shahnaz Parveen, a housewife of Pallabi extension. Qudrat Ullah said digging in Pallabi was under the beautification project for the T20 World Cup tournament held from March 16 to April 6. The main thoroughfares were given first priority, for which the task of secondary roads was delayed. In Mohammadpur, most of the work on Ring Road from Shyamoli to

Shia mosque for setting up sewer lines has been completed. But the dug-up portions are yet to be repaired. Digging started there four months back. Apart from these areas, digging continues on Dhanmondi-8, Mirpur Zoo, Sonargaon, Moghbazar-Mouchak-Malibagh and Tongi diversion roads. According to a DNCC official, delay in making annual procurement plan is

Members come under attack

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The implementation of the CHT Peace Accord of 1997. A delegation led by CHT Commission co-chairperson Sultana Kamal has been touring the three hill districts since Thursday to ascertain progress in the implementation of the CHT peace accord and look into allegations of land grabbing "involving state machinery", said Hana.

Samo Odhikar Andolon, announced that they would prevent the commission from visiting Rangamati, and called a 36-hour road and waterways blockade in the district on Friday, reports our Rangamati correspondent. The other five organisations are: Parbatya Gono Parishad, Parbatya Nagorik Parishad, Parbatya Bangalee Chhatra Parishad, Parbatya Bangalee Chhatra Oikya Parishad, and Parbatya Samo Odhikar Chhatra Andolon. The delegation reached Rangamati on Friday evening and had meetings with CHT Regional Council Chairman Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma, popularly known as Santu Larma, and Rangamati Citizens Committee, Hana said. The team wanted to hold a meeting with Samo Odhikar Andolon, but it didn't get a positive response from the organisation, she said. The delegation was scheduled to hold talks with Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity and local law-

maker Ushatan Talukdar at the former's office at 10:00am yesterday. But members of Samo Odhikar Andolon and its front bodies put up barricades at different points, including Fisheryghat, Tabalchhari, Vedvedi and Parjatan motel in Rangamati town since yesterday morning, said witnesses and police. The team comprising Sultana Kamal, commission members Iftekharuzzaman, Swapan Adnan, Khushi Kabir and Sara Hossain, Ilira and Hana was forced to return to their place of stay at Parjatan Motel due to the road blockade, said Hana. The protesters, led by Andolon leader Nurjahan, took position in front of the Parjatan Motel and shouted slogans against the commission, she said. The team then started for Chittagong under police protection around 1:30pm. It came under attack from blockaders near the motel a few minutes later. The attackers hurled brick chips from both sides of the road, smashing the windows of their vehicles.

"Brickbats started raining down on us from both sides of the road. It continued for two to three minutes," said Hana. Ilira had to have four stitches in the head, and Iftekharuzzaman suffered injuries to fingers of his right hand, she said. The delegation later left Rangamati for Chittagong under police protection. The protesters lifted the blockade after the delegation had left Rangamati around 2:30pm. Payer Ahmad Khan, president of district unit of Samo Odhikar Andolon, claimed it was general Bangalee people who carried out the attack. He said Andolon leaders or activists were not involved in the incident. Jalal Uddin Chowdhury Alamgir, convener of Parbatya Gono Parishad, also ruled out his organisation's involvement, and said local Bangalee people, who were aggrieved at the commission's "controversial activities", were behind the

attack. He alleged that the commission had provoked indigenous people to act against Bangalees whenever it came to the CHT. Sultana Kamal, a former adviser to a caretaker government, suspected that the six organisations that were opposing their visit might have been behind the attack. "In democracy, differences of opinion or any misunderstanding can be resolved through discussions or other means. We wanted to talk to them but they did not want to follow any process," she said at a press briefing at Chittagong Press Club in the evening. Commission member Prof Swapan Adnan alleged that "elite Bangalees", who grabbed land and amassed wealth illegally in the hill region, are trying to create anarchy in the CHT. Meanwhile, different indigenous and rights organisations, including Ain O Salish Kendra, have condemned the attack and demanded legal action against the attackers.

Prices of vegetables

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Onion imports went up 76 percent in the first 10 months of the outgoing fiscal year. Onions worth \$153 million was imported during the time, according to the LC settlement statistics of Bangladesh Bank. Besides, opening of LCs (letters of credit) for importing onions has increased by 78 percent while LCs worth \$165 million have been opened to import spices that are in high demand for preparing iftar items during Ramadan. Bangladesh's annual demand for onions is 22 lakh tonnes. The country produced 13.58 lakh tonnes in the last season and the rest was imported mainly from India. Meanwhile, a team comprising representatives from the commerce ministry, Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI), Directorate of National Consumer Rights Protection, and Bangladesh Tariff Commission visited Karwan Bazar kitchen market early hours yesterday to monitor the prices, said Helal Uddin, vice-president of FBCCI. "We visited the market to know the exact wholesale prices of vegetables," he said, adding that mobile courts would take punitive action against retail traders if they hiked the prices abnormally. Kitchen markets in the capital will be raided regularly throughout the month of Ramadan, Helal said.

Verdict Words must be backed by action

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notundesh.com - said the verdict would be announced on Tuesday. "We know the tribunal (PCA) will formally announce the verdict on July 8," the report quoted the unidentified lawyer as saying. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina last week said the verdict was expected to be delivered within a week. The hearing concluded at the PCA in December last year at The Hague. During the hearing, both the parties presented their positions on certain key issues, including the location of the land boundary terminus between them, the delimitation of the Territorial Sea, the Exclusive Economic Zone, and the Continental Shelf within and beyond 200 nautical miles. Bangladesh won a landmark verdict against Myanmar at the ITLOS in 2012. The verdict confirmed its claim to the 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic and territorial rights in the Bay of Bengal.

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Board (BCB) president Nazmul Hassan Papon publicly criticising him. Papon's remarks, in which he equated the left-hander's indiscipline to the team's downfall is a first of a kind from a BCB official in his position. While talk about how the likes of Shakib and a few other senior players tend to dominate proceedings within the team have been floating around for a while, Papon's statement on Friday that he 'won't let the team fall due to the disciplinary problems of two players' and that the team 'requires a surgery' is a clear indication of the president's position against the player. Another aspect that the president spoke of was the need for stronger management, an aspect which he plans to address in the upcoming board meeting. Shakib's decision to leave without the NOC was a fault partly shared by the management. The left-hander had

initially received verbal approval for his departure from cricket operations chairman Akram Khan; a day later however, he was asked to wait by the CEO, an instruction which the left-hander did not follow. While the drastic changes are yet to be made, the BCB president deserves accolades for zeroing in on this issue, because these concerns have been haunting Bangladesh cricket for a long time. Take for instance Shakib's disciplinary record this year alone: making a lewd gesture on live television, insulting the faith of Bangladesh's loyal fan base in an interview during the World T20, leaving the dressing room and entering the stands during an ODI and allegedly getting into a scuffle with an audience member and now, leaving without receiving the NOC. One can argue that the major factor behind the left-hander's consistent trysts with controversy is the board's inability

to handle him. The importance of his performances on the field has almost perennially compelled the board to overlook his disciplinary breaches. And the policy, as expected, has had its fair share of drawbacks; the most alarming of which is the message it sends to younger national players. That a player has the freedom to do whatever he wants to as long as he performs on the field, as the president put it, has the potential to "destroy" the future of Bangladesh's cricket. All these problems could have been solved if there was someone to have firm control over the administration, and this is where the role of the CEO comes in. The president himself rightly identified the problems in the management but in order to solve these issues, the board needs the right man wielding executive powers. The BCB president's statements to the media indicate the first signs of change. That the BCB president is ready to form a

team without players who have disciplinary issues is a bold statement and will be a welcome change if implemented. Of all the controversial activities that Shakib has been a part of this year, it was perhaps his threat to quit Test and ODI cricket - which Shakib reportedly told coach Chandika Hathurusingha during a discussion - that best describes the player's current philosophy; it is the sort of attitude that no team in the world should have room for and previous examples around the world have shown that. Andrew Symonds lost his career due to his drinking problems; Shane Warne was never made captain because of his off-field troubles and Kevin Pietersen was let loose because of his turbulent relationship with the team management. The question over here though is whether the BCB has the capability and the will to make those much-needed adjustments that an irked Papon has been telling the media about for the last

10 workers hurt

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garment materials, including thread and some machinery, he added. Ismail Hossain, officer-in-charge of Tongi Police Station, said some 10 workers were hurt when they were coming out of the factory hurriedly. They took first aid. However, the amount of loss caused by the fire could not be known immediately. Nurul Islam, deputy commissioner of Gazipur, told The Daily Star that a five-member probe committee had been formed to investigate the fire incident and submit its report to him within seven working days. Shahidullah Azim, vice-president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, confirmed the fire incident.