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No steps to repair closed footbridge

Pedestrians at Farmgate suffer as authorities yet to decide its fate

HELEMUL ALAM

Well over a month into blocking a footbridge at Farmgate, the authorities are yet to make any move to renovate it, causing immense suffering to pedestrians in one of the most bustling areas of the capital.

The footbridge, adjacent to Ananda Cinema Hall, was blocked by Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) on July 18 after a study report of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) termed it risky for use.

Pedestrians unaware of the block were shocked to see the entries sealed off with metal bars and polythene sheets.

To cross the road, they had to use any of the two nearby footbridges standing on either side of it, each about 200 yards away.

Rarjana Sultana, a journalist of the daily Jay Jay Din, was seen hurrying back to another footbridge, weaving her way through a swarming crowd of commuters and vendors, and rattling vehicles.

Shukria Nazmul Shorna, a first year student of Lalmatia Girls' College, said this foot bridge is very close to the bus stoppage on both lanes of the Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue.

"So any person who wants to take a bus on the other lane now has to walk all the way to another footbridge and then back to the bus stoppage," she complained.

Prof AFM Saiful Amin, team leader of the BUET study, said he suggested stopping pedestrians' movement on the footbridge due to the risks involved. He also suggested carrying out a feasibility study for the most cost-effective means of its renovation.

BM Enamul Haque, chief executive officer of the DNCC, said implementation of the government's metro rail project will eliminate the need for footbridges at Farmgate.

"Before taking any final decision, we have to take the metro rail project into consideration. We nonetheless will involve BUET experts to carry out a feasibility study and take

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1



The footbridge is there at Farmgate but a sign, top, asks pedestrians to use other bridges close by. The bridge has been out of commission for over a month with no sign of authorities concerned trying to repair it. Pedestrians, however, risk their lives to cross the busy Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue and sometimes they get tangled in the barbed-wire fence.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ



6 TV presenters sued for imam Faruqi murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six TV presenters including two Jamaat men were sued yesterday in a Dhaka court over the killing of Sheikh Nurul Islam Faruqi, imam of Supreme Court Jame Mosque.

The accused are Tareque Monwar, a rukan (member) of Jamaat-e-Islami central committee; Kamal Uddin Jafri, a former amir of Jamaat Narsingdi district unit; Kazi Ibrahim, Arkanullah Haruni, Khaled Saifullah Bakshi and Mukhtar Ahmed.

They present Islamic programmes on private television channels. Monwar and Jafri are presenters at ATN Bangla and ntv, while Ibrahim, who had been with the now off air Diganta Television, is a presenter at Peace TV of India.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2



Nurul Islam Faruqi

Ministries default on electricity bill

Tk 806cr yet to be paid by govt, semi-govt, autonomous bodies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different government, semi-government and autonomous bodies owed Tk 806 crore to the power, energy and mineral resources ministry in electricity bills.

State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid Bipu revealed this while replying to lawmakers' queries in parliament yesterday.

Of the total dues, different government offices owed Tk 401 crore while semi-government and autonomous bodies owed Tk 405 crore, he said.

Nasrul Hamid also produced a list of 21 ministries that are major bill defaulters.

The local government and rural development ministry tops the list with outstanding bills of Tk 280 crore.

Of the other offices, the housing and public works ministry owed Tk 110 crore, the health and family welfare ministry Tk 43.23 crore, the home ministry Tk 39.41 crore, the textiles and jute ministry Tk 35.78 crore, the education ministry Tk 35.49 crore and the defence ministry Tk 17.97 crore.

To realise the outstanding bills, they had taken various measures, which

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

CPB BLAST CASE Hannan, 12 other Huji men indicted

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against 13 members of banned militant outfit Harkat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami (Huji), including its top leader Mufti Abdul Hannan, in connection with the CPB rally bomb blast case in 2001.

Two cases were filed over the incident. One was filed for killing five people and injuring 50 others and the other was lodged for blasting bombs under the explosive substances act.

Mufti Hannan and five others, now in custody, pleaded not guilty and appealed for justice after KM Imrul Kayes, judge of

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

COMMENTS ON JUDICIARY War tribunal warns HRW

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Human Rights Watch has committed the "worst kind of contempt" by making comments without having adequate knowledge of facts, ruled International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday issuing a warning against HRW.

The tribunal was lenient on the global rights watchdog as it was its first offence and asked it to be more "circumspect" in making comments about Bangladesh's judiciary.

Disposing of a contempt petition, the tribunal said the HRW had made contemptuous remarks in their official website regarding the judges and the authority of the tribunal in the name of freedom of speech and expression.

The tribunal has the power to award highest one year imprisonment or up to Tk 5,000 in fines or both in case of contempt but in this case it issued only a warning.

A month after the conviction of former Jamaat chief Ghulam Azam, considered by many as the symbol of war crimes in Bangladesh, the HRW on August 16, 2013, published an article titled "Bangladesh: Azam Conviction Based on Flawed Proceedings".

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with Amnesty International that Bangladesh government should immediately rein in the disturbing rise in the enforced disappearances over the past two years?

Yes

91%

No

09%

TOTAL VOTES: 187

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) that no corruption had taken place in the Padma bridge project?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT

www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING

September 5

	Azan	Jamaat
Fazr	4-30	5-05
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-23	6-26
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

WANT OF FEED Flood affects cattle, poultry farmers

STAR REPORT

With floodwater receding, thousands of people in 19 flood-affected districts are coming back home only to find their dwellings ravaged, cropland damaged and cattle and poultry infected with various diseases.

The prolonged flood has severely affected livelihoods of many marginal people while waterborne diseases are breaking out in many areas, report our correspondents.

Although water levels of all the major rivers are dropping, they are flowing above the danger level in some places.

Five hundred ducks and a hundred hens died in last few days in South Mandra and Antigao village, reports

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5



PHOTO: MAIL ONLINE

Vodafone teams up with Kytman to create a song to help people with limited range of hearing experience live musical performances.

Creating music for the deaf

MAIL ONLINE

Could you imagine living without ever hearing music? Concerts and songs are often taken for granted by many people with full hearing -- an activity deaf people are deprived of.

Vodafone recently teamed up with Dutch com

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

28kg gold seized at Ctg airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Customs officials seized 240 gold bars, weighing around 28 kilograms, from an inbound flight at Shah Amanat International Airport in Chittagong yesterday evening.

The flight of Regent Airways from Bangkok landed at the airport at 6:30pm.

Tipped off, the officials got on the aircraft soon after its landing and found the gold bars lying on the plane's toilet floor, said Mosear Rahman Mondol, assistant commissioner of the airport customs.

The gold bars were worth around Tk 12 crore, he said.

Two passengers were detained in this connection, but were released after interrogation.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

IS controls area the size of UK

Terror group has 10,000 operatives

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

IS now controls territory the size of the UK, is making £600,000 a day from selling oil and ransoming hostages and has a fighting force of 10,000 militants, according to a leading expert.

Matthew Olsen, a senior US counter-terrorism official, said the Islamic State was "an extremely dangerous organisation operating in a chaotic part of the world" and saw itself "as the new leader of the global jihadist movement".

IS began in Syria during the rebellion against President Bashar Assad, but took huge swathes of northern Iraq earlier this year.

Olsen said IS had expanded quickly partly because of the weakness of the governments of Syria and Iraq.

"[IS] threatens to outpace al-Qa'ida as the dominant voice of influence in the global extremist movement," he said, according to the Daily Telegraph.

As the beheading of a second American journalist places a renewed focus on IS, the monstrous rise of the terrorist group is becoming slowly uncovered as Iraqi and Western forces continue to unearth information about its lucrative sources of revenue, which have fuelled its spread across Iraq and Syria.

Just days before IS swept through Mosul, Iraqi officials had seized vital information from one of the terror group's military heads. An official told the Guardian that "before

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

We fondly remember one of our founder partners



M. Saifur Rahman
6 October 1932 - 5 September 2009
From all at
Rahman Rahman Huq
Chartered Accountants