

Dhaka drowned, gridlocked

Rain, lax traffic management combine to make city life miserable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Just a few hours' rain, and the city's traffic system went haywire yesterday, causing immense public sufferings.

The downpour along with a heavily overcast sky and occasional thunder and lightning started around 7:00am when students, officegoers and day labourers set out for their destinations.

It continued until 11:00am intermittently, but the situation worsened gravely for the Gulshan and Baridhara people after police restricted traffic movements in the area to facilitate Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's passage for inauguration of Police Plaza Concord Bhaban near the National Shooting Complex at Gulshan-1 at noon.

As a result, motorists and commuters got stuck in long tailbacks on rain-submerged roads for hours.

Experts and town planners blame this on unplanned urbanisation, poor traffic management and inadequate drainage system in the city of about 16 million people.

The Met office termed the first monsoon shower "normal" -- just 64 millimetre of rain from 6:00am to 6:00pm yesterday.

Meanwhile, five people died in a trawler capsizing in a Bhola river swelled by the rain while the Barisal river port authorities suspended operation of

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With most of the streets waterlogged due to rain, long tailbacks on the thoroughfares tested the patience of city dwellers and commuters yesterday. The photo was taken on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue near Farmgate around 2:00pm. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Six killed in trawler capsizing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bhola

Six people, including four children, drowned and at least 12 others went missing as a trawler with around 50 passengers capsized in the Meghna river in Monpara upazila yesterday.

Police identified the dead as Jesmin, 22, her daughter Rupa, 3, Ayesha Khatun, 65, and three children -- Mishu, 2, Tanju, 3, and Tahmina, 3.

The trawler from Kalatoli Abashan Bazar Ghat sank near Ramnewaz Katar Khal area in the river around 11:30am amid an inclement weather, reported UNB.

The news agency, however, claimed eight bodies were recovered from the river after the incident.

The engine-run trawler was salvaged around 3:00pm, reports our correspondent.

Bangladesh Coast Guard SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Rubel disappointed to miss the Test

NAIMUL KARIM

Bangladesh pace bowler Rubel Hossain on Thursday said that he was 'disappointed to miss out' the one-off Test against India.



"Bangladesh does not get to play too many Tests, so there's no doubt that I am not disappointed to miss out. But there's nothing I can do now," said the front-line bowler to The Daily Star over phone, a day after the Bangladesh think-tank surprisingly dropped him in an attempt to get the best out of him in the coming three ODIs.

While the match in question is now at the mercy of rain, which completely washed out the second day's play at Fatuallah yesterday, Rubel's statement echoed the sentiment of the Tigers fans, who were equally disappointed for not seeing the pacer in the playing eleven.

The 25-year-old fast bowler, who created a ripple in the World Cup and

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Blame it on the girls

School question paper holds dress, gesture reason behind harassment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a shocking display of what experts term is utter disrespect towards women, a Dhaka school has recently set a question for its seventh graders construing women's way of clothing as being responsible for harassment.

During the first-term exam on Islam and Moral Studies paper on Tuesday, students of National Ideal School and College came across the "discriminatory and provocative" question in the creative section.

Question 8 of the paper says: "Faria is a class-VII student of Ideal School. She tries to portray herself as ultra-modern through her way of clothing and movement. Local ill-mannered boys stalk her on her way to school and coaching. Compelled, her mother either herself accompanies her to the coaching or sends someone else with her. Religious Studies teacher Sharmin Ma'am said it is possible to avoid many untoward incidents if men and women maintain decency and wear decent clothes."

Then there were four questions, the first of which was: "What is decency?"

And the last one was: "In what way can Faria conduct herself to protect herself from the stalkers?"

As the matter came to light, the school authorities yesterday suspended Nur Uddin, the Islamic Studies teacher who had set the questions.

"He's made a major mistake," said Maksud Uddin, principal of the school.

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HUMAN TRAFFICKERS Number grows 6 times in 2 years

SHARIFUL ISLAM

The number of human traffickers increased sixfold in the last two years, according to a police probe report.

The probe, conducted recently, has found that 1,347 human traffickers are active across the country. A 2013 report put the number at 230.

A list of the human traffickers was sent to the home ministry and other departments concerned a couple of weeks ago, said a top police official.

The list, however, did not include any

godfathers with political influence or corrupt members of any law enforcement agency, said officials in the police headquarters.

The Daily Star in an investigation found a section of corrupt law enforcers and criminals with political influence, and 15 godfathers were involved in the illicit trade. They rose from rags to riches in less than a decade.

In Thailand, involvement of top army officials was discovered and political leaders were arrested after investigation found their involvement in the horrifying human trade.

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TOP QUOTE

"I hoped, given the amount of evidence, there would have been a full and clear investigation into the allegations. But that does not appear to have happened."

BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER
ROBERT GIBSON
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