

# MONSOON BLESSING



The pitch black water of Buriganga, right, has changed its hue within the space of the last one month, left. The monsoon not only brings woes to the residents of Dhaka city where most streets are potholed, but also life to the otherwise dying and murky Buriganga, known as the capital's lifeline. The photo on the left was taken on July 2 and the one on the right on June 2.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Mangroves thriving along Chitra's banks

UNB, Bagerhat

those in the Sundarbans.

No wonder the locals have already started calling it "Mini Sundarban", though one should not expect to come across Sundarbans' wild animals.

It is the nature of most mangroves to disperse seeds by water while the sandy loam of the Chitra as well as the increase of salinity in water may have been responsible for the creation of the vegetation, according to experts.

Locals also recount that the vegetation has gradually taken a shape "very similar to that of the Sundarbans due to an exodus of plants from the Sundarbans over the last 20 years".

The path of travel of the mangrove seeds is also traceable along the banks of the river, some 15 kilometres across

Chitalmari, Fakirhat and Bagerhat sadar upazilas.

Ayub Ali, a boatman of Kharia Ghat, said, "The plants are growing by themselves. People are cutting down the plants and meeting their necessities, but the plants are growing again and again. The chars on both sides of the river are abound with these plants. It looks like the Sundarbans."

Anil Ray, an elderly person of Arulia village, noted that the mangrove trees have spread along a 15-kilometre stretch of the river -- from the Godara embankment in Fakirhat upazila to sadar upazila.

He also noted that the vegetation was moving towards habitation due to frequent erosion of the river's eastern banks.

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## 'DU Hizb ut man' held

DU CORRESPONDENT

An alleged activist of banned Islamist outfit Hizb ut-Tahrir was caught with anti-state books, leaflets and CDs at Dhaka University's arts building yesterday afternoon.

Students caught Abdul Matin, master's student of the Institute of Education and Research, while he was trying to indoctrinate a psychology teacher in his room.

DU Acting Proctor M Amzad Ali said Matin was suspended from the university and was handed over to Shahbagh police, who later handed him over to the Detective Branch.

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## Comilla city life quite bumpy

UNB, Comilla

Cracks and potholes have developed in most of the road stretching around 500 kilometres in Comilla City Corporation area, causing inconvenience to movement of vehicles and pedestrians.

In the rainy season, the roads become a quagmire after many parts of them erode into holes.

Even after a short rainfall, water covers the potholes of the roads due to improper drainage system.

In many areas, potholes have turned into shallow pools due to stagnant water.

Lack of repair work, absence of a system to drain out the rainwater and poor maintenance by the authorities concerned are responsible for the waterlogging keeping these roads in awful condition.

The news agency found that deep potholes have been created on the roads from Dharmapur East Chaumuhani to Badshah Mia Bazar in the Station Road area.

Besides, big potholes have developed in many areas, including Kandirpar Pubali Chattar to Dharmapur on the Nazrul Avenue, Ranibazar Road and Dharmapur to Victoria College Road.

These roads go under water even after a slight rainfall.

As the roads are not fit for vehicular movement, rickshaws, auto-rickshaws and other vehicles have to struggle to cross the roads amid high risk of accident.

Sufferings of the city dwellers in the area from Kandirpar to Police Line know no bound due to the dilapidated condition of the road.

Hedayet Ullah, lecturer of Comilla Victoria Government College, said the road from Pubali Chattar to Dharmapur lies battered with many potholes and remains unfit for use.

Shah Alam Majumdar, a businessman, claimed that the Station Road is an important road in the city and so many big potholes have been created on the road as it has not seen any repair work in the last 10 years.

Nagar Bhaban sources said the drainage work of Kandirpar to Police Line Road had started and after its completion, road repair work will start.

CCC Executive Engineer Sheikh Mohammad Nurullah said reconstruction works of 116 roads, involving Tk 12.85 crore, are expected to start by July 13.

IGP rebuts Khaleda's claim about cops carrying out arson attacks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's statement over police force regarding arson attacks during country-wide blockade was not true, said Inspector General of Police AKM Shahidul Hoque yesterday.

He said such statement from a responsible person was not expected.

"It will be a pity if anyone gives such political statement to harm police's reputation," he added.

The IGP was addressing a press briefing on law and order situation during Ramadan and Eid-ul-Fitr at the police headquarters in the capital.

Khaleda Zia on Saturday at an iftar party in the capital claimed that policemen carried out arson attacks during the BNP-led 20-party alliance's anti-government movement earlier this year.

About the law and order situation, IGP Shahidul said police would be alert to stop extortions on highways and launch terminals during Eid-ul-Fitr rush.

They will also work to ease gridlock on highways, he added.

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৩১ জুলাই, ২০১৫ পর্যন্ত

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