

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

Mangroves are coming to life on the Chitra river's banks and floodplains northwest of Bagerhat district, some 60 kilometres off the Sundarbans.

A recent visit along a four-kilometre stretch of Jahudanga, Arulia and Shrirampur villages in Chitalmari upazila revealed that various flora including Sundari, Golpata and Kewra have not only sprung up in huge patches on uninhabited parts of the chars but also crept up village yards.

In some parts, the vegetation is so dense that it gives the impression of a full-fledged mangrove forest. The trees are bent towards the water surface while their trunks are inundated -- like

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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Mangroves have swept the banks and floodplains of the Chitra river in the northwestern part of Bagerhat district, some 60 kilometres off the Sundarbans. The photo was taken at Charer Jhaudanga area recently.

PHOTO: BISNU PROSHAD CHAKRABORTTY

'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 Shabbagh police, who later handed him over to the Detective Branch.

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 Chatter to Dharmapur on the Nazrul Avenue, Ranirbazar 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 Chatter 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.

তামাদি/অনিয়মিত পলিসি পুনর্বহালের বিশেষ সুযোগ

৩১ জুলাই, ২০১৫ পর্যন্ত

কর্পোরেশনের সম্মানিত বীমাগ্রাহকগণ তামাদি ও অনিয়মিত পলিসির প্রিমিয়াম সম্পূর্ণ বিলম্ব মাসুল (Late fee) ছাড়া আগামী ৩১ জুলাই, ২০১৫ তারিখ পর্যন্ত প্রদান করতে পারবেন।

এ সুবিধা নিম্নোক্ত শর্ত সাপেক্ষে প্রযোজ্য হবেঃ-

(ক) প্রিমিয়াম দেয় তারিখ ০১ জানুয়ারি, ২০১৪ হতে বর্তমান তারিখের মধ্যে হতে হবে।

(খ) প্রয়োজনীয় ডাক্তারী চাহিদাদির ক্ষেত্রে ডিজিটাইজ প্রদান করলে চলবে।

(গ) সাধারণ ও বিশেষ পুনর্বহাল করা যাবে এবং উভয় ক্ষেত্রেই বিলম্ব মাসুল (Late fee) প্রদান করতে হবে না, তবে পুনর্বহালের ক্ষেত্রে বয়স বৃদ্ধিজনিত পার্থক্য প্রিমিয়াম প্রদান করতে হবে এবং বীমাযোগ্য বয়সের মধ্যে হতে হবে।

নিয়মিত প্রিমিয়াম জমা দিন।

আপনার পরিবারের আর্থিক সুরক্ষা নিশ্চিত করুন।

BNP leader dies in jail custody

Khaleda demands judicial probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A former ward councillor of Dhaka city and former general secretary of Motijheel thana unit of BNP died in Dhaka Central Jail custody Saturday.

Mosleh Uddin, 60, who was arrested at the capital's Kamalapur on June 1, was remanded in an arson case filed during the anti-government movement this year.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in a statement demanded judicial probe into the death terming it "unnatural."

Around 10:30pm Saturday, he fell sick in the jail and he was declared dead at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, jail sources told The Daily Star.

Some of his relatives said he became sick during the remand. His nephew Sharif Uddin Bappi, however, said Mosleh had been suffering from high blood pressure and chest pain.

LIQUID COCAINE HAUL

Court directs CPA to preserve evidence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong court yesterday directed the Chittagong Port Authority to preserve all evidence and samples related to the seizure of a barrel of cocaine at Chittagong Port on June 6.

It also directed the CPA, customs intelligence and customs department to help the Detective Branch of police conduct the probe properly. According to the court order, the evidence and seized items would be kept under the supervision of CPA's security department to be protected from rainwater and other harmful things,

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