



Renovation has long eluded this nearly inoperable road in the capital's DIT industrial area, where some 200 big and small factories are located. Some factory staff said the 13 roads in the area had been in a dilapidated condition for the last five years. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

War crimes verdict on nine Jessore men any day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Crimes Tribunal-1 will deliver a verdict any day in a case filed against nine alleged Razakars, including former Jamaat-e-Islami and BNP lawmaker Shakhawat Hossain, from Jessore's Keshobpur upazila facing five charges of crimes allegedly committed in the district during the 1971 Liberation War.

Moreover, the tribunal decided to try 14 accused in absentia for their alleged war-time offences as they did not respond to advertisements asking them to appear before it.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Anwarul Haque with members Justice Md Shahinur Islam and Justice Md Shohrovardi kept the Jessore case waiting for verdict after both the prosecution and defence counsels completed placing closing arguments.

Shakhawat, now involved in Jatiya Party's politics, and Billal Hossain Biswas are in jail and Lutfar Morol died of old age complications on May 6.

The rest, Ibrahim Hossain, Sheikh Md Mujibur Rahman, Kazi Ohidul Islam, Aziz Sardar, Aziz Sardar and Abdul Khaleq Morol, are on the run.

Prosecutor Zead Al Malum said they were able to prove all charges and prayed for capital punishment. Refuting this, defence counsels Abdus Sattar Palwan and Abdus Shukur Khan prayed for acquittal.

The prosecution on July 26, 2015 pressed charges against 12 people over the killing of two persons, rape of one and torture on two others in the Bangla month of Ashwin (between mid-September and mid-October).

The tribunal accepted charges against the nine on September 8 and cleared the other three.

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DIT INDUSTRIAL AREA

Battered roads impeding business for years

HELEMLU ALAM

The DIT industrial area in the capital's Shyampur is a hub of around 200 big and small factories, but authorities have neglected its roads for a long time, impeding smooth business operations.

Drivers and commuters said goods-carrying vehicles often tripped over or got stuck in the potholes filled with dirty water; it damaged both vehicles and goods.

"There are 13 roads in the DIT area and the condition of the entire network is very bad," said Mohammad Manik Mia, staff of a local dyeing factory. The roads have been in a bad shape for the last five years, but they have been terrible in the last two years, he said.

"How will we run business here if the road condition remains the same? It is very difficult to drive a vehicle in

the area," said Mohammad Jasim Uddin, staff of Three Star Dyeing.

Rickshaw-van puller Billal often finds his vehicle damaged, especially during waterlogging.

"I have to spend Tk 600 to Tk 700 to repair my rickshaw-van once it trips over," he said, adding that the damage to goods caused by such accidents was often worth thousands of taka.

Mohammad Sayed Hossain, driver of Shahjadi Dyeing, said he spent Tk 6,000 on Wednesday to repair his pickup van.

He added that repairing had become a routine work because of the poor road conditions.

Fazlul Haque, administrative officer of Civic Appearance Ltd, said a new car could not run for three months on the roads, without needing repair.

If it rains for even half an hour, the roads are flooded knee-deep and become unusable, said Mohammad

Jasim Uddin, staff of Three Star Dyeing.

A poor drainage system is also blamed by local people.

Accusing public representatives of negligence, General Secretary of Shyampur Kadamtali Shilpa Malik Samity Sirajul Islam said, "We often dump rubbish on the roads to keep them operable."

When asked, Shyampur Union Chairman Shafiqur Rahman said the area was not under his jurisdiction. Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) is the authority, and a road rehabilitation initiative is underway, he said.

A staff of Local Government Engineering Division (LGED), who is involved with the initiative, told The Daily Star that renovation of road nos. 1, 2, 3 started before the Eid. The rest will be repaired gradually, he said.

Killing people in name of Islam is not jihad

Says Hefajat chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cig

Hefajat-e-Islam Ameer Shah Ahmed Shafi yesterday said

the recent militant attacks, carried out in the name of Islam targeting foreigners, non-Muslims, and religious personalities, were alarming for Muslims.

"It is very important to find the masterminds through proper investigation," he said in a statement, referring to Gulshan and Sholakia terror strikes. "A few isolated criminals cannot conduct these terrorist attacks without the backing of an influential quarter."

The chief of the qawmi madrasa based Islamist organisation said murdering people by chanting "Allahu Akbar" and using the name of Islam was not jihad. "Evil forces are engaged in conspiracies to disrupt and foil development, advancement, and national unity of Bangladesh. They are trying to uproot Islam in the country."

Shafi said to achieve their goal they were misleading some simple minded Muslim youths through wrong interpretation of Islam. He called for national unity against the "plot", and urged Islamic scholars, leaders, imams and khatibs of mosques to play a strong role for disseminating proper knowledge and teachings of Islam.

DISCIPLINE IN TRANSPORT SECTOR

Only drives against vehicles won't work

Says Obaidul Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Maintaining discipline in the road transport sector remains a major challenge for the government, said Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday.

That is why the government is conducting drives against unfit and unregistered vehicles on a regular basis, he added.

The minister was talking to the reporters while overseeing a mobile court drive against unfit and unregistered vehicles in the capital's Babubazar area.

Most of the motorcycle riders in the capital are now abiding by rules due to the continuous drive of the mobile courts, the minister said.

Apart from enforcing law, Quader categorically put emphasis on building public awareness about obeying rules so that chaos was not created in this sector.

"It does not matter how many drives we conduct. It will not bring any benefit until the people become aware and change their behaviour," he mentioned.

Replying to a question, he once again said the killing of seven Japanese citizens, who were involved in the ongoing Metro rail Project, will not affect the project's implementation.

Twenty hostages including seven Japanese were killed in a terror attack on a café in the capital's Gulshan area on July 1.

Court refuses to take cases against N'ganj teacher Shyamal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

A Narayanganj court yesterday rejected appeals to file two cases against Shyamal Kanti Bhakta who was humiliated in public in presence of an MP, and fixed tomorrow to respond to another.

Of the appeals rejected by Narayanganj Judicial Magistrate Saiduzzaman Sharif, one was filed by one Rina Begum accusing Shyamal of beating her son Rifat Hassan, a student of Piyar Sattar Latif High School in Bandar area, on May 8 and 13, say court sources.

The other was filed by a local of Kalyandi, Samchhul Haque Samchhu, accusing the headmaster of making derogatory comments about religion and hurting religious sentiments.

The pending appeal was filed by English teacher Morsheda Begum intending to file a case accusing Shyamal of taking a bribe of Tk 1.35 lakh on giving false promises of ensuring to enlist her for the monthly pay order.

On May 13, Shyamal was physically assaulted by a mob over allegations that he made derogatory comments about religion while beating a student.

Salim Osman, Jatiya Party lawmaker from Narayanganj-5, was then seen making Shyamal hold his ears and do squats in public, sparking outrage across the country.

The headmaster went on a seven day leave from July 12 for eye treatment.

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