

Cratered roads, bumpy rides in port city

Commuters' sufferings continue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Majority of the roads in the port city have developed large craters owing to the recent rains, jeopardising vehicular movement and putting commuters in peril.

Moreover, innumerable small to large potholes developed and asphalt eroded away in many parts.

Bayezid Bostami road, CDA avenue, Arakan road, Sursion road, Sheikh Mujib road, SS Khaled road, Hazi Chan Miah Road, Katalanj road, Airport road and KB Aman Ali road are among the roads worst affected.

"It is very difficult to pull rickshaw on these dilapidated roads," a rickshaw puller, Badsha Mia, told this correspondent on Thursday.

"I remain in constant fear thinking of when the vehicles I ride on will overturn due to the cracks and potholes," said Asik Ahmed, a commuter.

Public sufferings apart, engines of most of the vehicles get damaged as they are to regularly ply the roads, said CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver Mohammad Rafique, urging the authorities to repair them as soon as possible.

Subhash Barua, an urban planner, however, castigated poor quality of work in road construction for their terrible state.

Repair work of the roads is going on so that the people can use them for the time being, said Lt Col Mohiuddin Ahamed, chief engineer of Chittagong City Corporation.

It is not possible to start the full-fledged renovation work during the monsoon, he added.

Mentioning that they could not embark upon major renovation work as such in the last five years primarily due to a shortage of funds, the official said they hoped to start the work at the beginning of next year.

I remain in constant fear thinking of when the vehicles I ride on get upside down due to the cracks and potholes



With potholes and craters developing in many of the port city roads as the rains continue to drench it for a couple days, travelling in those areas has turned into a nightmare. The photo was taken on Monday in Steel Mill area.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Ctg couple found dead in house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A newly married couple have been found dead in their Chandgaon house in Chittagong city on Friday night.

The body of Biplab Mia Bipul, 21, was lying on the floor while his wife Lima Akter's, 19, was hanging from the ceiling fan, said police, adding that the bodies bore no injury marks.

Biplab of Gaibandha and Lima of Patuakhali -- both RMG workers -- got married three months ago, said Chandgaon Police Station Officer-in-Charge Abu Mohammad Shahjahan Kabir.

Both of their families reside in the same area of Chittagong, said Shahjahan.

Biplab had been suffering from low blood pressure for some days and he took treatment from local quacks, the OC quoted the family members as saying.

Biplab's condition might have worsened in the afternoon and Lima was trying to recover him by pouring water on his head, he said, adding, "The hair of Biplab was wet."

"When Lima realised that Biplab was no more, she committed suicide...," the OC suspects.

The bodies were sent to Chittagong Medical College morgue for autopsies. The reason behind the deaths will be known after getting the post-mortem reports, he said.

Two unnatural death cases were filed.

AL, BNP to join House of Lords seminar on Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An Awami League (AL) delegation is now in London while another of BNP left Dhaka yesterday morning to attend a seminar at the House of Lords on July 19 on Bangladesh's current situation.

Sources say issues including political development, human rights, militant attacks, media freedom and freedom of expression might be discussed.

Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir is leading the BNP delegation, said party sources.

AL five-member delegation is being led by Prime Minister's Political Affairs Adviser HT Imam.

EC's smart nat'l ID card project falters

UNB, Dhaka

The Election Commission has failed to initiate the distribution of smart national identity cards (NIDs) among citizens despite its plan to complete it by June last.

EC officials now say the commission will soon start the distribution of machine readable cards to replace the existing laminated ones, but there is no timeline to launch it.

"We will start the distribution of smart cards very soon, but there is no specific date," said EC Secretary Sirazul Islam.

The EC will provide the high security featured cards in Dhaka and Panchagarh or any northern district first. "It will take at least 18 months to complete the distribution work," he told the news agency.

In January 2015, a French digital security company, 'Oberthur Technologies', got the Tk 796 crore contract for production and

distribution of 90 million smart NID cards with 25 security features within 18 months.

The firm was scheduled to start the smart NID card production in September 2015 with a target to produce six million cards a month.

As the commission failed to distribute the smart cards within the stipulated time, the IDEA project period was extended to December 2017 from the July 2016 a few months back.

A team of the World Bank, the co-financer of the project, also reviewed its overall progress in June last.

Besides, an EC team, led by EC Secretary Sirazul Islam, has recently visited France to gather knowledge about the production and distribution of smart cards.

The 10-digit smart cards will be distributed free under the EC's Identification System for Enhancing Access to Services (IDEA) project.

NEWS IN brief

140 cops promoted to ASP

UNB, Dhaka

Some 140 police inspectors have been promoted to the post of assistant superintendent of police (ASP).

The home ministry issued a notification signed by Deputy Secretary (Police-1) Md Ilias Ali in this regard yesterday.

According to the notification, the promoted police officers include 100 unarmed police, 22 armed police and 18 traffic police.

This is for the first time such a large number of non-cadre police officers got promotion to the rank of cadre officers. Earlier, 86 police inspectors were promoted to ASP last year.

German Resource Centre launched for teaching German language

BSS, Dhaka

German Resource Centre (GRC) has been formally inaugurated to educate Bangladeshi students about German language to ensure their access to higher education in Germany.

SSBCL-Dhaka and Berlin and Germany-based EURASIA Institute for International Education (EIE) initiated GRC. "From now on, the students will get German Language Education (A1,A2,B1) from GRC in the capital and major cities in Bangladesh," Chairman and Managing Director of SSBCL Group Sumon Talukder told a meet the press at a hotel in the capital.

GRC Chief Executive Officer Mujtoba Ahmed Murshed and Coordinator Eberhard Sucker also addressed the meet the press.

Body of unidentified woman found

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Police recovered the body of an unidentified woman from Dhormo Tala Rail Line area in Jessore Sadar early Friday.

Edris Ali, in-charge of Jessore GRP police check post, said locals saw the body and informed police.

Later, police recovered the body and sent it to Jessore Medical College Hospital for an autopsy.

A case was filed.

JU classes resume tomorrow

JU CORRESPONDENT

Classes at Jahangirnagar University will resume tomorrow after a 41-day long vacation during the summer and on the occasion of Ramadan and Eid-ul-Fitr.

The university went into the vacation on June 7.

Govt failed to stop attacks

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hold rallies until peace is restored... Common people are unsafe. Foreigners are being killed. What might be more shameful for the country than this," he said.

On the Gulshan café attack, Opposition Leader Raushan Ershad called upon the government to reorganise police, citing intelligence failure.



Vegetable traders set up makeshift shops occupying Mazar Road in the capital's Mirpur-1, obstructing vehicular movement. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Five women mountaineers honoured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five young women mountaineers were honoured at a press conference at the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

Iffat Farhana, Fowzia Ahmed, Shayla Parvin, Reshma Nahar and Bibi Khadiza finished a 28-day training on mountaineering from India's Nehru Institute of Mountaineering, which was sponsored by Fair & Lovely Foundation. The training started on May 27.

At the news conference, organised by Bangladesh Mountaineering and Trekking Club, speakers saw the successful completion of the training as a symbol of women's advancement.

Rights activist Sultana Kamal and former adviser to a caretaker government Geeteera Safiya Choudhury, among others, spoke.

4 Bagerhat men

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probable prosecution witnesses and victims and they needed to be detained in jail for the sake of a "proper investigation", she said.

The accused were involved with Muslim League and during the Liberation War they joined Razakar Bahini, the Pakistani occupation army's auxiliary force, she told The Daily Star. The tribunal fixed August 22 to pass the next order.

Spread true spirit

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Md Kajimur Rashid, assistant commissioner (intelligence) of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP), said they had information about militants' visit to a few city mosques including Mehediabagh, Grihayan, and Anderkilla.

Abul Hayat Mohammad Tareq, Chittagong divisional director of Islamic Foundation, was also present.

DC Mesbah Uddin said he would convey the imams and khatibs' recommendations to higher authorities.

9 die in

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Friday when his truck collided with a bus on Pirganj-Rangpur road at Daudpur village, died at RMCH yesterday.

In Shatkira, a woman died and four others were injured when a human hauler hit a trolley on Kumira-Keshobpur road in the district's Tala upazila, reports our Shatkira correspondent.

Deceased Omela Rani, 30, was of Keshobpur upazila of Jessore.

Our Natore correspondent adds: A motorcyclist died instantly when a truck rammied into his bike at Haybatpur of Sadar upazila.

Deceased Saiful Islam, 35, was of Baraigram upazila.

Use of only force won't

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rather it creates vindictiveness in minds. Bring the suspects to trial and give them an opportunity to return to normal life."

Addressing the programme, SHUIAN Secretary Badiul Alam Majumdar said that to neutralise radicals and prevent youths from being lured into militancy, there was no alternative to launching a massive de-radicalisation campaign.

Use of extra force is not a solution to curb extremism; rather it might compound the problem, he observed.

"When the spread of radicalism and militancy is politically motivated, it becomes a curse. Its roots run deep today despite the government's zero tolerance measures. It proves that the government's policy to fight militancy is wrong because it is based on only use of force," he added.

He said the struggle to get rid of this problem must be all-encompassing and long-term. "As it is a national problem, we have to root out the problem through dis-

cussion, debate, and argument."

Majumdar also said a strong unity among all secular and democratic forces beyond partisanship was a must.

While talking about the causes of militancy, Gonoshasthaya Kendra founder Zafrullah Chowdhury said, "Militancy is a protest, but its language is different and method wrong. When discriminations and lack of freedom of speech prevail in society, militancy arises. Only democracy is not the solution; rather it needs accountability."

Protesting Bangladesh Islamic Foundation's decision to recite a common khutba (sermon) during juma prayers at all mosques across the country, local government expert Tofail Ahmed said, "A pluralistic culture also prevails in mosques. It is dangerous to select the content of khutba centrally; local Muslims should decide it."

SHUIAN's Sylhet chapter formed a similar human chain in front of Sylhet Central Shaheed Minar.

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