



DARKNESS CREEPS INTO KARNAPHULI

Like Roy Bahadur Khal, various canals carrying sewage and garbage from the port city flow into the Karnaphuli river every day, slowly diminishing its grandeur and ability to sustain aquatic life. This mindless dumping of waste is gradually killing the river, the lifeline for Chittagong city and the country's premier port, which needs immediate intervention of the authorities concerned. The photo was taken at Sadarghat Banglabazar on September 6.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Ripon could not paint his life

RASHIDUL HASAN and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Ripon Das had wanted to start living together with his newly-wed wife. He had sought to see his parents too. All of a sudden, his expectations were shattered with the tragic end of his fight with burns at Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday.

A painting operator of Tongi's Tampaco Foils factory, Ripon married Mukta Rani Das just six months ago and had a plan to take her to his Tongi residence in Gazipur.

Ripon was scheduled to visit his parents and wife at Morelganj in Bagerhat on Saturday - the last day of office before Eid-ul-Azha.

With over 92 percent burns Ripon, 30, succumbed to his injuries at the ICU of the burn unit around 3:00am yesterday following Saturday's deadly blast caused by a massive inferno at the factory, said Partha Sarkar Pal, a residential surgeon.

Mukta said she was staying in her father's residence in Morelganj. "I was supposed to go to my husband's house and stay with him in Tongi after completion of my HSC exams likely to be held in March next year," she said with tears rolling down her cheeks.

An emotional Mukta said Ripon told her that he would travel to Morelganj after end of his duty at 2:00pm on Saturday.

Ripon's colleague Pobitra Biswas said as soon as he [Ripon] entered the factory around 6:00am, massive fire broke out triggered by explosions.

Thirty-one people mostly workers so far died while around 50 others suffered injuries when flames tore through at the

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NEWS IN brief

PM to exchange greetings on Eid day

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will exchange greetings with people, including party leaders and workers, judges and foreign diplomats, at her official Ganobhaban residence on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha tomorrow.

Sheikh Hasina, also the Awami League chief, will first exchange Eid greetings with the people of all classes and professions from 9:00am to 11:00am and with judges and foreign diplomats from 11:00am, PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim told BSS.

Police still to identify killers of Ctg Jubo League leader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police could not identify the killers of Jahirul Hasan, a ward-level Jubo League leader, who was shot dead near his residence at Satkania upazila of Chittagong on Saturday.

Quoting his wife, Sub-inspector Joynal Abedin of Satkania Police Station said Jahirul had previous enmity with some locals.

Officer-in-Charge Fariduddin Khandakar of the station said police are investigating the incident and filing of a case was underway.

US embassy closed on Tuesday, Wednesday

UNB, Dhaka

The US embassy in Dhaka will remain closed on Tuesday and Wednesday on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha, said a press release.

The closure also includes its consular section, The American Center with the Archer K Blood American Center Library and the EducationUSA Student Advising Center. Emergency services for American citizens will be available.

Two Ctg men held with phensedyl

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested two people with 500 bottles of phensedyl in Port Connecting Road area under Halishahar Police Station in Chittagong city on Saturday.

The arrestees are Abul Hossain, 40, of Mirsharai upazila and Md Reaz, 27, of Satkania upazila, said a press release of Rab-7 yesterday.

On information, a team of Rab-7 conducted a drive in the area and caught the duo with the phensedyls while they were waiting to trade those, it added.

Obituary: Surat Ali Khan

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Surat Ali Khan, father of Baufal Press Club's President and Baufal Correspondent of the Bangladesh Protidin Harun-Or-Rashid, died due to old-age complications at his residence in Najirpur village under the upazila of Patuakhali on Saturday. He was 95.

He left behind four sons and a daughter. He was buried in his family graveyard.

Obituary: Rabeya Begum

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Rabeya Begum, mother of Foyez Ahmed, Dashmina upazila correspondent of the daily Khaborpatra; died due to respiratory diseases at her residence in Alipur village under the upazila of Patuakhali yesterday. She was 90.

She left behind two sons and four daughters. She was buried in her family graveyard.

Obituary: Suria Begum

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Suria Begum, mother of district correspondent of News Today and Pirganj correspondent of Daily Somokal Mokaddes Hayat Milon, died due to breast cancer at a Dhaka hospital yesterday. She was 59.

She left behind her husband, former Pirganj Union Parishad chairman Mostafa Alam; two sons and a daughter. She was buried in Joddopir graveyard in Pirganj upazila.

Easy bikes plaguing Khulna city

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

Over 13,000 unauthorised battery-run auto-rickshaws are plying Khulna city streets and the number of the vehicle, popularly known as easy bike, is increasing day by day causing a public nuisance.

According to Khulna City Corporation sources, KCC gave licences to 6,927 easy bikes since 2010.

The traffic department of Khulna Metropolitan Police, however, said over 20,000 such vehicles were operating.

At least six associations of the vehicle owners deal with the operation in and outside the city where more than 25,000 easy bikes are running, said the owners. They, however, do not know the exact figure. Sirajul Islam Manik, president of Khulna Easy Bike Owners Association, said many operated the

vehicles only for private purposes for which they were not responsible. The traffic sources said five percent of the easy bikes belong to private owners.

Assistant Police Commissioner (Traffic) of KMP Tareq Al Mehedi said many including small traders, university students and homemakers were operating easy bikes for earning money.

Some of them drive the vehicles themselves while some hire drivers, he said. Most drivers are not trained and break traffic rules, causing accidents and hampering the vehicular movement.

Due to the bikes, pedestrians face difficulties to cross city intersections including Satrasta, Picture Palace, Dak Bangla, Shibbari, Moylapota, Gollamari, BL college, Sonadanga bus terminal, PTL, Royal, Shantidham, Nirala, Tutpara Kabor Khana, and Notun Rasta. The same

situation is seen at Phul Market, Old Jessore Road, Clay Road, KD Gosh Road, Cemetery Road, Rupsha Ghat, Phulbari Gate and Boikali.

Srabonti Sen, a seventh-grader of Government Coronation Girls School, recently tried in vain more than six times to cross PTI intersection around 11:00am. Finally, she did it with the help of a traffic policeman.

Md Jakir Hossain, who drives easy bike generally from Gallamari to Rupsha Ferry Ghat, has been hospitalised for one month after his vehicle and another auto-rickshaw collided at Moylapota recently. Five passengers were injured.

Hasan Mahmud, a trader at KCC Super Market, said the easy bike drivers had no minimum knowledge about traffic rules.

With anger Parvez Sikder, a student of ICMA near Rupsha Bridge,

said, "The easy bike has turned into a trouble bike."

Sheikh Abdul Kayyum, a freedom fighter and chairperson of Khulna Citizens Forum working for civic rights, said the drivers should at least be given immediate training.

Acknowledging the facts, KCC Mayor (in-charge) Md Anisur Rahman told this correspondent that they had requested the KMP commissioner several times to take necessary actions against those unauthorised vehicles.

Some police officials, seeking anonymity, said they sometimes faced difficulties to take actions as some influential political leaders from the ruling Awami League were behind this.

Denying the allegation, city AL president Saiful Islam said some people impersonating the party men were doing so.

US, UK leaders greet Muslims

UNB, Dhaka

US President Barack Obama, First Lady Michelle Obama and British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson have extended their greetings to Muslims worldwide on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha.

Obama and Michelle also extended their congratulations to the pilgrims who have just performed the Hajj.

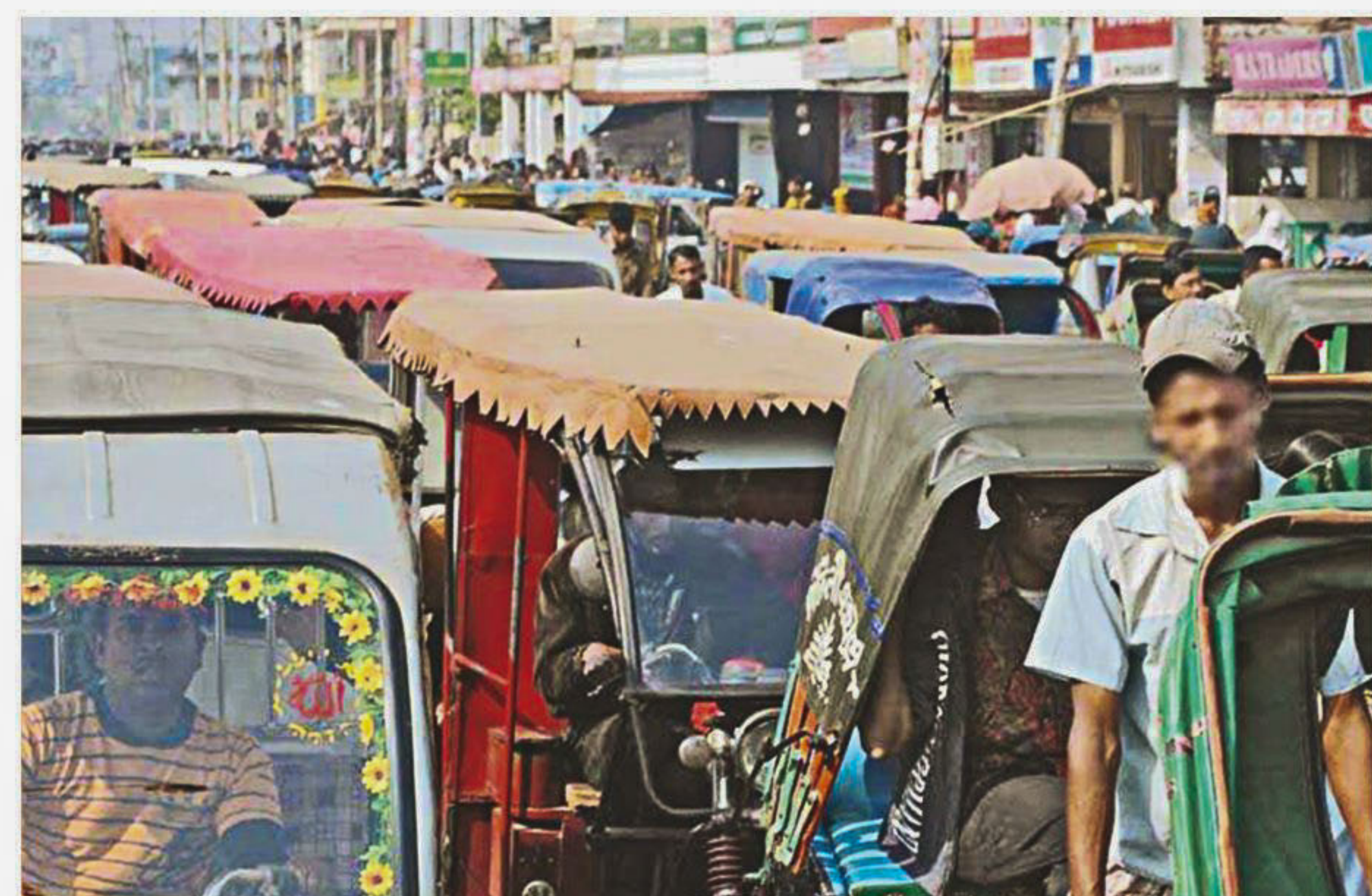
"In addition to being a time of celebration, Eid al-Adha is a time for charity..." Obama said in a message.

"Service, sacrifice, and peace building lie among the shared roots and values of people of all faiths. On behalf of the American people, we would like to wish a blessed and joyful Eid to Muslim communities around the world," the message read.

US Secretary of State John Kerry, in a separate message, extended greetings to Muslims worldwide for a blessed Eid ul-Azha and also congratulated this year's hajjis.

British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson has also wished "Eid Mubarak" to all Muslims.

In a message, distributed by the British High Commission in Dhaka yesterday, Johnson said the UK values hugely the contribution made by British Muslims. "My thoughts are with those who due to their circumstances, may be unable to celebrate Eid-ul-Azha this year," the message said.



Dakbanga intersection area of Khulna is gridlocked with easy bikes which are mostly plying the city streets illegally. The photo was taken on Friday.

PHOTO: STAR

Road fatalities

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In Dinajpur, Rubel Mia, of Thakurgaon was killed and 40 other passengers were injured in a head-on collision between two buses on Rangpur-Panchagarh highway in Mukundapur village of Kaharol upazila yesterday.

In Narayanganj, an unidentified woman, aged around 40, was killed as a covered-van hit her while she was getting down from a three-wheeler on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Zangal area yesterday.

In Jhenidah, at least 20 people were injured when a truck hit a BRTC bus on Jhenidah-Magura highway near Pabahati yesterday.

The condition of bus driver Nazmul Hasan and helper Labu Hossain is critical, said police.

In Manikganj, at least 15 passengers were injured as a bus dashed against a roadside tree after a microbus hit it from behind on Dhaka-Aricha highway in Baniajuri of Ghior upazila yesterday.

Police claim 3 'robbers'

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policemen to retaliate that triggered a "gun battle" in the Aoul Bhanga Bridge area of Nabinagar upazila around 1:30am, said Officer-in-Charge of Nabinagar Police Station Md Ymtiaz Ahmed.

Kajol, who was accused in eight cases, was shot dead on the spot, he added.

Three policemen were also injured.

One pipe gun, two cartridges and four machetes were recovered from the spot.

AL announces 2 Dhaka city

FROM PAGE 3

and 3,000 delegates gathered to elect new leadership, which ended without any voting.

Later on April 10, KM Rahmatullah and Sadek Khan have been made president and general secretary of north and Abul Hasnat and Shahey Alam Murad respectively for south.

Sheikh Bazlur Rahman was elected as first vice-president for Dhaka north, SM Mannan Kochi as joint general secretary; Fakir Mohiuddin Ahmed was made organising secretary and Osman Gani was elected as first executive member.

For the south unit: Abul Ahmed Mannafi was made first vice-president, Kamal Chowdhury joint secretary and Hedayetul Islam Swapon was elected as organising secretary.

Modernise madrasa education

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cannot speak Arabic and write it correctly despite reading the subject for many years.

Contacted, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said now there is no big difference between general and madarsa education systems when it comes to curricula except the latter's additional Arabic and Islamic subjects.

"Still, we're taking various steps to modernise and improve Alia madrasa education further. We've set up a separate directorate for madrasa education to give more focus on it. We want the madrasa students to get educated properly with modern knowledge so that they can hold prestigious positions in the society," he said.

REMEMBRANCE

With great love and respect, we remember today our beloved father and founder Chairman, Mr. S. S. F. Ahmed, FCA. He left us on September 15, 2001, for his eternal abode.

May Allah Grant him Blessings and Eternal Peace, and ease our hearts from the pain of his absence.

A Milad Mehfil will be held on this occasion at his village home of Maizbhandar Darbar Sharif on 15th September, 2016 after Asr prayers. Family, friends and colleagues are cordially invited to attend.

Family and Colleagues

