

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT IN CHAOS



Left, A road near Mayor Mohammad Hanif Flyover in Gulistan appears to have turned into a bus terminal as drivers with their buses block traffic to pick up and drop off passengers. Although the authorities recently evicted street vendors in the area to ensure easier traffic and pedestrian movement, the sidewalks have been occupied again by ticket stalls of the bus services and vending carts. **Top right**, Owing to controlling traffic manually for an extensive period of time by police, long tailbacks are common even on the weekend at Bangla Motor intersection. **Bottom right**, rickshaws and motor cars, parked in front of auto spare parts stores near the foot overbridge at the intersection, create a bottleneck. The photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTOS: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Patients suffer as free rabies vaccine supply halts

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

The poor dog bite victims in and around Chittagong city visiting Chittagong General Hospital (CGH) for treatment have to dig into their own pockets as the hospital has stopped providing them with free rabies vaccine for the last 20 days due to the unavailability of supply.

The hospital authorities put up a notice on January 15 that reads the supply of rabies vaccines has stopped temporarily.

As a result, the poor patients are compelled to buy those from nearby drug stores.

Five-year-old Sabbir from the city's Halisahara area was bit by a dog on Wednesday. He was taken to CGH on that day. But his father, a day-labourer, had to buy vaccine from a nearby drug store paying Tk 450.

Another dog bite victim, 40-year-old Mafizul Haque, a RMG worker, said he has heard that the CGH provides free vaccine.

But the hospital staff said they did not have the supply of vaccine, he said expressing his frustration.

"I had to buy vaccine from outside...doctors said I will have to take four vaccines in total in a month," he added.

Mentionable, in Chittagong, dog bite patients get free rabies vaccines only in CGH and the Bangladesh Institute of Tropical and Infectious Diseases at Fajdarhat in the district's Sitakunda upazila.

But patients prefer CGH as it is within the city and easy to reach, said sources in CGH, adding that around 40 dog bite victims take treatment in the hospital every day on an average.

Dr Daisy Barua, emergency medical officer of CGH, said they have not provided free rabies vaccine since January 15 as there is no supply.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

Tobacco causes one third of all cancers: Experts

BSS, Rajshahi

One-third of cancers are caused by tobacco and 80 percent of all tobacco related diseases are caused by smoking, experts told an awareness programme yesterday.

The Department of Oncology and Radiotherapy of Rajshahi Medical College organised it at a restaurant in Rajshahi city.

Prof Dr Dayem Uddin, head of the department, said apart from smoking that causes lung cancer, oral cancer is also caused by tobacco products, commonly found at a low price.

Community mediation to raise rural people's access to justice

Conference on legal aid service told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Community-based mediation can increase rural people's access to justice as it can solve local disputes in a faster and cheaper way than the court, speakers told a conference yesterday.

They urged the government and donor organisations to give more emphasis on the mediation process and sought its legal recognition so that the people can keep faith on it.

The remarks were made at the conference jointly organised by WAVE Foundation, Nagarik Uddyog and Madaripur Legal Aid Association

(MLAA) at a hotel in the capital. The organisations work with UKaid-funded project Community Legal Services (CLS).

Speaking as the chief guest, M Enayetur Rahim, justice of High Court division of the Supreme Court, said the people do not want to rely on the court for its delay in justice delivery, and a huge backlog of cases.

So, they prefer mediation to solve their problems instead of visiting the court, he said, which saves both their time and money.

Mostafizur Rahman, director (in-charge) of National Legal Aid Services

Organisation, said, "Around 80 percent of local disputes are solved locally through arbitration and the rest enrolls at the court. If we cannot solve the disputes this way, the courts' case backlog would become higher."

Although there is a lack of transparency on "traditional arbitration" in some cases, but it can be solved by following community-based mediation process where different representatives of the community will be involved, he said.

The non-government organisations (NGOs) are playing important role in

SEE PAGE 5 COL 7

Many faiths, one race

Emphasises IRHS discussion at DU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People irrespective of beliefs and faiths should work together to establish peace and harmony as all the religions advise to work for the welfare of mankind, said speakers at a discussion yesterday.

Vested quarters are trying to destabilise the society by misinterpreting religions. But such attempt must be resisted through coordinated efforts, they said.

Inter Religion Harmony Society (IRHS) organised the discussion "Religions are many but mankind is one" in the Lecture Theatre at Dhaka University, marking World Interfaith Harmony Week, an annual event, which is observed during the first week of February. Speaking as the chief guest, DU Vice Chancellor AAMS Arefin Siddique said there may be difference among people in terms of religion, race, caste, culture and language. But the most important thing is all are human beings, he added.

IRHS secretary general Monoranjan Ghosal said, "We want peace, not conflict. We want to see Bangladesh free from communalism, fundamentalism and corruption."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

Enhance community police-public link

Quader urges elected reps

BSS, Noakhali

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday underscored the need for enhanced community engagements with police in enforcing a stricter vigil against militancy and social menaces like drug abuse particularly by empowering community polices.

"Joint efforts is a must to curb militancy and drug abuse... members of community police can help police force in creating mass awareness among people and keep society free from the menace like drug abuse," he said while speaking at "Community Policing Meeting-2017" at Shaheed Bhulu Stadium in Noakhali.

Quader, also Awami League general secretary, said the key responsibility of the community police should be to create awareness among people against all sorts of drug abuse, militancy and criminal activities alongside keeping a close touch with police for punitive actions.

He urged elected representatives in the local government bodies to play a role in promoting community police and ensure its closer links with the people in the neighbourhood.

The minister asked the local leaders to do some good works for the interest of the masses and not to blame police for all things.

Speaking on the occasion, Inspector General of Police (IGP) AKM Shahidul Haque termed the community policing as a philosophy that helps police to get many unknown information about society.

Lawmakers Ayesha Ferdous, Mamunur Rashid Kiron, Morshed Alam and AHM Ibrahim, Noakhali District Council Chairman Dr ABM Jafor Ullah, Deputy Commissioner Badre Munir Ferdous and district unit of Community Police President Kazi Rafiq Ullah, General Secretary Golam Akbar and District unit president of Awami League Khairul Alam Selim, among others, were present.

Noakhali Police Super Mohamamd Elias Sharif presided over the programme.

Error-ridden textbooks must be withdrawn

Demands human chain; those will be amended: Inu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The "error-ridden textbooks" distributed by the government this year contain communal elements, which must be withdrawn as they may have negative impacts on children, said speakers at a human chain yesterday.

They also called for inclusion of the writings of progressive writers, and collaboration between National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) and Bangla Academy, in a seven-point charter of demands.

The human chain was organised by Kendrio Khelaghar Ashor, a children's organisation, at the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

Prof Panna Kaiser, chairperson, presidium body of the organisation, and Abul Fara Palash, its general secretary, also spoke.

Meanwhile, Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu yesterday said the subversive materials in the textbooks were being inquired into, reports BSS. "The books will soon be brought in line

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



Six internationally acclaimed poets received "Kathak Literary Award 2017" at the Dhaka International Poets Summit 2017 held at the Shilpakala Academy on Friday. The recipients are Tobias Burghardt from Germany, Jona Burghardt from Argentina, Manfred Chobot from Austria, Luz Maria Lopez and Maria de los Angeles Camacho Rivas from Puerto Rico, and Dr Victor Alexandrovich Pogodaev from Russia. Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Rashed Khan Menon attended as chief guest at the programme conducted by poet Aminur Rahman. Eminent Bangladeshi poets including Asad Chowdhury, Habibullah Sirajee, Mohammad Nurul Huda, Hayat Saif and Jahidul Huq also attended and recited poems at the summit.

Climate change threat to winter crops

Farmers tell discussion in Rajshahi

BSS, Rajshahi

Adverse impacts of climate change have triggered recurrence of natural calamities, posing a serious threat to the farming of winter crops, including vegetables, and the living conditions of farmers in Rajshahi, said farmers at a discussion recently.

Duration of winter along with its intensity has changed remarkably in the last couple of years which is detrimental to winter crops' farming.

Time-befitting measures need to be adopted urgently to boost agricultural productions for ensuring food security amid adverse impacts of climatic changes.

The observations came at a meeting styled "Variation in Winter Temperature, Cropping Problems and Our Responsibility" at BADC conference hall at Bargachhi in Paba upazila on Monday.

Bangladesh Resource Centre for Indigenous Knowledge (BARCIK) and Farmers organisations Coordination Committee jointly organised the meeting.

National Agriculture Award Winner Farmer Abdur Rahim narrated the sufferings caused by the impact of climate change.

BARCIK Coordinator (Barind Region) Shahidul Islam, and farmers Munira Begum and Jewel Mian also spoke.

Abdur Rahim mentioned that the ongoing climate change at alarming rates has severely affected winter vegetable farming and its diversity creating a real threat to food production. The developed countries should fulfill their commitment towards climate funding and ensure transparency in use of this fund.

He says legitimate rights of the farmers and others concerned should be protected for encouraging them towards boosting agricultural productions to meet up its gradually mounting demands.

Shahidul Islam read out the concept paper on the issue pointing out that the existing agricultural system has started facing a serious threat because of climate change.

centre for entrepreneurship development

BRAC UNIVERSITY
Inspiring Excellence

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Project Manager
Digital RMG Factory Mapping in Bangladesh (DRFM-B)

Centre for Entrepreneurship Development (CED), BRAC University (BRACU) [visit: <http://ced.bracu.ac.bd/>] is looking for a Project Manager for a ready-made garment (RMG) related project titled "Digital RMG Factory Mapping in Bangladesh" (DRFM-B) that aims to build an interactive, digital map for the Bangladeshi RMG sector by offering credible and comprehensive industry-relevant data through a publicly accessible RMG factory database.

For detailed job description and selection criteria, interested individuals are requested to visit: "<http://ced.bracu.ac.bd/pmdrfm-b/>".

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Application deadline: 15 February 2017

www.aiub.edu

CHOOSE

What You Are Meant To Be.
Enroll @AIUB's
Bachelor of Science in
Computer Engineering

Accredited By IEB

Why CoE at AIUB?

A KEY TO ALL SUCCESS

COE

Offering Majors In:

- Biomedical Engineering
- Communication Engineering
- Electronics, IC Design & Embedded System

Why CoE as a Career?

- Becoming an "Engineering Programmer"
- Interfacing hardware and software
- Flourishing job scope
- Option to choose Electronics and/or Software development as career
- Offered in many top universities worldwide

Admission Forms available now for Summer 2016-17 Semester

Admission Exam Date: 16 March 2017

- 140 credits (including 6 specialized courses for Major)
- Abreast & up to date courses with laboratories
- Enriched with proficient faculty members
- State-of-the-art laboratories for
 - Biomedical Engineering
 - Communication Engineering and
 - Electronics, IC Design & Embedded System
- Industrial collaboration
- Opportunities for higher studies

Admission Information

House 83/B, Kemal Ataturk Avenue
Banani, Dhaka 1213, Bangladesh
Phone: 55033595, 55033594, Ext. 209;
Hotline: 01844115003(Dept.)
Phone: 9897387, 58815387, Ext. 100, 199
Hotline: 01844115000(Info)
Email: info@aiub.edu

AIUB

Where Leaders are Created