

HOW NOT TO SPOIL HATR SHEEL

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With beautiful landscape architecture, well-maintained roads, musical fountain, the water taxi service, and an amphitheatre, Hatirjheel project arguably has some of the best views in Dhaka.

But how do we keep it that way? We asked people of all walks of life about their hopes and expectations regarding the project. And hence we present you five things to do/avoid if you do not want to see Hatirjheel women over time.

Let's not flood Hatirjheel with restaurants. Nurul Tamanna, 22, is a BBA student at a private university. And like countless others of her age, she is also a foodie. But even though she loves trying out new restaurants and enjoys the culinary diversity of the city's numerous eateries, she is reluctant to see Hatirjheel become a restaurant hub with food joints mushrooming all over.

"There are a few restaurants already, which is fine," she said. "However, if this number continues to rise indefinitely, the charm of this pristine place will be lost."

Let's not abuse the waterway. The water taxi service at Hatirjheel is a refreshing initiative. It is a brilliant alternative for many commuters like Ibrahim Ahmed, who is a salesperson at a shop in Karwan Bazar. Nowadays, he hops onto a water taxi from Gulshan-Badda Link Road and navigates through Hatirjheel to drop off near FDC Gate.

"There is no traffic jam, and I can enjoy picturesque views to and from office. These boats are safe too, with life jackets and all. And, unlike buses, the boats are not crammed with an overload of people," Ahmed pointed out. "I wish these things do not change in

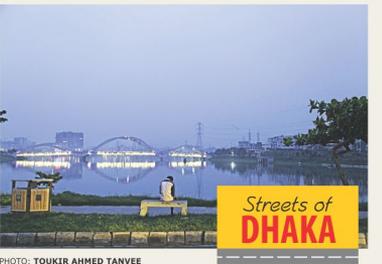


PHOTO: TOUKIR AHMED TANVIEE

The authorities," he added. "The authorities should be more careful about how small that sometimes comes from the water."

Let's not abuse the roadway either. Unlike those water taxis, buses in Dhaka are crammed, often drive recklessly, and have poor maintenance. But Hatirjheel's bus service is much better when compared with many others in Dhaka.

However, Yusuf Ali, a young executive in a bank, thinks that the service can be improved. He said, "A lot of people have to stand, and sometimes the passengers have to nudge the driver to move forward instead of waiting for more," he complained. "This culture has to be given up. We expect higher standard from Hatirjheel."

Let's not make Hatirjheel a media of billboards

Hatirjheel has earned a reputation of being a feat of engineering and a successful work of landscape architecture. Anshad Sharif, 55-

years of age, regularly comes in the morning for a jog. He likes this Hatirjheel makes for a good start to the day. "I do not want to get bombarded by billboards. I guess a few is all right. But the placement and size must not obstruct the beauty, serenity, and architecture," he pleaded.

Let's keep Hatirjheel clean. There are many bins on the sides of the roads of Hatirjheel. Using the trash can is one of the most basic responsibilities of citizens. But do we do so?

Anisha Sattar, a homemaker and mother of two, shared her frustration. "Hatirjheel is nowadays a popular spot for recreation. That is great. But I have seen so many times people littering the streets and the lake," she said. "And I also want to add that people should not pluck flowers out of the roadside plants."

Let's keep Hatirjheel clean and pristine the way it is today. Let's improve it further. At least, let's not spoil it."

Trump being probed

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decades, the Washington Post said senior intelligence officials have agreed to be interviewed by investigators working for special counsel Robert Mueller.

In a report published on Wednesday, the paper quoted five people briefed on the requests, saying those who agreed to be interviewed include national intelligence director Daniel Coats, Admiral Mike Rogers who heads the National Security Agency (NSA), and his recently departed deputy, Richard Ledgett.

The New York Times corroborated the report, citing a person briefed on the investigation.

It also quoted an intelligence official who said Mueller's office had asked the NSA for documents related to the agency's interactions with the administration as part of the investigation into Russian meddling into last year's presidential election, and whether Trump campaign officials colluded with Moscow.

Mueller also has the authority to investigate whether Trump tried to obstruct justice amid mounting evidence that he pressured the FBI to drop an investigation into his former national security adviser, Mike Flynn.

Trump was forced to fire Flynn in February after his contacts with Russian officials last year as a member of Trump's transition team.

The president vehemently denies any

collusion between himself or any of his associates and Russia.

Meanwhile, Trump took to Twitter yesterday to a phony media reports: "They made up a bluff collection with the Russians story, found zero proof, so now they go for obstruction of justice on the phony story. Nice," Trump wrote.

PRESSURE ON COMEY
The shift toward investigating the US president began days after Trump fired James Comey as FBI director on May 9, the Post said.

Comey who had been overseeing the bureau's Russia investigation, says he had previously assured Trump he was not personally under investigation.

Recent reports have said Trump also requested help from Coats and Rogers to pressure Comey to end the investigation into Flynn's activities.

Quoting officials, the Post said one source of interest to Mueller - a widely-respected former head of the FBI - is an associate on March 22, when Coats told associates Trump had asked him to intervene with Comey to get him to back off from focusing on Flynn.

A few days later, Trump spoke separately with Coats and Rogers and asked them to issue public statements to the effect that there was no evidence of coordination between his campaign and Russia.

Both men refused the president's request, the Post said.

Coats and Rogers refused to answer questions about the matter during a

Senate committee hearing last week.

The interviews could come as early as this week, the Post said.

OUTRAGEOUS, INEXCUSABLE
The newspaper's story provoked a furious reaction from Trump's personal lawyer Marc Kasowitz and the Republican National Committee.

Kasowitz issued a statement saying the FBI was behind the Post story and called the leak "outrageous, inexcusable and illegal."

He did not deny the story, however. Mueller briefed senators on his work on Wednesday.

"I'm going to acknowledge we had a meeting with the special counsel Mueller, but I'm not going to get into the contents," Mark Warner, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee, told reporters later.

Republican National Committee chairwoman Donna McDaniel called the accusation in the Post unfounded and said it "changes nothing."

"There's still no evidence of obstruction, and current and former leaders in the intelligence community have repeatedly said there's been no effort to impede the investigation in any way," she said in a statement.

"The continued illegal leaks are the only crime here."

Even if Mueller's probe finds evidence Trump tried to obstruct justice, the Justice Department - which oversees the FBI and the special counsel investigation - is highly unlikely to indict a sitting president.

Meet the world's tallest schoolboy

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When he was born, a world record, but now stands shoulder to shoulder with former world champion boxer Vladimir Klitschko.

The young giant, from Meerut in India, takes after his 33-year-old mother Sheetalana - a 7ft 2in basketball player and India's tallest woman.

According to The Mirror, Karan follows a special diet, takes supplements and enjoys a healthy lifestyle - but there remains a possibility the family have an excess growth hormone.

Karan's biggest problem has been finding clothes and footwear that fit him - he wears size 12 shoes and was wearing clothes for a 10-year-old when he was three.

But that doesn't stop the basketball-mad primary school pupil from enjoying a normal life.

Karan said: "After finishing my homework, I play with my friends and then I go play basketball with my mother."

"She started teaching me since I was five years old and I want to play basketball like my mother. But I also

like science a lot."

He added: "I like that I am tall and that my mom is tall. I want to be taller than my mom and make my parents proud."

Karan has already appeared in the Guinness World Records twice - once for being the biggest newborn and again for being the tallest toddler.

Now the family want to see him feature again, with mum Sheetalana saying: "He will grow up to be a tiger."

She added: "As they say, a tiger's son grows up to become a tiger. Karan is also the son of a tigress."

5 Bangladeshis

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desperately looking for help, and that they were trying to escape, though a bathroom of the apartment but was unable to find a way out. She also asked to pray for them.

After that, Rahim found the mobile phones of the couple switched off.

Ninety-year-old Kamru moved to the Grenfell Tower with his wife, sons Abdul Karim and Abdul Karim, and daughter Tanima only a year ago.

His another son, Abdul Hakim, lives at a different place in the UK. Police haven't yet been able to provide any information on them.

Smoke was the cause of the Wednesday evening. Kamru's eldest son Sujon Miah, who lives in Moulvibazar's Koishaura village, said he had been unable to reach his parents and the three siblings over the phone since Wednesday evening.

He said his sister Tanima was to get married on 29th July, and that she has already done shopping and completed all preparations for her wedding.

Contacted, Khondker M Talha, Bangladesh deputy high commissioner in London, said, "We are in contact with police, emergency services and the [Bangladesh] community... We will let you know."

Prime Minister Theresa May promised a public enquiry into the fire, as the government faced questions about how such a devastating blaze could have occurred, reports Reuters.

Smoke was the cause of the blackened shell of the Grenfell Tower yesterday where specialist search teams faced hazardous conditions as they scoured the wreck, with external cladding still falling from the building.

Fire engineers said the social housing block, which has as many as 600 people lived in more than 120 apartments, in the early hours of Wednesday, turning it into a flaming torch in minutes.

"Sally I can confirm that the number of people that have been identified is 17," London Police Commander Stuart Cundy told reporters.

could have been done to prevent the disaster and if spending cuts to local authorities had played a part.

May visited the scene yesterday to meet members of the emergency services.

"Right now, people want answers and it's absolutely right and that's why I am today ordering a full public inquiry into this disaster," she said.

"We need to know what happened, we need to have an explanation of this. People deserve answers; the inquiry will give them."

Local residents say there had been repeated warnings about the safety of the building, which recently underwent an 8.7 million pound (\$11.1 million) exterior refurbishment, including new external cladding and windows.

Documents detailing the refurbishment did not refer to a type of fire barrier that building safety experts said should be used where high-rise blocks are being re-clad, according to Reuters research.

The government has also promised that other tower blocks which were also recently refurbished would be assessed.

"We have to get to the bottom of this. The truth has got to come out, and it will," opposition Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn said as he visited volunteers at the site.

London Fire Brigade chief Danny Cotton, who said the fire had been unprecedented in its scale, said urban search units backed by specialist dog teams would slowly make their way through the building as structural surveyors helped make the tower safe.

Survivors, who lost their belongings in the blaze, spent the night at emergency shelters, as charities and local support groups are flooded with donations of clothes and bedding from shocked Londoners.

Many were seeking news of the missing. Semira Mohammed, 37, a science technician who lives nearby, said she knew a family of five who lived on the 21st floor of the block.

"I kept calling and calling," she told Reuters. "The phone was ringing but they didn't reply to us. We were from the same community and many in the tower were. Maybe 70 percent are from Somalia, Sudan, Morocco, and she was so happy to be in the flat right in our community."

The Syrian Solidarity Campaign said on its Facebook webpage that Mohammed Al Haj Ali, a refugee from Syria, was one of those who had been killed.

The tower, built in 1974 on the low-rent housing estate in North Kensington, sits in a part of west London surrounded by some of the most affluent areas of the capital.

Water, fuel crises hit Rangamati

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district as several poles of main transmission line were destroyed in the landslide. The authorities, however, arranged an alternative connection for Khatraughati to restore supply in Rangamati.

Due to power outages, people were reportedly living without supply of drinking water in most parts of the town.

Rangamati Municipality Mayor Md Akbar Hossain Chowdhury, however, said water was supplied from the municipality to places where it was scarce and badly needed.

"We have to use generators to supply water but, you know, there is a fuel shortage," he said.

Mohammed Abdul Baten, a filling station owner, said fuel stocks dried up yesterday morning. "We are contemplating bringing in fuel via waterways."

"The fuel crisis is making things more complicated, including the rescue operation and other related activities."

Hundreds of bikers, drivers of three-wheelers and cabs were standing in long queues at the different filling stations throughout the day.

Transport costs nearly tripled. The fare of three-wheelers has risen from Tk 10 to Tk 20 during day time and Tk 30 at night with a limited number of vehicles plying the roads.

Rangamati Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Belayet Hossain Bhuiyan Belal said there was no food warehouse in the district.

"We bring food items from Chittagong daily. If the road communications are not restored in couple of days, the situation in Rangamati will be grave."

Due to the limited resource and high demand of food items, the prices have increased in the last couple of days. After two to four days, food items would not be available even at higher prices, he said.

The people of Rangamati immediately need open market sale (OMS), relief operations and other special programmes, added Belayet.

Several inhabitants said life has become really tough amid price hike of essentials.

Prices of potato have gone up to Tk 60 from Tk 20 a kg, rice from Tk 45 to Tk 60 a kg, eggplant Tk 100 from Tk 40 a kg, green chilli Tk 200 from Tk 60, cooking oil Tk 150 from Tk 100, lentil Tk 60 from Tk 100 a kg. A Tk 10 candle is being sold for Tk 20-30 in places.



Sila Devi breaks down in tears in front of her home in Rangamati Police Colony area yesterday after firemen recovered the body of her brother Rupun Dutta who was killed in a mudslide. She also lost her other brother, Suman Dutta, whose body was recovered on Tuesday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

of bringing fuel through waterways from today.

DC Mohammed Manzoor Mannan said mobile cooks and police will be working in the town to check price hike. To ensure normal supply of daily essentials, launch services would start today.

Four launches will operate on Rangamati-Kaptai route with two of the vessels starting from both sides at 9:00am and 3:00pm. More launches would be added if necessary.

Kaptai has road connectivity with Chittagong.

PATIENTS SUFFERING
Mahmuda Begum had to take her injured husband from Rangamati General Hospital to their house so that he could take shower and use the toilet.

The situation was not so good at her house either. "We have no drinking water in our house. We cannot cook. How do we live?" said the woman.

Water crisis in the hospital is so serious that patients cannot go to toilets. The smell is so bad in some wards that patients are having breathing problems.

Badal Dutta and Blue Dutta, who lost two of their sons in the landslide and themselves got injured, left the hospital in frustration and headed for Chittagong yesterday.

"After we came to the hospital, our treatment didn't start. We were lying in front of the gate but none came to treat us," he said. "Even we had to buy

bandage and Napa tablets."

Patients also alleged they were not getting food.

Contacted, Maung Keyw Thein, a physician at the hospital, said they were struggling to provide services because of power and water crisis.

"I have got a generator but we cannot use it as there is no fuel," he told The Daily Star. Besides, they are unable to cook meals as there is no water supply.

Though they have stocks of necessary medicines, fresh supplies have not come.

ROAD NETWORK HIT HARD
RIDE officials said they would not be able to repair the roads within a short time as the destruction in the landslide was huge.

At least 15km stretch of Rangamati-Chittagong highway from Cagra to Rangamati has been badly damaged in the landslide. In some areas like Manikchhari, Kolabagan and Sanphochi, the road was washed away.

At least two to three kilometres of Rangamati-Khagrachhari road was also destroyed.

It will take at least 10-15 days to repair Rangamati-Chittagong road and at least 3-6 months to restore communications to Khagrachhari," said AKM Rafiqul Islam, superintendent engineer of Rangamati Roads and Highways Department.

He said it should be announced a

"national disaster". He is not wintering anything like this in his 15-year career in the three-hill districts.

"Some roads have been damaged in such a way that it would not be possible to repair them. We will need to set up Bailey bridges there," the official said.

UNBEARABLE SHOCK

Grandfather of landslide victim dies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patimabali

A grandfather grieving his army captain grandson's death in a landslide in Rangamati passed away yesterday.

Hazi Abul Aziz Mollah, 83, of Sinherkali village under Baupal upazila of Patimabali, was the grandfather of Captain Md Tanvir Salam Shanto of Bangladesh Army.

Captain Tanvir lost his life in Rangamati while clearing a road after a landslide. He died in a second landslide there.

The old man broke down on receiving the news of his beloved grandson's death and was inconsolable. Capt Tanvir's uncle told this correspondent, Azziz said holding a picture of himself with his grandchild and could not stop