



Tiles installed by Dhaka North City Corporation on the pavement of Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in the capital are coming out. Two Dhaka city corporations started rebuilding all the pavements in the city by installing yellow tiles with textured surface right in the middle of the footpaths to ensure easy movement of pedestrians. The photo was taken yesterday.



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Japanese, German FMs arrive this month to discuss Rohingya crisis

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka is preparing to welcome foreign ministers from Japan and Germany, who will arrive in the country this month to discuss the Rohingya crisis with the government high-ups.

Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono will arrive in Dhaka on November 18 for a less than 24-hour stay in Bangladesh. He is expected to hold a bilateral meeting with his Bangladesh counterpart AH Mahmood Ali and call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

From Dhaka, he will head for Myanmar on November 19 to join the 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting to be held in Nay Pyi Taw on November 20-21.

While, German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel will arrive in Dhaka on early November 19 and expected to pay visit to Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar to see the plights of forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals.

He will also hold a bilateral meeting with Foreign Minister Mahmood Ali and head for Nay Pyi Taw to attend the ASEM meeting on Nov 19. The Bangladesh foreign minister will also leave Dhaka for Myanmar the same day.

Meanwhile, the newly appointed Japanese Ambassador in Dhaka Hiroyasu Izumi called on the foreign minister at his office yesterday and discussed various bilateral issues, including the visit of Japanese foreign minister.

## Road crashes kill 2

CITY DESK

Two persons were killed in separate road accidents in the country yesterday.

Our staff correspondent from Chittagong reports, a person died after a truck hit him from behind while he was crossing Oxygen Mor in the city in the afternoon.

The deceased, Md Mahmud, 30, was a fish cutter and son of Rafikul Islam of Bramhanbaria district, said ASI Alauddin Talukdar of Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) police outpost.

Mahmud used to work at a local market in Baizid Bostami area. He was declared dead at the hospital.

Our Chapainawabganj correspondent adds, a rickshaw-van puller was killed on the spot when an oncoming Shibganj-bound sand-laden truck hit the vehicle at Ranihati Bazar of Shibganj upazila of Chapainawabganj, said Habibur Islam, officer-in-charge of Shibganj Police Station.

The victim was identified as Abdul Latif, 38, son of Lal Md of Raninagar village in Shibganj upazila.

Police seized the truck, but its driver and helper fled away.

## NCC Mayor Ivy gets deputy minister status

UNB, Dhaka

Narayanganj City Corporation (NCC) Mayor Selina Hayat Ivy has been given the status of a deputy minister.

The cabinet division issued a notification yesterday in this regard, said a PID handout.

As per the notification, Ivy will enjoy the status, salary, allowances and other facilities equivalent to that of a deputy minister while in office.



# Help end Rohingya crisis: Hamid

BSS, Dhaka

President Abdul Hamid yesterday reiterated his call to the global leaders to continue their political and humanitarian support for forcibly displaced Myanmar citizens to end the Rohingya crisis.

"Our government has given shelter to over one million displaced Rohingyas on humanitarian grounds... Bangladesh is directly affected by this problem as Rohingyas are forced to take shelter here," he said while addressing a dinner speech at Bangabhaban in the capital last night.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Jatiya Sangsad Speaker and outgoing CPA Chairperson Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury attended the function.

President Hamid hosted the

dinner in honour of delegations from 144 national and provincial parliaments of 44 countries who are attending the 63rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference being held in the capital.

The president drew the attention of the CPA leaders for the protection of the Rohingyas who are deprived of all rights, including citizenship and faced with existential threat due to repeated atrocities and displacements.

About the country's progress, Hamid said the government is relentlessly working to attain socio-economic emancipation of the people, including poverty alleviation, growth and development, women empowerment, and turn Bangladesh into a middle income country by 2021 and a developed one by 2041.

"We believe the Commonwealth member states will remain with us as useful partners in the pursuit," he said, mentioning that Dhaka is committed to working together to nurture trust among the Commonwealth family.

The president recalled with profound respect Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who took Bangladesh to the Commonwealth fold in 1972 and CPA membership after the first parliamentary election in 1973.

Bangladesh, he said, after its independence has been closely associated with the Commonwealth as well as CPA.

Stressing the need for an equitable and inclusive global society free from poverty, exploitation and inequality, the president said the

CPA states together can eradicate poverty and ensure food security, gender equality and attain sustainable development goals (SDGs) aiming to bring a positive change in the lives of people.

Hamid congratulated Emilia Monjowa Lifaka for being elected as the new chairperson of the CPA executive committee.

He hoped that under her leadership, the CPA would be able to expedite democracy and political process.

"The CPA parliamentarians will find ways of encouraging greater people to people contacts and exchanges in coming days for the welfare of people," he added.

Ministers, whips, the members of CPA executive committee, and high civil and military officials joined the dinner.

# 3km Barisal road taking huge toll on users

M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL, from Barisal

The distance is only three kilometres, but the sufferings are unlimited.

If you are a student or an office goer using this Kalijera-Rupatoli road to go to Barisal city, get out of home early, because there is no guarantee that you will reach your destination on time.

You may face an accident any moment -- no matter you travel in a bus, car or rickshaw. There is great possibility for any vehicle to flip over.

If you are a patient with severe illness, jerking of vehicles may deteriorate your condition and you may die before reaching a hospital.

For a vehicle, sustaining damages is quite common.

The 3-kilometre road, riddled with numerous potholes, has been taking a huge toll on the road users for three years.

Thousands from three districts -- Jhalakathi, Pirojpur and Barguna -- have to pass through the road to go to Barisal or any northern district.

Sumon, a bus driver, said several damaged portions are very risky. He

has to be more cautious to drive and subsequently it takes more time to pass through the entire road.

Jamal Hossain, another bus driver, said, "Accidents occur on seven spots every day."

"Once I fell off an auto-rickshaw at Kalijera and suffered ankle fracture," said Nasrin Aktar, a college student.

Goods-laden trucks get stuck on Jagua spot on a regular basis, said locals.

Raju, a truck driver, echoed them.

Rickshaws and auto-rickshaws very often turn turtle after falling in craters, said witnesses.

"My auto-rickshaws overturned in Kalijera area last month, injuring three passengers," said Rubel, a driver.

Jahidul Islam, an ambulance driver, said it is a very tough job to drive with a patient inside the vehicle.

There is no relief for pedestrians too. Rajneen Aktar, a student of Jagua Degree College in Rupatoli area, said, "We are afraid of walking along the road as jerking vehicles may fall on us any time."

Roads and Highways Department is

entrusted with looking after the road.

Golam Mostofa, executive engineer of RHD in Barisal, said the road does not remain in good shape despite repair.

About the reason behind it, he said the road gets waterlogged during every monsoon. The situation lasts for a long time as the water cannot recede due to a lack of drainage system, he said.

In this regard, locals said near the road there were several canals that drained the water to the river Kirtonkhola. But, over the years the waterbodies were grabbed.

Golam Mostofa said the road was repaired several times in the last three years. Its reconstruction will start by December, he added.

The Barisal City Corporation authorities were informed of the overall situation, he further said.

About the drainage system, Nurul Islam, chief engineer of BCC, said they applied to the local government ministry for approval of a proposal on a drainage system three months ago.

Once the proposal gets a nod, drains will be constructed there, he added.



Two of the service lines of the Sylhet City Corporation's main water pipe remain uncovered wasting the precious liquid. The situation has been prevailing for almost a month. Locals alleged that some influential people removed the lines to fetch water illegally. The city corporation has been informed about the issue, but to no avail, they added. Contacted last week, Ali Akbar, executive engineer of SCC, said no one is supposed to collect water directly from the main line. He said he was not aware of the situation and will take immediate steps to stop the wastage. The photo was taken from the city's Taltola Point on November 1. This correspondent confirmed that the situation had remained the same until yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR



Vehicles pass through Barisal city's Kalijera-Rupatoli road riddled with numerous potholes. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL

## HILL CUTTING 3 held with excavator

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mobile court during a drive in Patiya upazila of Chittagong yesterday seized an excavator and detained three people for cutting hills.

The mobile court led by Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Patiya Abdullah Al Mamun conducted the drive in the hilly area of Khillapara of Kelishahar village in the upazila.

Contacted, Mamun said during the drive the mobile court found the evidence of hill cutting through an excavator for a housing project named Kelishahar Model Town.

An expatriate initiated the project alongside the hill but the people working there were cutting the hill illegally, he said.

"All of the detainees are workers," he said, adding, "They were handed over to the Patiya Police Station."

# President to commission four Navy warships today

UNB, Dhaka

President Abdul Hamid will inaugurate four warships built for Bangladesh Navy at Titumir Naval Base Jetty in Khalishpur of Khulna today.

He will also hand over the four warships -- Nishan, Durgam, Halda and Pashur -- to Bangladesh Navy at a ceremony there, said President's Press Secretary Joynal Abedin.

The four warships built by Khulna Shipyard Ltd (KSY) at a cost of Tk 942 crore are now patrolling the Bhairab and Rupsha rivers on an experimental basis. Of them, Durgam has already patrolled the Bay of Bengal.

The president will reach the naval base around 11:00am. He will also address the ceremony on the occasion.

With a cruising speed of 25 nautical miles, the two warships -- Nishan and Durgam -- categorised as patrol boats while the remaining two -- Halda and Pashur -- categorised as submarine tag boats are equipped with guns and automatic arms facilities which can be used against submarines.

Managing Director of KSY Commodore Anisur Rahman Mollah said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the country's largest shipbuilding project in 2015.



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