



This bus stand, set up illegally beside a busy road in Tangail's Bhuapur upazila headquarters, has been creating traffic jam and causing sufferings to the commuters for long.

PHOTO: STAR

Bus stand causes traffic jam, sufferings to commuters

Authorities concerned set up a bus terminal near Bhuapur municipality building in 2007, but transport owners abandoned that in 2009 and returned to the previous place

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

A bus stand, set up illegally allegedly by transport owners and workers beside the busy regional highway in Bhuapur upazila headquarters, has been creating traffic jam and causing immense sufferings of the commuters for over a decade.

Earlier, passenger buses used to ply between Bhuapur Upazila Parishad and Bazar Intersection which created chaos and traffic jam in the busy areas.

Later, during the caretaker government in 2007, authorities concerned set up a bus terminal near Bhuapur Municipality Building beside Bhuapur-Tarakandi road which reduced the traffic jam and other troubles a lot.

Transport owners and workers, however, abandoned that terminal in 2009 and returned to the previous place.

They also allegedly filled up a ditch there and started operating their vehicles in large scale which is continuing till now.

According to Bhuapur Bus Owners Association, at least 30 buses and minibuses out of a total of 50 plies from Bhuapur to Tangail and Dhaka routes daily.

Besides, about 20 to 25 buses and minibuses out of 30 to 35 are being operated from Tarakandi in Jamalpur's Sarishbari upazila to Dhaka using the same route while a number of vehicles from adjacent Gopalpur upazila also use the regional highway to go to their

destinations.

On the other hand, about 300 to 350 CNG-run three-wheelers plies different routes to and from Bhuapur.

All the buses and three-wheelers arrange passengers getting off and into the bus on the busy road, creating huge traffic jam and causing public sufferings as well, said Ovijit Ghosh, a rights activist in Bhuapur.

Local traders and public representatives raised the issue in the monthly upazila development coordination meetings on several occasions and urged the authorities concerned to shift the bus stand from the busy road, but to no avail, Ovijit added.

Despite of having a particular bus terminal, transport owners and workers

are not interested using it, Bhuapur Bazar Traders Association President Nuruzzaman Chakdar said.

Bhuapur Bus Owners Association General Secretary Harun-or-Rashid said as passengers are not interested to go to the bus terminal so they are operating the vehicles from the previous location.

Four transport workers always remain active in the bus stand area on behalf of the bus owners and workers association to control the traffic in the area, he added.

Bhuapur Municipality Mayor Masudul Haque said a proposal for setting up a new bus terminal in Shialkhol area under the municipality is waiting for approval of the ministry concerned.

Chained woman rescued

Dowry-greedy husband, 4 in-laws land in jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Police rescued a chained and tortured housewife from Netrakona on Friday and arrested dowry-greedy husband and four in-laws in connection with the incident.

The victim is Koli Begum, 24, wife of Md Jahangir Alam of Beltoli Charpara village in Kalmakanda upazila. She is the mother of one-and-half-year-old daughter.

The arrestees are rickshaw puller Md Jahangir Alam and his parents -- Abdul Hamid and Fatema Begum--brother Alamgir Hossain, 32, and his (Alamgir) wife Ruma Akter, 28.

Police and family members said Koli, daughter of Khairul Alam of Sylhet, married Jahangir three and half years ago.

After the marriage, Jahangir and his family members often tortured Koli for dowry. Koli brought Tk 20,000 from her day labourer father for Jahangir a few days ago.

On Thursday, Jahangir again pressed Koli for more dowry money, said Officer in Charge (OC) of Kalmakanda Police Station Md Mazharul Karim.

Jahangir and his family members beat Koli mercilessly following an altercation over the issue on Friday morning. The victim was then chained up so that she could not flee the home.

Informed by neighbours, police rescued Koli from the spot in the afternoon and sent her to the upazila health complex. The five were arrested in this connection yesterday.

The arrestees were produced before a court that sent them to jail, said the OC.



Chained Koli Begum at her courtyard in Beltoli Charpara area in Netrakona's Kalmakanda upazila.

PHOTO: STAR



A woman crosses the broken bridge on Nayabhanli canal in Barguna's Taltali upazila amid risk of accident. The photo was taken a few weeks ago.

PHOTO: STAR

Tale of a broken bridge

Several thousands people of four villages suffer as bridge lies unrepaired for long

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

An important bridge over a canal at Barguna's Taltali upazila has become unfit for use for lack of renovation for long.

The bridge was built on Nayabhanli canal of Sharikkhali union in 2004 to ease communication between Taltali upazila headquarters and Barguna town.

The concrete platform of the bridge collapsed two years back, rendering it unfit for plying vehicles like motorbikes, rickshaws and auto rickshaws.

With the iron rod structure of the bridge now exposed, locals walk on the edges to cross it, which is a safety hazard that can cause injury.

The bridge is frequently used by people of four villages -- Kachupatra, Badurgacha, Chakamoiya and Sharikkhali.

There are several educational institutions, including Kachupatra Salehia Dakhil Madrasa, Alirbondor Government Primary School, Kachupatra Government Primary School, Tarikata High School -- in the vicinity of the bridge and students

use the bridge to go to their educational intuitions.

Local resident Nasir Dofadar, 45, said although the bridge poses serious risk of accident, people still use it as they have no alternative.

"Ambulances used to cross this bridge regularly before," he said.

Considering the strategic location of the bridge, Jahur Bagum, 65, of Badurgacha village has called upon authorities to take immediate steps to repair it.

Mita Begum, a Class seven student at Tarikata High School, said, "We are scared to cross the bridge as we might fall or our foot may get stuck amid the rods."

When contacted, Abul Bashar Talukder, local union chairman, said, they have already informed the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) to take immediate step in this regard.

Ahammad Ali, an engineer at Taltali upazila LGED, said, "We sent a letter to the higher authorities seeking allocation of fund to renovate the bridge."

Missing housewife found murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A missing woman was found murdered in a remote shoal at Bharara village of Sadar upazila yesterday.

The deceased is Firoza Khatun, 45, wife of Elahi Khan of the village.

She went out of home to harvest peanut at the shoal on Friday afternoon and remained missing, said Inspector (investigation) of Pabna Sadar Police Station Md Asaduzzaman.

Informed by locals, police recovered the body from the spot yesterday afternoon and sent it to Pabna Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

The victim sustained injuries on the head, said the inspector.

The reason behind the killing could not be known immediately, he said.

Lightning kills housewife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

A housewife was killed by lightning at Beradanga Jalipara village in Sadar upazila of the district yesterday.

The victim, Arjina Begum, 55, wife of Makbul Hossain of the village, was mother of three sons and a daughter.

Chapra Sanjami Union Parishad Chairman Khalilur Rahman said a thunderbolt struck Arjina while she was taking her cattle from a nearby field amid rain in the afternoon, leaving her severely burnt.

Villagers rescued her and took her to Nilphamari 100-bed hospital where the doctors declared her dead.

Narrow roads sorrow of townspeople

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Traffic congestion on all roads in the district headquarters of Gaibandha has taken a chronic turn and the townspeople are the worst sufferer of the situation.

The town's narrow roads, built during the British era, remain congested all day long with all sorts of vehicles. But till date, no visible work was done to widen or overhaul the road network in the town, according to locals.

Although personnel from traffic department of police are deployed at many spots in the town, the situation remain unchanged.

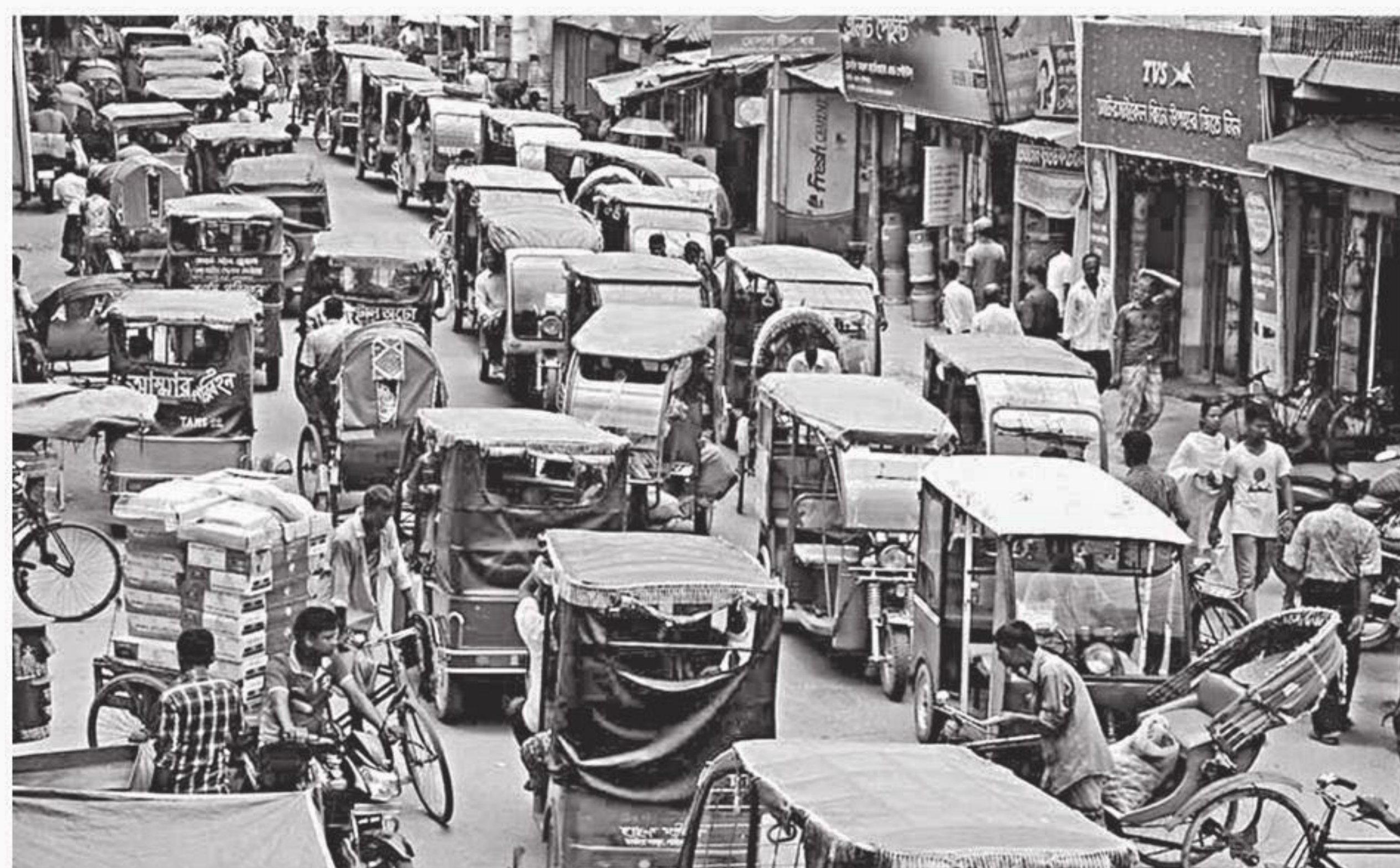
Long tailbacks of buses, trucks, three-wheelers, rickshaws, motorbikes and even power tillers and pushcarts are seen almost all throughout the day on the town's major thoroughfare DB Road, which connects with national highway at Palashbari.

Last year, a funding of Tk 157 crore was allocated for converting the DB Road into four lanes. Although work order was issued to the project contractor and land acquisition for the work completed already, the actual work on the road did not start yet, they also alleged.

The road is to be extended up to Balashi ferry terminal, six kilometres off Gaibandha town, to establish communication with Bahadurabad ferry terminal in Jamalpur across the Jamuna river.

Asaduzzaman, executive engineer of Roads and Highways Department in Gaibandha, said out of the total allocated funds for the work, they received Tk 53 crore for land acquisition so far.

The construction phase will start within the next two months after receiving the fund allocated for construction work, he added.



A recent photo shows tailback of vehicles on DB Road in Gaibandha town.

PHOTO: STAR