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PHOTO: STAR

MOULVIBAZAR MUNICIPALITY BUS TERMINAL

A safe haven for addicts

The Tk 4 crore structure was built on 3 acres of land along the Dhaka-Sylhet highway in 2009

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

The ticket counters and passenger rooms at the municipality bus terminal in Moulvibazar have become a safe haven for drug peddlers and muggers as they have been lying unused for about 10 years now.

With a view to free the town of traffic congestions, the terminal was built with Tk 4 crore on three acres of land in Jogidahar along the Dhaka-Sylhet highway in 2009. But despite the huge expenditure, the terminal never brought the desired results, instead, is in shambles now.

According to transport owners, the location is the main reason why neither the passengers nor drivers ever wanted to use the terminal.

“Bus drivers do not prefer picking or dropping passengers at this terminal as it is located on far from the city. It costs one Tk20/30 to reach there from adjacent areas,” said Syed Mosabbir Ali, president, Moulvibazar Road Transport Owners’

Association.

Residents of Kusumbagh and Jogidahar expressed annoyance over the situation.

Passengers do not want to go to the terminal while transport workers pick and drop passengers at different thoroughfares causing traffic jam and public sufferings, they told this paper.

Most Dhaka-bound buses still use the terminal, locally known as the “Dhaka Bus Stand”, on Sreemangal road.

“Locals every day witness heavy traffic on both lanes of the one-way road as buses remain parked haphazardly blocking traffic movement,” said Mahfuz Mia, a resident of the area.

The residents of neighbourhoods nearby the municipality bus terminal are living in cannot move safely due to presence of unruly drug addicts and muggers at the empty ticket counters and waiting room.

“I went to a restaurant for dinner with my

younger brother the other day. While crossing the unused terminal, we saw several drug addicts there. It was so embarrassing, especially with my young brother being around,” said Johirul Islam, a government official and a resident of Jogidahar.

Helal Ahmed, who runs a tea stall at the entrance of the terminal, said that inter-district buses from Dhaka, Sylhet, Habiganj, and Cumilla initially used the terminal after opening.

“But after a few days, buses stopped coming. Counters of different bus companies have been lying unused since then. Vagabonds, drug addicts and muggers roam around here freely as there is no security personnel around,” he said, adding, “Every day I shut down my stall before dark as muggers get active then.”

Bipasha Rahman, a housewife of Jogidahar area, said, “It is frustrating that the municipality terminal is not in use. It has a large space. Buses can park here easily without creating traffic jams.”

During a recent visit to the terminal, this correspondent found cracks on the walls, displaced floor tiles and broken doors and windows. Chairs and tables placed inside the waiting room and ticket counters were also in a rickety condition.

Moulvibazar Road Transport Owners’ Association President Mosabbir said that the municipal authorities had built the bus terminal in an unplanned manner without consulting stakeholders.

Regarding muggers and drug peddlers, Alamgir Hosain, officer-in-charge of Moulvibazar Police Station, said that regular drives would be conducted to clear the terminal area.

When contacted, Moulvibazar Deputy Commissioner Nazia Shirin said, “I am new here but I have heard about the condition of the municipality bus terminal. We have already held several meetings in this regard. I am trying my best to restart the terminal.”

FAKE FF CERTIFICATES

14 constables sued in Jashore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Fourteen police constables have been sued on charge of submitting fake freedom fighters’ (FF) certificates while joining their job in February this year.

Md Mashiur Rahman, officer in charge (Reserve Police), filed three separate cases against the accused with Jashore Kotwali Model Police Station on Wednesday.

The 14 people, who were appointed to the post of constables at Jashore Police Lines on February 23 this year, submitted certificates, stating that they are children of freedom fighters, said sources at the department concerned.

They were later posted to different stations under the police department.

Following a secret report, the authorities concerned conducted an investigation to check whether the certificates submitted by them were genuine.

Finally a report of the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs sent to the police headquarters revealed that the 14 FFs’ certificates concerned were fake.

Schoolboy found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Police recovered the hanging body of a student from Quantum Cosmo School and College in Bandarban’s Lama upazila on Wednesday.

The deceased was identified as Azizul Hakim Abid, a Class IX student of the school. Azizul hailed from Manikganj’s Ghior area.

Shafiu Alam, inspector of Kyaju Para police camp in the area, said on information, they recovered the body from a classroom of the school around 6:30pm.

It was suicide or murder will be known only after getting the autopsy report, said the inspector.

Dr Jewel Tripura, medical officer of Bandarban Sadar Hospital, said injury marks were found in the neck.

Earlier in 2018, a female student of the institution was found dead at the school campus, said locals.



Light vehicles cross the damaged bridge amid risk of accident in Moulvibazar’s Kulaura upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

Broken LGED bridge poses risk

The bridge lies unrepaired for six months

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A broken bridge in Dhulipara area on Rasulganj-Bhuksimoil road under Kulaura upazila has been lying unrepaired for about six months, posing risk of serious accident anytime.

Especially school and college going students are the worst sufferers due to the awful condition of the bridge.

It is also an important road connecting Kulaura and Rajnagar upazilas. Nearly one thousand people use the road every day to reach the upazila headquarters.

During the last monsoon, a girder on the north side of the bridge caved in and a big hole developed on it, said locals, adding that as the girder caved in, bamboos have been used to support the bridge.

Apart from this, several cracks have developed on one of its approach roads and since then heavy vehicles cannot cross the bridge, said officials of Kulaura

upazila parishad.

If the bridge on a canal is not repaired before the next rainy season, it might get washed away, said Nazmul Islam, a resident of Rasulganj Bazar village.

The officials have blamed torrential rain for the damage of the bridge.

During a recent visit, this correspondent found light vehicles like battery-run easy-bike and motorcycle crossing the damaged bridge amid risk of accident.

Some villagers said the bridge has become so hazardous that they were avoiding even walking on it.

Habibur Rahman Chalam, chairman of Kadipur union parishad, said he has already informed the officials of Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) about the matter.

Kulaura upazila engineer Istiaque Hasan said a tender has already been floated to repair the bridge.

The renovation work will start soon, said the engineer.

Human remains from 42 graves stolen in 2 villages

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Human remains or skeletons from at least 42 graves in two graveyards under Dinajpur Sadar upazila were found stolen.

Both the graveyards -- located at Uttar Shibpur and Sadarpur villages in Sundarpur union -- lack boundary fencing and security guards, said locals.

Solaiman Ali of Sadarpur village said the first damaged grave they discovered in the three-acre village graveyard was on Wednesday.

Since then, the villagers scoured the entire graveyard and found a total of 20 damaged graves, including his wife’s, from which criminals stole the remains, he said adding that his wife’s grave was intact till last Friday

when he and his family members visited the grave last time.

Even skeletons of cadavers as young as four-month-olds were stolen, said another villager.

Many villagers speculated that the thefts might have been carried out in the past six weeks.

On Wednesday, residents of Uttar Shibpur village searched their 13.5-acre graveyard and found 22 human remains stolen from there.

The findings sparked an outcry in both villages and the villagers said they would launch a stern agitation unless law enforcers take swift action against the criminals.

Sujan Kumar Sarkar, additional superintendent of police in Dinajpur Sadar Circle, said the crime scenes were visited

on Wednesday and a team of police was investigating the incident.

Such crime is rare in the district and the suspects might be local residents, he added.

Dr Shah Md Ismail Hossain, an assistant professor at M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital in Dinajpur, said human skeletons are high in demand with medical students for their anatomy course and criminals might have stolen the human remains from the graves for the skeletons.

Each set of skeletons used to be sold for Tk 12,000 to 15,000 at stores in the country 20 years back, but now the price reached as high as Tk 45,000, he also said.

There are 6,040 graveyards for 22 lakh Muslims in the district of Dinajpur.



PHOTO: STAR

Miscreants poisoned to death fish worth around Tk 15 lakh in an enclosure in Aruakandi area of Bagerhat’s Mollahat upazila on Wednesday night.