

Three-wheelers haunt Sylhet highways

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, Sylhet

The government banned three-wheelers plying on highways in August, 2015. Almost five years have gone by during which multiple High Court orders were issued, but these small slow vehicles are still readily available on national and regional highways of Sylhet.

Inadequate drives by law enforcers are giving these vehicle owners more liberty to break the law, and locals are none the wiser, as they board the three-wheelers ignoring the risk of accidents.

The scenario on inter-district highways like Sylhet-Tamabil, Sylhet-Companiganj-Bhologanj and Sylhet-Sunamganj, and the national Sylhet-Dhaka highway is most concerning.

During a recent visit to these highways, this correspondent found all kinds of three-wheelers plying the highways. Even Lagunas, which were banned through an HC order, are seen zooming across.

While talking to some auto-rickshaw drivers at Sylhet city's Tilagarh area, they said they have been driving their vehicles on the highways for years, and police seldom block their path. Police, however, disagree with their statement.

Inspector Ali Reza, in-charge of Tamabil Highway Police Outpost, said, "We regularly conduct drives, seizing auto-rickshaws,

vans and other prohibited vehicles in the process. When they see our patrol vehicles, they immediately turn their backs and run away."

But many parts of these highways are under Sylhet Metropolitan Police (SMP), and most of these vehicles are being run under those areas, he said, adding that the new traffic law is taking some time to be implemented on the roads, which is exacerbating the situation.

"When we'll slap them with huge fines under the new law, the situation will be brought under control," he added.

Nikulin Chakma, additional deputy commissioner (traffic) of SMP, said, "We also conduct drives at the areas under our jurisdiction, but we're short of staff for regular monitoring."

Md Sanaul Haque, assistant director of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) in Sylhet, said, "We regularly conduct mobile courts, but as we can't do the work of a magistrate, we rely on the district administration and getting magistrates' schedule to conduct drives."

Md Abul Kalam, additional district magistrate of Sylhet, said, "When BRTA asks for magistrates, we support them almost daily. But I think the matter needs to be discussed in the district administration's coordination meetings, and a solution must be found in presence of all stakeholders."



Despite a government ban which was issued almost five years ago, highways of Sylhet are still full of three-wheelers. This photo was taken recently from Sylhet-Tamabil highway. PHOTO: STAR

'MUJIB BORSHO' Security beefed up across country

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Necessary security measures have been taken across the country, marking "Mujib Borsho", Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan said yesterday.

The measures are part of the overall security on the occasion of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's birth centenary, he added.

More than one lakh guests are expected to attend the programme, he said after a meeting at his ministry.

In response to a query, he said, "There is no possibility of anarchy during the occasion. We haven't received any such information from intelligence."

When asked what the authorities would do if any protest against Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi takes place during the occasion, he replied, "I'd refer to what the Awami League general secretary has said on the issue."

On March 2, Obaidul Quader, also road transport and bridges minister, told reporters that people should welcome the Indian premier instead of protesting his visit.

US announces \$59m for Rohingyas

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The US has announced more than \$59 million in additional humanitarian assistance for Rohingya refugees and host communities in Bangladesh.

US Ambassador Earl R Miller made the announcement at the US embassy in Dhaka yesterday, a day after the UN and partner NGOs launched the Joint Response Plan in Geneva, seeking to raise \$877 million for the Rohingya crisis.

With this new announcement, total humanitarian assistance by the US reaches almost \$820 million, of which nearly \$693 million is for programmes inside Bangladesh.

"The United States cannot meet this crisis' tremendous needs alone. We continue to call on other countries to contribute as well," the ambassador said. He also called on Myanmar to create conditions for voluntary, safe, dignified, and sustainable returns of the Rohingya.

98pc healthcare centres

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No healthcare facility in Jhenidah and Jashore fall in this level while only five healthcare facilities in Khulna city fall in level-3.

The survey also found that a significant number of healthcare facilities in six cities -- 22 in Kushtia, 14 in Jhenidah, 62 in Khulna, 27 in Jashore and Benapole and 11 healthcare facilities in Gazipur fall in level-2. Level 2 indicates that there is a hand washing station with soap, but there is no running water.

Prof Saidur Rahman Khasru of BSMMU said if WASH facilities are properly established, cases of infectious diseases will decrease in number.

The study recommended to conduct a baseline survey to better understand and address status of WASH in healthcare facilities; addressing contributing factors behind the urban-rural divide in context of WASH in healthcare; allocating more public finance and ensuring proper channels and budget allocation at local government levels. It also suggested to strengthen coordination with city corporations for waste and faecal sludge management.

Dr Md Aminul Hasan, director and focal person of quality improvement secretariat, chaired the event while Asadul Islam, health secretary delivered speech as chief guest.

BNP seeks deferral

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deployed in polling centres to provide technical support regarding EVM. If they can provide technical support, they should also be entrusted with ensuring security of the voting machines so that no fake vote can be cast."

"In the present system, presiding officers can cast 5 percent of total votes in a centre with their fingerprints to assist voters. But there is a chance of manipulating the polls with that authority," he observed.

"If presiding officers can cast 5 percent of 20 lakh votes, than they are empowered to cast one lakh votes. If one lakh votes can be manipulated, the result can altered easily. So I demanded to lessen it to 1 percent," said Shahadat.

"In the previous polls, a huge number of outsiders came to the city and got involved in occupying polling centres. So, no one should be allowed within 400 yards of a polling centre without inspection," he said.

About wanting to have a summary of polls, he said, "We have a right to know about the total number of votes cast as soon as the polls end," he said.

Contacted, RO Hasanuzzaman said Shahadat submitted a letter to the CEC through him. "Those were mainly suggestions for taking some steps regarding the polls. I have sent it to the Chief Election Commissioner," he said.

He did not want to comment on the demands.

A safe home

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In this connection, police filed a case on the same day. Later on December 12, a Sylhet court ordered police to release the geckos in a national forest through the Forest Department, he added.

However, among the rescued geckos, three died by this time. The remaining were released, said Islam.

Tokay geckos are native to Southeast Asia and are one of the largest among all geckos, reaching up to around 35cm in length.

One variant of the tokay gecko has red-spots while the other has black ones. The colours on the bodies of these nocturnal animals are used for camouflage, and they can lighten or darken their skin colour to blend in with the surrounding environment.

Metro rail

FROM PAGE 3

will have one additional DIG, three superintendent of police, four additional SP, three assistant superintendent of police, 14 inspectors, 21 sub-inspectors, 74 assistant sub-inspectors, 25 nayek and 639 constables, reads the proposal.

The unit also proposed for approval of 96 different types of vehicles. The annual expenditure of the unit will be around Tk 39.72 crore, the proposal added.

MRT line-6, which connects Uttara with Motijheel, is expected to be completed by December 2021.

MRT line-1 will connect Kamalapur with Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport. This will be the first underground metro rail system, expected to be completed by 2026.

Line-5's northern route will run from Hemayetpur of Savar to Bhatara via Gabtoli, Mirpur and Gulshan, consisting underground and elevated sections. This is expected to be completed in 2028.

The southern route will connect Gabtoli with Purbha Dasherbandi, consisting underground and elevated sections. The expected deadline is 2030.

MRT line-2, which will be both elevated and underground, will link Gabtoli to Chattogram Road via Kamalapur. Kamalapur will be connected with Narayanganj by the underground MRT line-4.

Take steps to curb

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repellents, deploying required manpower as well as conducting cleanliness drives and public awareness campaigns.

The commerce and industries ministries have been instructed for ensuring sufficient stock and supply of essential commodities and their fair prices during Ramadan.

The meeting directed the Cabinet Division and District Administration, Food Ministry and Bangladesh Food Safety Authority to check food adulteration.

The Public Security Division, Bangladesh Police and Dhaka Metropolitan Police have to maintain law and order properly and ease traffic jam in the cities -- including Dhaka and Chattogram.

The meeting advised the Power Division and the LGD to ensure uninterrupted electricity and water supply during Ramadan, especially during iftar, sehri and Tarabih prayers.

The railways ministry has to make train tickets available, preventing black marketing and maintaining schedule of trains during Eid-ul-Fitr holidays.

The meeting instructed the Road Transport and Highways Division as well as the Bridges Division to increase the number of BRTC buses, make tickets available, and repair roads and bridges ahead of Eid.

The shipping ministry, Cabinet Division and District Administration have been asked to enhance the number of ferries, properly manage ferry ghats, control quality of vessels, ensure risk-free movement and ease process of ticket collection.

The meeting directed the civil aviation and tourism ministry to increase the number of domestic flights and control the prices of tickets during the Eid.

The labour and employment, and textiles and jute ministries have been advised to ensure payment of salary for RMG and jute workers on time as well as phase-wise leave for RMG workers during the Eid.

HC drops petition

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Tanvir involves criminal jurisdiction.

Tanvir's lawyer Fawzia Karim Firoze opposed DAG's argument, saying that the bench can hear this matter as it has earlier passed an order on this issue.

The HC bench also said it has jurisdiction to hear Tanvir's petition, but dropped it as the DAG raised questions.

The HC bench expressed dissatisfaction as some media have published Rab's probe report on the murder case before it was submitted to the HC.

DAG Amit told the court that this is contemptuous and he did not give the probe report to reporters and he does not know how the media got a copy.

The HC bench said it did not see any fault on the part of the media, as the duty of journalists is to pursue news.

The probe report reached newsmen either from the attorney general's (AG) office or Rab office, the HC bench added.

Advocate Fawzia Karim told reporters that she will apply to the chief justice so that the HC bench led by Justice Enayetur Rahim hears and disposes of Tanvir's petition.

On March 2, Rab handed over a progress report on the investigation into the murder case to AG's office. DAG Amit yesterday submitted the report to the HC bench as per its earlier order.

Tanvir, a family friend of the murdered couple, had been arrested in connection with the murder. Later, he got out of jail on bail.

Sagar, news editor at private TV channel Maasranga, and his wife Rumi, a senior reporter at ATN Bangla, were killed in their West Razabazar flat in the capital on February 11, 2012.

Dreams unfulfilled

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and reminiscing his memories.

Mukit's demise has left his father in disarray. "My son went abroad for the sake of our family. With him gone, I have nothing left to look forward to," he wailed.

ASP Ghulam Dastagir of Kulaura Circle, confirmed the incident. Police are yet to receive any document in this regard, he said.

Away from home, their bodies now rest at the morgue in Riyadh's King Fahad Hospital.

Digital archive

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University (BOU) pro-VC Khondoker Mokaddem Hossain and the Indian university Prof Manan Kumar Mandal also spoke at the event.

The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam took part in a discussion on "Country and some stray questions."

Assam University former VC Tapodhir Bhattacharjee and eminent academic Prof Fakrul Alam attended different sessions.

Prof Barendu Mandal of Jadavpur University, BOU Registrar Shaful Alam and Abul Mansur Ahmad Smriti Parishad convener Imran Mahfuz, among others, took part in the seminar.



SHOMMAN

KINDNESS AWARD 2020

Shomman Foundation a Non-government organization (Gov. Reg. No. 3217), has been giving "Shomman Kindness Award" on the eve of May Day (April 30, 2020), to honor the householders who employ domestic help, personal chauffeur, gardener or security guard who has (1) Never been physically abused. Least verbally abused (2) been working for at least ten years (including vacations) and (3) Become literate from illiterate (or anyone from their family). If you are such a householder, please contact Shomman Office -- House 71/1, Road 15/A, Dhanmondi Residential Area, Dhaka-1209 before 05th April 2020.

Contact number: +8801829545197, +8801821334088, Website: www.shomman.org
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সিসিএস-বিবিবি

ভোক্তা অধিকার সাংবাদিকতা পুরস্কার-২০২০

মুজিব শতবর্ষ ও ভোক্তা অধিকার সংস্থা 'কনসাস কনজুমার্স সোসাইটি' (সিসিএস) এর সপ্তম বর্ষপূর্তি উপলক্ষে অনুষ্ঠিত হতে যাচ্ছে 'জাতীয় ভোক্তা সম্মেলন ও নাগরিক সম্মাননা-২০২০'। অনুষ্ঠানে দেশে ভোক্তা স্বার্থ সুরক্ষায় গণমাধ্যম কর্মীদের অবদানের মূল্যায়ন ও উৎসাহ প্রদানের উদ্দেশ্যে ১০ জন সাংবাদিককে 'সিসিএস-বিবিবি ভোক্তা অধিকার সাংবাদিকতা পুরস্কার-২০২০' প্রদান করা হবে। দৈনিক পত্রিকা থেকে ৪ জন, টেলিভিশন ও রেডিও থেকে ৩ জন এবং অনলাইন সংবাদমাধ্যম থেকে ৩ জন এ পুরস্কার পাবেন। ভোক্তা স্বার্থ সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে যাদের প্রতিবেদন প্রকাশিত হয়েছে তাদেরকে পুরস্কারের জন্য আবেদনের আহ্বান জানানো হলো।

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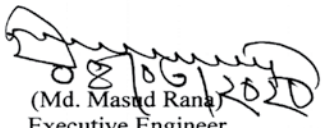
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1.	435812	Marble stone fitting in front of lift core including miscellaneous works from ground floor to 2nd floor of new guest house Urmi at Bangladesh Police Academy, Sardah, Rajshahi.	NCT (OTM)	23-Mar-2020 16:15	1,00,000.00 (One lakh) only.
2.	435813	Construction of generator room and interior decoration at Police officers mess, RMP, Rajshahi.	NCT (OTM)	23-Mar-2020 16:00	90,000.00 (Ninety Thousand) only.

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(Md. Masud Rana)
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GD-435