## Road divider or death trap?

Median causing accidents in Patuakhali-Kuakata highway

SOHRAB HOSSAIN

Roads and Highways Department (RHD) recently constructed a new six-lane road in Patuakhali's Kalapara upazila, with a divider to prevent collisions among motorists. Ironically, the divider has apparently been serving the exact opposite purpose.

Due to its small size, poor positioning, lack of proper reflective paint and effective warning signs, the divider is causing far too many accidents, according to locals.

The new road connects Rajopara area of Kalapara on Patuakhali-Kuakata highway to Payra thermal-power station, and the 50-metre long divider has been built at the entry point of the road at the Rajopara end.

In the last one week alone, at least 20 vehicles have accidentally rammed into the divider, confirmed Officerin-Charge of Kalapara Police Station Md Jasim Uddin.

Many have been injured, while people fear that lives may be lost if authorities do not remove the median.

Ábdul Mannan, a local, said, "Whenever I pass by this road, I see damaged vehicles and injured passengers more often than not... They are happening because of the divider. It needs to be removed immediately.

Shahidul Islam, a bus driver who plies Patuakhali-Kuakata highway, said, "As the height of the divider is only two feet, it isn't clearly visible from the driver's seat. As a result, cars and buses regularly collide with the divider." Other bus drivers demanded the divider be demolished

immediately before any major accident occurs. Patuakhali RHD Executive Engineer AM Atiq Ullah said, "The local administration, including police, have also informed us about the accidents. In view of this, both sides of the divider have been marked with adequate painting."

"As accidents are not decreasing, arrangements are being made to remove the divider as soon as possible in consultation with higher authorities," he added.



Vehicles colliding with this divider in Patuakhali-Kuakata highway has become a common scene, with 20 such incidents occurring in last week alone. PHOTO: STAR



Big piles of earth, bricks and sand have just been lying on the roads of Khulna city for the last few months, restricting traffic and pedestrian movement. This problem arose from the city corporation's drainage work, which started in 2019 and is showing no sign of completion. This photo was taken recently.

# Nightmare on the Khulna streets

Drainage work goes on in slow pace, causing gridlock

**DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna** 

Waiting hours in gridlocks and treading carefully on footpaths have become the norm for Khulna city dwellers due to the haphazard work to improve drainage, which is showing no sign of completion time. since it started in 2019.

As part of the renovation work, authorities have dug up drains at had started reconstructing 225 the roadside, and piles of earth, bricks and sand now cover the roads. This has narrowed existing roads, multiplying the suffering of both commuters and pedestrians.

locations – especially at the city's Sonadanga, Phulmarket, Boyra passed in 2018, and work began

Bazar areas, and on Khan Jahan in 2019 officially. The work is Ali Road, Lower Jashore Road, Haji Mohsin Road, and Ahsan Ahmed Road -- are completely unusable.

Once construction starts in an area, authorities fail to finish the work in According to Khulna City Corporation (KCC), authorities

drains and culverts, and dug seven canals to expand them in 31 wards, spending Tk 823.79 crore.

Out of the total 192-km stretch of drains, works on only 81 km (120 Footpaths at some important drains) have been completed so far.

scheduled to end in 2023, but authorities told this correspondent that they will not be able to Such delays are nothing new. complete the work in time.

Visiting different areas of KCC notably those in wards 23, 22, 19, 14 and 17 -- this correspondent saw piles of dirt on the road due to the construction work. The slow progress of work has left 15 important roads completely unusable for almost two months.

Besides, the culvert at Karimnagar Sonadanga Notun Rasta Road has remained incomplete for four months now, causing regular gridlocks in the

### **DIALYSIS FEE HIKE AT CMCH** Police now sue protesting patients

UNB, Chattogram

A case was filed yesterday against some kidney patients and their relatives who have been protesting the recent hike in dialysis fee at

Chattogram Medical College and Hospital. Mostafizur Rahman, sub-inspector of Panchlaish Police Station, registered the case against Md Mostakim, a patient and 50 to 60 unidentified others around 12:30am.

Inspector Sadekur Rahman of the police station said the case was filed against the patients on charges of assaulting police and obstructing

Five policemen were injured while trying to remove the protesters from road, he said.

On Tuesday, police detained Mostakim from the CMCH during the patients' demonstrations blocking road and obstructing vehicular movement, said Md Nazim Uddin Majumder, officer-in-charge of Panchlaish Police Station.

The kidney patients and their relatives have been staging demonstrations in front of the dialysis centre of the hospital for the last four days protesting the hike in dialysis fee.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## Bela serves legal notice to save 'Machu Dighi'

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet** 

Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela) yesterday served a legal notice on the authorities concerned seeking conservation steps to protect Machu Dighi, a century-old pond, in

They also demanded steps to stop garbage dumping and filling of the pond.

The notice was sent to the mayor of Sylhet City Corporation, secretaries of the ministry of land, the ministry of local government, rural development and cooperatives and the ministry of environment, forest and climate change, and the director general of the Department of Environment.

The notice was also sent to the deputy commissioner of Sylhet, superintendent of Sylhet district police, DoE director in Sylhet, UNO of Sylhet Sadar upazila and assistant commissioner (land) of Sylhet Sadar upazila.

In the notice, Bela stated that the pond had SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



#### বাংলাদেশ অ্যাক্রেডিটেশন কাউন্সিল (বিএসি)

বিএসএল অফিস কমপ্লেক্স- ২ (৩য় তলা) ১ মিন্টো রোড, রমনা, ঢাকা-১০০০।

www.bac.gov.bd

ম্মারক নং, বিএমি/বগমাপ্র/প্রেমনা (প্রধান নথি)/২০২৫-২৪/০১৪-৬৫৭

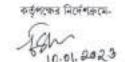
২৬ পৌষ ১৪২৯ বলাস



#### দেশের উচ্চ শিক্ষার মান নিশ্চিতকরণে কোয়ালিটি আসুরেন্স ও আক্রেডিটেশন বিষয়ে গবেষণা প্রভাব আল্লান

বাংলাদেশ আক্রেডিটেশন কাউন্সিল (বিএসি) দেশের উচ্চ শিক্ষার গুণগতমান নিশ্চিতকরণে কোয়ালিটি আসুরেন্স ও আক্রেডিটেশন বিষয়ে আন আহরণ ও স্ঞুনের অনা গ্রেষণা কার্যক্রম পরিচালনা করছে। এরই ধারাবাহিকতায় দেশের উচ শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান এবং গ্রেষণা প্রতিষ্ঠানে কর্মরত শিক্ষক ও গ্রেষকগণের নিকট থেকে ২০২৬-২৪ অর্থবছরের জন্য গ্রেষণা প্রস্তাব আল্পান করা হচ্ছে। গ্রেষণা প্রস্তাব প্রণয়ন ও দাখিলের ক্ষেত্রে নিম্নবর্ণিত প্রক্রিয়া অনুসরণ করতে হবে:

- বাংলাদেশ আক্রেভিটেশন কাউন্দিল (বিএসি)'র ভয়েবসাইটে (www.bac.gov.bd) প্রদক্ত ফরমেট (বাংলাদেশ আক্রেভিটেশন কাউন্সিল গবেষণা নীতিমালা, ২০২২; পরিশিষ্ট ক) অনুসরণপূর্বক তিন (০৩) সেট গবেষণা প্রস্তাব (হার্ড কপি) ২৮ কেবুয়ারি ২০২৩ ব্রিষ্টাব্দ তারিখের মধ্যে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে সরাসরি অথবা ডাকযোগে নিম্নথাকরকারীর নিকট বাংলাদেশ জ্যাক্রেডিটেশন কাউন্সিল (বিএসি), বিএসএল অফিস কমপ্রেক্ত্র- ২ (ওয় তলা), ১ মিন্টো রোড, রমনা, ঢাকা-১০০০ টিকানায় দাখিল করতে হবে। এক সেট সফটু কপি (এম এস ওয়ার্ড) নিম্নস্তাক্ষরকারীর ইমেইলে প্রেরণ করতে হবে।
- ২, পবেষণা প্রস্তাবের শিরোনাম, ক্ষেত্র এবং লক্ষ্য ও উদ্দেশ্য অবশাই 'বাংলাদেশ আক্রেডিটেশন কাউন্সিল পবেষণা নীতিমালা, ২০২২' -এর লক্ষা ও উদ্দেশ্যের সাথে সংগতিপর্ণ হতে হবে।
- ৩, পবেষকগণকৈ এককভাবে গবেষণা সম্পাদনে উদুদ্ধ করা হচ্ছে, তবে যৌগভাবেও গবেষণা সম্পাদন করা যাবে। ক্ষেত্রমতে, অবসরপ্রাপ্ত বা বিদেশে অবস্থানকারী কোনো গবেষক বাংলাদেশে কর্মরত কোনো গবেষকের সাথে যৌথভাবে গবেষণা প্রস্তাব প্রণয়ন ও দাখিল করতে পারবেন। এছাড়াও প্রকল্প চলাকালে গ্রেষক প্রয়োজন মনে করলে বিএসি'র অনুস্তিক্রমে একজন সহযোগী গবেষক ও একজন গবেষণা সহকারী নিয়োগ দিতে পারবেন।
- 8. বাংলাদেশ আক্রেডিটেশন কাউন্সিল গবেষণা নীতিমালা, ২০২২ -এর পরিশিষ্ট ক তে প্রদর্শিত Part-A-Project information; Part-B-Logical interpretation; Part-C-Budget; Part-D-Project completion plan; Part-E-Short CV of the Researcher(s) অনুসরণক্রমে গবেষণা প্রভাব দাখিল করতে হবে।
- ৫. প্রেমণা প্রস্তাবসহ সংশ্লিষ্ট কাগজাদি অবশ্যই গ্রেষকের কর্মরত প্রতিষ্ঠান প্রধানের প্রতিস্বাক্ষরে প্রেরণ করতে হবে। তবে প্রতিষ্ঠান প্রধান কর্তৃক ক্ষমতাপ্রাপ্ত হলে উপ-উপাচার্য বা রেজিস্টার বা পরিচালক (রিসার্চ)-এর প্রতিস্বাক্ষরে গবেষণা প্রস্তাব দাখিল করা যাবে। মহাবিদ্যালয়ে কর্মরত গ্রেষকগণের গ্রেষণা প্রস্তাব মহাপরিচালক, মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ শিক্ষা অধিদপ্তরের প্রতিস্থাক্ষরে প্রেরণ
- ৬. মুখ্য গবেষক হিসেবে একজন গবেষকের একাধিক গবেষণা প্রকল্প চলমান থাকলে তাঁকে গবেষণা প্রস্তাব নাখিলে নিবুৎসাহিত করা
- গবেষণা প্রস্তাব সংক্রান্ত যেকোন তথোর জনা গবেষকগণ নিম্নস্তাক্ষরকারীর সাথে যোগাযোগ করতে পারবেন।



(ফারজানা শারমিন) উপপরিচালক (বহিঃসম্পর্ক, গবেষণা, মানদন্ত, ও প্রকাশনা) বাংলাদেশ আক্রেডিটেশন কাউজিল টেলিফোন (অফিস): ০২-২২২২২৯৫১৯ ইমেইল: furzana1205@yaboo.com

# Russell finds fortune in plum cultivation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Cultivation of several varieties of plums has turned out to be a moneyspinner for Abu Bakkar Siddique

village in Barguna's Amtali upazila, who lost his job and became change his fortune. unemployed during the coronavirus pandemic, has witnessed a huge success in the first season by cultivating four different varieties of plums like applekul, kashmerikul, bansundarikul and baukul.

Seeing his success, a number of

unemployed vouths in the locality are now opting for plum cultivation.

After losing his job in 2020, Russell, who worked at a private The 45-year-old from Gochkhali organisation, thought only farming could

Then he decided to talk with the upazila agriculture officer and according to his advice, Russell started his farming venture by taking a lease of 2.17 acres land from one of his neighbours.

He first started cultivating malta

on the leased land, but failed to make any profit. He then switched to plum cultivation, and the wheels of his fortune started turning.

He collected four different varieties of plum saplings from Kushtia's Meherpur at the start of 2021. Now all the 450 trees at his

garden are full of plums that started ripening about two months ago.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

#### Two killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least two people were killed in road accidents in Dinajpur and Faridpur yesterday, report our correspondents.

In Dinajpur, a 5-yearold boy was killed in a road accident in Ghoraghat upazila around 11:30am.

The deceased is Sifat Rahman, son of Rana Rahman of Panchpir village under the upazila.

Quoting locals, police said Sifat was walking home in the morning. While crossing the Azadmor intersection in the upazila, a brickladen tractor hit him, leaving him critically injured. He died on his way to Ghoraghat upazila Health Complex.

Police seized the vehicle but the driver fled away, said OC Abu Hasan Kabir of Ghorahgat Police Station.

In Faridpur, a rickshaw-van puller was killed after a truck hit his van in Sahorali area of Boalmari upazila. The deceased is Zahan Sheikh, 50.

Quoting locals, OC Abdul Ohab of Boalmari Police Station, said the accident took place when Zahan was going to a local brick kiln to drop off some logs. On the way, a truck hit his rickshawvan. He died on the spot.





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