



PHOTO OF THE DAY

RAJIB RAIHAN



Defying safety concerns, a pick-up truck carries a huge load of kitchen utensils at Chattogram's AK Khan intersection. On top of it, a man reclines precariously on a bag of cargo drooping outside the pick-up's body. Such risky behaviour often leads to tragedy on the streets.

Journos must evolve to keep up with changes: speakers

Online course on media law, digital safety launched

CITY DESK

In the age of social media, the risks that affect journalists also affect citizens, speakers said at the launch of an online course on media law, media ethics and digital rights at hotel Amari Dhaka yesterday, a press release said.

UK-based rights body Article 19 and German media development organisation DW Akademie launched the platform as part of a project funded by Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

"In the age of social media, the difference between journalists and non-journalists have become blurred. Police can arrest me for posting a status update on Facebook," said Faruq Faisel, regional director Bangladesh and South Asia for Article 19, at the programme.

Referring to the recently-passed Digital Security Act, he said along with journalists, rights activists and bloggers must also be

aware of digital rights and laws.

Dr Asif Nazrul, one of the designers of the course, said, "Journalism has become difficult. We have seen attacks on the judiciary, and misuse of information technology [in recent times]. We were fully aware of this when designing the course. We designed it with the aim of promoting safe, smart and responsible journalism."

When a journalist knows their legal rights, it gives them a sense of security, he added.

In her welcome speech, DW Akademie Country Manager for Bangladesh, India and Afghanistan Priya Esselborn said there is a gap between journalism education and practice in the country.

With the progress of technology, journalism is changing fast. Both the media establishment and journalists have to adapt themselves to these changes, she added.

The course will be offered starting mid-

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Pay no heed to question paper leak rumours: Dipu Moni

UNB, Ctg

Urging all not to pay heed to rumours of question paper leak, Education Minister Dr Dipu Moni yesterday said there will be no incident of question paper leak this year in the upcoming Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations.

"The government has taken necessary steps to prevent question paper leak and all necessary preparations were taken to hold the SSC and its equivalent examinations scheduled to be held on February 3 across the country," she said.

She was talking to reporters after attending the course-concluding parade of the 54th batch of Bangladesh Marine Academy in the port city.

It is not possible to build a developed Bangladesh with the traditional education system and that's why the government has a taken special measures to promote technical education for building a society enriched with world-class knowledge and skills, she said.

State Minister for Shipping Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury, Deputy Education Minister Barrister Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury Nowfel and secretary of the Shipping Ministry Abdus Samad were present at the event, among others.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROJECT  
DoE fines Ctg dev authority  
Tk 10.38cr for damaging hills

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday fined Chattogram Development Authority (CDA) Tk 10.38 crore on charges of damaging environment and binding capacity of hills in a road construction project.

The fine was slapped following a hearing at DoE headquarters, said Abdullah Al Mamun, deputy director of DoE (enforcement).

CDA, a government organisation under the public works ministry, did not comply with its own plan submitted to the DoE to cut hills, said the official. They put the whole project area at risk of landslide, he said.

AKM Rafique Ahammed, director general of DoE in Chattogram, told The Daily Star that he along with a team visited the Bayezid Bostami area, where CDA was constructing a road titled "Link Road from Dhaka Trunk Road to Bayezid Bostami Road including loop road at the periphery

of Asian University for Women".

To implement the project, they cut hills indiscriminately exposing the area to landslide during the upcoming monsoon, he said.

According to the plan, "The CDA was granted to cut 2.5 lakh cubic metres of hills but they cut 10.3 lakh cubic metres, which is unprecedented," he added.

CDA cut hills in 90 degree angle, whereas it was asked to follow a 26 degree angle at best, said the official.

Earlier in 2016, the CDA started the road construction project without any clearance from DoE. At that time, DoE fined it Tk 10 lakh, said DG Rafique Ahammed.

Later, the development agency submitted its plan to the DoE, he said.

The latest fine came as the CDA defied the plan, he added.

This correspondent tried to reach Rajib Das, project director of the road construction project. But his phone was found switched off despite multiple attempts.

Appoint 117 doctors to prisons now: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed authorities concerned of the government to immediately appoint doctors to fill the 117 vacant posts in prisons across the country.

The court also ordered the director general of Directorate of Health Services (DGHS) to submit a report before it within a month after complying with the order.

The bench of Justice FRM Nazmul Ahasan and Justice KM Kamrul Kader gave the order while hearing a writ petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Md JR Khan Robin on February 19 last year, seeking its order to allow recruitment of doctors.

Deputy Attorney General Abdullah Al Mahmud Bashar submitted two reports prepared by the DG of DGHS and office of inspector general (IG) of prisons, showing that there are 117 posts of doctors vacant in 68 prisons across the country.

In response to an HC query, DAG Bashar said the government had issued show cause notices to 16 doctors who did not join the posts despite directives to do so.

Five doctors gave satisfactory answers to the notice, and departmental cases were filed against the other 11, as their replies were not satisfactory, he told the court.

CONSTITUENCY-BASED DEVELOPMENT

Approval of fresh project involving Tk 20cr underway

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

LGRD Minister Tazul Islam yesterday told parliament that a new project is underway for approval allocating Tk 20 crore in each constituency to conduct development works as per the recommendations of local lawmakers in their areas.

Replying to a query from Jatiya Party MP Nazma Akther of reserved seat, the minister said, "It is under process to approve a new project over important rural infrastructure development on priority basis -- keeping allocation of Tk 20 crore at each electoral constituency."

In a scripted answer, the LGRD minister said the development activities will be implemented as per the recommendations of local lawmakers.

"Allocations on the basis of constituencies will be provided following project approval," he said.

Tazul Islam said a project -- "Important rural infrastructure development on priority basis" at Tk 20 crore for every constituency -- is currently going on, which will expire this year.

Responding to a query from BNP lawmaker Rumeen Farhana, the LGRD minister said the government has no immediate plans to establish city government in Dhaka and other big cities.

In reply to another query from Mouazzam Hossain Ratan from Sunamganj-1, Tazul said the government has prepared a list of 2,502 hawkers so that movement of vehicles and people are not obstructed by them. The minister, in his written reply, however, did not give details in this regard.

He said the government has introduced six holiday markets on

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



To minimise disorder on the street, iron barriers were put up on the footpaths opposite Azimpur orphanage. However, they were mowed down over time by city service buses, which allowed miscreants to pick up the loose parts and sell them off. What remains now are horizontal bars that stick out awkwardly enough for pedestrians to get hurt on them.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



Awards for Bangladesh Photo Journalists' Association's Annual Sports Fest 2019 were given out at a ceremony yesterday. Daily Star Chief Photographer Sheikh Enamul Haq won the first prize in marathon race, while Rashed Shumon won first place in 100m sprint.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

UAP holds discussion with students, experts

CITY DESK

University of Asia Pacific's (UAP) Office of International Affairs recently organised a panel discussion on its campus on "Keywords: Education, Empowerment, Development, International Settings" where students and educationists participated, said a press release. Eight student ambassadors from eight departments of UAP participated in the discussion.

The invited panellists were Maimuna Ahmad, CEO of Teach for Bangladesh; Razoun Siddiky Tohin, advisor of EducationUSA; Dr Shaleha Kader, principal of Cherry Blossom International School and College, and Abdur Raquib, career counsellor of Maple Leaf International School.

The ambassadors presented queries on the keywords to panellists, which they responded to and discussed. At the end, panellists also evaluated and awarded the ambassadors. Qayum Reza Chowdhury, member and ex-chairperson of UAP's trustee board, was present as special guest at the discussion.

Ex-DIG prisons Bazlur denied bail in graft case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday denied bail to suspended department of prisons Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Bazlur Rashid in connection with a corruption case. The case was filed over amassing Tk 3.08 crore beyond the known source of his income.

The court also directed the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to finish probe into the charge within six months.

The bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice KM Hafizul Alam passed the order after rejecting a petition filed by Bazlur Rashid seeking bail in the case. Deputy Attorney General AKM Amin Uddin Manik said Bazlur cannot get released from jail following the HC order.

The HC bench observed his alleged transactions to be similar to a "white colour crime", ACC's lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star.

This correspondent tried to contact

Bazlur's lawyer Advocate Abdul Matin Khasru for comments, but his cellphone was found switched off.

The ACC arrested Bazlur Rashid in the case -- filed with ACC's Integrated District Office -- and showed him arrested in the case on October 20 last year.

The following day, the home ministry suspended him from service.

According to the case statement, Bazlur signed a contract with a real estate company in 2018 to buy a flat in the capital's Siddeshwari Road area at Tk 3.09 crore.

Through April 20, 2018 to June 7, 2018 Bazlur paid Tk 3.08 crore in cash and cheque, but during ACC officials' interrogation, he could not show any legal source of the money.

According to his bio, Bazlur joined the service as a jail super in 1993. He was promoted to DIG prisons in 2013 and transferred to Dhaka in 2016.