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BRTA drives falter

Manpower shortage, slack traffic law enforcement blamed

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) has significantly reduced its mobile court drives against unfit and illegal vehicles as well as errant drivers since November last year, leaving the road transport sector in chaos.

Manpower shortage and relaxation of some sections of the Road Transport Act-2018, which came into effect in November, have resulted in the decline of the drives and filing of cases and imposing of fines, said BRTA officials.

The number of persons convicted and vehicles dumped by mobile courts also came down since then.

An apprehension that stringent steps may create unrest in transport sector is also a reason why the state-run organisation cannot go tough against the unfit and illegal

As a result, the BRTA is on the verge of missing its annual target set for fiscal 2019-20.

A total of 1,000 mobile court drives were conducted and 8,000 cases were filed in the first seven months of the fiscal in Dhaka and Chattogram, against the annual target of filing 32,000 cases and conducting 3,200 drives. A total of 33,111 cases were filed in fiscal 2018-19.

On January 29, BRTA Chairman Kamrul Ahsan faced questions over the slow pace of target implementation in this regard at a meeting of Budget Management Committee of Road Transport and Highway Division.

Kamrul told the meeting that they could not achieve expected target as operation of mobile courts remained halted for around one month as the new law came into force. He, however, hoped to achieve the annual target, according to the meeting minutes.

Amid this situation, a huge number of vehicles without fitness clearance are operating in the country.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 3



97 yaba dealers indicted

They surrendered a year ago

Our Correspondent, Cox's Bazar

A Cox's Bazar yesterday framed charges against 97 alleged yaba peddlers in a case filed under the narcotics control

According to the case statement, the accused are among the 102 yaba peddlers who surrendered before the home minister and law enforcers in Teknaf Pilot High School premises on February 16 last year.

The court did not frame charges against four others accused as they could not attend yesterday's hearing due to illness. Of the 102, one was acquitted as he died in jail before submission of the charge sheets.

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PRAYER TIMING FEBRUARY 28

AZAN 5-15 12-30 4-30 6-05 7-30 JAMAAT 5-50 1-15 4-45 6-10 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

'A strong, united and determined nation



A USSR delegation on behalf of the State Committee for External Economic Coordination calls on Bangabandhu on February 28,

FEBRUARY 28, 1972 Shamsuddoza Sajen

BANGABANDHU MEETS SOVIET **ECONOMIC TEAM**

A high-powered Soviet economic team

calls on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman today. It is understood that they discussed the upcoming visit of the PM to Moscow. The Soviet team is assessing the economic requirements of Bangladesh for rehabilitation of the economy as well as for future development plans. **CABINET MEETS**

The Cabinet today meets for about nine hours in two separate sessions. The cabinet meeting presided over by Bangabandhu is understood to have discussed the matters likely to come up in discussions between the governments of Bangladesh and USSR

SEE PAGE 17 COL 3

Hajj to be dearer under private management

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Bangladeshi aspirant pilgrim will have to spend a minimum of Tk 3,61,800 to perform hajj this year under private management, around Tk 17,000 more than the previous year.

Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh (HAAB), a platform of private hajj tour operators, yesterday announced its "general category" hajj package rate at a press conference at a city hotel.

With affordability in mind, HAAB, however, has also introduced a "super economy package" for the first time, M Shahadat Hossain Taslim, president of HAAB, said at the press conference.

The package can be availed at a cost of Tk 3.17 lakh, he said.

The hikes in airfare by Tk 10,000 and visa fee by 7,000 have mainly contributed to the increase in total expenses, Taslim

Apart from the two rates, private hajj tour operators will be able to announce special hajj packages based on the quality of service and accommodation.

"But no hajj agency will be allowed to announce hajj package below the minimum rate of Tk 3.17 lakh to ensure a minimum standard of service," said the HAAB chief.

He said the hajj packages were categorised based on the distance of the pilgrims' accommodations from Masjid SEE PAGE 17 COL 3 CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

Govts ramp up preparations

Trump says US 'very ready' as Australia, Taiwan, France initiate emergency measures

The coronavirus' rapid spread in Iran, Italy, South Korea and elsewhere left alarmed governments and people across the globe rushing to implement emergency measures

For the first time, new infections around the world in the past 24 hours surpassed those in mainland China, where the flu-like disease emerged two months ago.

In Japan, where cases rose to 200, there was particular concern after a female tour bus guide tested positive for a second time - one of very few worldwide to do so.

Tokyo has halted big gatherings and sports events for two weeks, and is closing schools early for the spring break. But it still plans to go ahead with the 2020 Olympics, whose cancellation or relocation would be a massive blow for Japan. The coronavirus has mainly battered China, causing

78,596 cases and 2,746 deaths. But it has spread to another 44 countries with 3,246 cases and 51 deaths reported.

Though meeting the dictionary definition of a pandemic widespread contagion across a large region - the World Health Organization (WHO) has so far held back from

using that term. "There is every indication that the world will soon enter a pandemic phase of the coronavirus," Australian Prime

Minister Scott Morrison said as he ordered hospitals to ensure sufficient medical supplies, protective gear and staff. SEE PAGE 17 COL 6

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| SI. | Items | Qty |
|-----|-------------------------------|------------|
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| 3 | Single & Tendem Aerial Roller | 140 No. |
| 4 | All accessories | L/s |

Interested parties are requested to contact on Cell: 01670646214/01726722913

Email: 15003.dhaka@angelique-india.com D-48

বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল এন্ড ডেন্টাল কাউন্সিল ২০৩, শহীদ সৈয়দ নজরুল ইসলাম সরণী (পুরাতন ৮৬ বিজয়নগর), ঢাকা-১০০০। e-mail: admin@bmdc.org.bd Website: www.bmdc.org.bd

আগামী এপ্রিল, ২০২০ইং এ অনুষ্ঠিতব্য Registration Oualifying Examination এ অংশ গ্রহনে ইচ্ছক প্রার্থীদেরকে পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহনের জন্য ৩১, মার্চ, ২০২০ইং তারিখের মধ্যে কাউন্সিল কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত নিয়মে আবেদন প্রক্রিয়া সম্পন্ন করিতে হইবে।

> রেজিষ্ট্রার (ভারপ্রাপ্ত) বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল এন্ড ডেন্টাল কাউন্সিল

