

No group-wise disciplines in new curriculum

Says Dipu Moni on secondary level edu
BSS, Chandpur

Education Minister Dipu Moni yesterday said there will be no specific disciplines -- science, humanities and business studies -- for students up to tenth grade when the new curriculum comes into force.

"There will be no separate groups before grade 11 for students, when the new curriculum will be implemented," she told a prize distribution ceremony of an annual sports completion of Chandpur Government Women's College.

The minister said unnecessary note books or guide books will not be in the market and none would be able to force students to buy those.

She sought media cooperation to monitor 33,000 educational institutions as it is hard to keep those under surveillance by the ministry alone.

Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education Director General Syed Md Golam Faruk was also present at the event.



PHOTO OF THE DAY

SHEIKH NASIR



Motorcyclists carrying passengers through rough terrains and crop lands is a common sight in the bordering districts of Sunamganj. Many of these bikers don't have valid papers, and taking multiple passengers, including children, without any safety arrangements leave them at imminent risk of accidents. The photo was taken from the banks of Jadukata river in Tahirpur upazila.

SYLHET CITY CORPORATION Of chaos and councillors

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Sylhet City Corporation has fallen into a chaotic situation as 22 councillors out of 36 filed a complaint against the mayor on Wednesday, and 10 of them later released a counter-statement, saying they were "misguided" to sign the document.

Meanwhile, 23 councillors in another public circular claimed that recent local media reports about a complaint seeking removal of Mayor Ariful Haque Choudhury were "baseless", and "humiliating" for them.

Talking to this correspondent, seven councillors confirmed that they did submit a complaint to the minister for Local Government and Rural Development through the SCC chief executive officer on Wednesday.

They said, in the complaint, they sought proper investigation into some specific allegations against the mayor, but did not seek his removal.

CEO Bidhayak Roy Choudhury, however, said councillors did not submit any such complaint to him.

Councillor Mohammad Toufique Baksh (ward 26) said, "We filed the complaint so that the ministry would consider investigating the matter and take proper actions."

He said, in the complaint, they mentioned that the mayor is not conducting monthly meetings regularly and taking decisions on his own without informing the respective committees, among others.

They also mentioned that the mayor recently acquired 410 decimals of land spending Tk 24.61 crore for the construction of asphalt plant of the corporation, without discussing the issue with the councillors.

"The CEO said he will wait till Sunday before formally accepting the complaint, as he is currently looking to see whether are legal grounds on which he can receive any such complaint against the mayor," said the councillor.

Meanwhile, 10 councillors among the 22 signatories of the complaint claimed that were misguided by others.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

CCC stinks up city street

Garbage lifted from drains lie beside road for 3 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) workers, during their routine cleaning efforts, lifted piles of garbage from the drains of a road in the port city. What they did not do, however, was dispose them in a proper manner, as workers just neglectfully left the waste lying there beside the drains. This situation led to pedestrians and residents of nearby buildings suffering due to the filthy obstruction and stench.

The heaps of garbage have been festering for three days on Ujir Ali Shah By-lane of KB Aman Ali Road in Rahattar Pool area. Locals said CCC conservancy workers lifted the garbage on Tuesday but just left them there since then.

"It's common practice of the workers: every time they lift garbage from drains, they leave them lying there for many days," said Sagir Ahmed, an elderly shopkeeper in the area. "When it rains, half the garbage spreads out onto the road and the other half falls into the drain."

"When the garbage gets mixed with rainwater, roads become muddy and slippery, making it difficult to move about," said Karabi Das, a schoolteacher. "If most of the garbage just falls back into the drain because of rainwater, what's the benefit of cleaning the drains?"

As mentioned by locals, this is not a one-off event, as this is a common practice of CCC workers when they clean up KB Aman Ali Road, or at least try to.

"I remember, last monsoon, majority of the two-kilometre KB Aman Ali Road, which stretches from Chawkbazar Kitchen Market to Rahattar Pool, became muddy and slippery, as workers did the same thing then, leaving the garbage for around a week," said Chan Mia, a local of Phooltola area. "We asked them to properly dispose of the waste, but they didn't seem to care."

Contacted, CCC Ward 17 (West Bakalia) Councillor AKM Ariful Islam said CCC workers were supposed to collect the garbage in a day. "I am looking into the matter," he added.

CCC Chief Conservancy Officer Shafiqul Mannan Siddique, however, told The Daily Star that workers usually do not collect garbage lifted from the drain instantly.

"The garbage is left on the spot to make them dry," he said. "The muddy garbage is not collected instantly, as while carrying, the wet waste seeps out of containers, which falls on the roads and makes them muddy," he said.

In reply, Prof Sekandar Khan --

president of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolan, Chattogram chapter -- said the argument is flimsy.

According to Prof Sekandar, the garbage dries up in a few hours, making it easy to dispose the waste.

"The main thing lacking is supervision. A group lifts garbage from the drain, and it's the responsibility of another group to collect and take them away," said Prof Sekandar. "But those who supervise the groups don't perform their duty properly."



Heaps of garbage have been lying beside a by-lane of KB Aman Ali Road in port city for the last three days. Chattogram City Corporation lifted the waste from the road's drains but just kept it there to fester, making locals suffer the stench and obstruction. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ARKUN BIKASH DEY

463 died, 948 injured in 387 road accidents last month: report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 463 people were killed and 948 injured in 387 road accidents across the country in February, said a report published yesterday by non-government organisation Road Safety Foundation.

Of the deaths, at least 107 people died from 102 motorcycle accidents, the report said.

Of the 387 accidents identified in February, 78 were head-on collisions and 136 pedestrians were run over.

Road Safety Foundation collects data for monthly reports from news published on seven national dailies, four online portals and electronic media, their press release said.

Besides, 44 people were killed in 47 train accidents, while 32 died from seven incidents of waterway accidents in the same month.

The foundation pointed out 10 reasons behind the accidents, among which were -- unfit vehicles, reckless driving, drivers' incompetence and their lack of physical or mental capacity, unregulated working hours for drivers, poor traffic management, the inefficiency of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority and lack of knowledge about traffic rules among drivers and pedestrians.

To reduce the number of road accidents and deaths, it also made nine recommendations, including taking initiatives to increase number of skilled drivers, constructing road dividers on all highways, fixing salaries and working hours of drivers and barring low-speed vehicles from highways.

Road crashes kill two, injure 10

STAR REPORT

At least two people were killed and 10 injured in road accidents in two districts yesterday, report our correspondents.

In Mymensingh, factory worker Mosadek Billah (30) was killed after a truck ran him over at Aamtoli of Bhaluka around 1pm, said police, quoting locals.

Police and firefighters recovered the body and sent it to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) for autopsy.

In another accident in the district, 10 members of a bridal party were injured after a human haulier collided with a truck at Rangopalpur area of Gouripur around 10pm, said OC Md Borhan Uddin Khan of Gouripur Police Station, quoting locals.

Police rescued the injured and admitted them to MMCH, the OC said.

In Narayanganj, rickshaw-puller Shahidul Islam (40) was killed after a speeding covered van hit his vehicle at Khanpur area around 6:30pm, said police.

COMPENSATION FOR RUSSEL HC verdict on April 15

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court will deliver its verdict on April 15 on a writ petition that sought adequate compensation for Russel Sarker, who lost his leg after a bus of Green Line Paribahan ran him over in April 2018.

The HC bench of Justice FRM Nazmul Ahasan and Justice KM Kamrul Kader set the date after concluding hearing on the petition.

Russel, a chauffer, was run over by the bus after he got into an altercation with the bus driver on April 4, 2018.

Following a petition, the HC issued a rule on May 14, 2018 asking the Green Line authorities and the government to explain why they should not pay Tk 1 crore compensation to Russel.

The HC on March 31 last year directed Green Line to pay Tk 50 lakh to Russel in installments.

But it has so far given only Tk 13.38 lakh, petitioner's lawyer Khandakar Shamsul Haque Reza said yesterday.

Drive begins to revive 130yr-old Rangpur canal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Eviction of illegal encroachment on both sides of Shyamsundari canal, a major waterbody of the city, finally began yesterday, to revive its water flow.

The canal is nearly dead because of encroachment, and water flow has become stagnant due to clogging at various points.

The drive started around 10am from Dhap area of the city.

On Tuesday afternoon at a press conference in the city, Md Mostafizur Rahman Mostafa, mayor of Rangpur City Corporation (RCC), announced the eviction drive.

Mayor Mostafa said RCC so far identified 170 people who illegally built structures encroaching on the historic canal. They had already been notified to remove the establishments on their own.

Most of the structures remained as it was, said the mayor. Shyamsundari canal was dug in 1890.

After inaugurating the eviction drive, the mayor said letters had been issued to encroachers to remove the structures, but the request went in vain.

"That's why we are starting the drive," he said. He said that it's all citizens' responsibility to save the 130-year-old canal

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Stop encroachment at Mahasthangarh HC directs administration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the police administration to immediately deploy law enforcers to stop digging and construction works within the historical archaeological site of Mahasthangarh in Bogura in order to protect the proposed world heritage from encroachment.

While hearing a writ petition, the court asked the superintendent of police of Bogura and officer-in-charge of its Shibganj Police Station to submit a report after complying with the directive in two weeks.

It ordered the deputy commissioner and SP of Bogura to form a vigilance committee to monitor Mahasthangarh so that no one can continue digging or constructions within the area without approval from the authorities concerned.

The DC and SP were asked to submit a compliance report within two weeks.

At the same time, the HC asked the area commander of Rab in Bogura to extend all cooperation to the local administration.

The bench of Justice Gobinda Chandra Tagore and Justice Mohammad Ullah came

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

RAJSHAHI EDUCATION BOARD

6 officials promoted illegally, finds ACC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Six officials of the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Rajshahi were illegally promoted to different non-existent posts, found Anti-Corruption Commission in a drive yesterday.

Acting on a call to ACC helpline 106, a team of the anti-graft watchdog -- led by its Assistant Director Alamgir Hossain -- conducted the drive at the board office.

The team obtained a copy of the office order signed by board chairman Prof Mokbul Hossain on January 15, said ACC Court Inspector Amir Hossain, who was in the team.

According to the order, Md Farid Hasan was promoted to deputy comptroller of examinations (JSC), Rubi to deputy comptroller of examination (script), Md Durul Huda to deputy secretary (store), Khorshed Alam to deputy secretary (protocol), Md Nuruzzaman to deputy inspector of schools (registration) and Shamima Akter to library and information documentation officer.

The board's organogram does not have these posts and yet the officials were promoted, violating rules, said the ACC official.

Moreover, all the posts are for first class fifth grade officials, he said, adding that the second class officials were promoted to the posts without screening them through a mandatory special selection committee.

The incident came to light when their official files were placed before board secretary Prof Moazzem Hossain and he denied to sign it for not

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



School students put on Mujib coat and white panjabi while rehearsing for a programme marking Bangabandhu's historic March 7 speech. The photo was taken at Government Model School and College of Khulna yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR