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PHILIPS

Road safety action plan Thrust on short-term measures

By Staff Correspondent

Short-term measures should get 'top priority' while formulating any road safety action plan.

This was observed at a workshop on Road Safety Action Plan for Dhaka organised by the Ministry of Communications under the World Bank-aided Dhaka Urban Transport Project. The workshop, held at the DCC conference room at Nagar Bhaban, was inaugurated by Mayor Mohammad Hanif.

It was stated that the framework for a road safety action plan should be ambitious, but not unrealistic. The plan should take up ten accident-prone spots every year. It is better to be successful on a limited number of actions, rather than just launching a massive programme.

While analysing the accident situation in Dhaka, it was said that in 1996 alone 1,001 accidents occurred in the city. Some 1,270 people sustained injuries while 449 lost their lives. In the city, however, pedestrians were the worst victims of road accidents.

Barisal-5

From Page 1
Jatiya Party.

The by-election is scheduled to be held on July 24.

The seat fell vacant following the death of BNP MP Dr Ehteshanul Haq Nasim Biswas on March 12.

The other AL contestant is Mahiuddin Ahmed, president, district AL unit.

Meanwhile, supporters of BNP candidate Majibur Rahman Sarwar and JP candidate Maniruzzaman Faruk and AL candidate Mahiuddin Ahmed have started election campaign.

Taka devalued

From Page 1
Pakistan, in a bid to support the falling reserve level and to sharpen its competitiveness in the face of US sanctions, has devalued its currency by 4.7 per cent.

The Indian rupee is now under pressure following the US sanctions and experts said this had prompted Bangladesh to go for the devaluation.

Road reopens

From Page 1
The Munshibazar-Dewrachhara road was also reconstructed in the face of public agitation.

Meanwhile, the compensation claim of the Power Development Board for the damaged power line remains unsettled, said an official of PDB.

Both the parties sat at a meeting Wednesday last at the TNOs office at Srimangal, but it did not yield any positive result, he said. "We are expecting to settle the claim soon," he added.

Azal Hossain, Community Relations Officer and Mizanur Rahman, Law officer of the company, represented the Occidental while two Executive Engineers represented PDB at the meeting.

The PDB last year demanded compensation amounting to Tk 1.39 crore for reconstructing the power line along the 15 km bypass road. But with the reconstruction of the original road, PDB modified its claim and the amount now stands at Tk 58 lakh, PDB officials said.

Meanwhile, the General Manager of Moulvibazar Palli Bidyut Samity came to a settlement with Occidental officials at a meeting held at Srimangal also on Wednesday, the TNO said. Occidental will pay Tk six lakh to the Samity for the damaged electric lines, he added.

Minu said that Hasan instructed her to guard the corridor when Shazneen would be attacked. The contractor also threatened Minu, saying that he would kill her. Minu was carrying at that time and is now in an advanced stage, said CID sources.

Minu became afraid after being threatened by Hasan. At about 10 pm on the day of the incident, she was standing on the corridor near Shazneen's bedroom, as asked by Hasan,

sources said quoting the confessional statement.

Shahid entered Shazneen's room, following which security guard Humayun Kabir also entered the room.

About 15 minutes later, Minu saw Humayun leaving the room. Sometime later maid Parvin came to Minu and said that Shahid was sitting on Shazneen's body inside the bedroom.

Minu and her sister Parvin immediately went to the room and did not find any except the blood stained body of Shazneen on the floor. After this, the two came out and started screaming.

The court, after recording Minu's confession, ordered that Minu be sent to the Dhaka Central Jail.

Earlier on May 28, guard Humayun in his confessional statement said he himself, confessed killer Shahid, contractor Hasan, his supervisor Badal, carpenter Shoni Ram and maid Parvin were involved in the killing. All of them were now at the Dhaka Central Jail.

CID has arrested 11 people and questioned more than 50 others in connection with the Shazneen murder.

A CID official said they were yet to question some more people before submitting the chargesheet.

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JS body for necessary reforms in share market

The parliamentary standing committee on the Ministry of Finance at a meeting yesterday reviewed the country's share market situation and stressed the need for undertaking a reform programme, reports BSS.

Presided over by its Chairman Prof Mohammad Ali Ashraf, the meeting took up necessary measures for removing the existing problems in the share market.

The Committee also underlined the importance of restoring the stability of the share market.

The committee members called for coordination among different organisations like Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and Dhaka and Chittagong Stock Exchanges for infusing dynamism in the capital market.

A three-member sub-committee headed by Syed Abul Hossain was formed in the meeting to monitor the developments in the SEC, Dhaka and Chittagong Stock Exchanges and Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB). Other members of the committee are Syed Masud Reza and A H M Mustafa Kamal.

The meeting also reviewed the activities of the ICB, SEC and the two stock exchanges.

Tension in Sectt as two employees clash over subscription

By Special Correspondent

Tension was created in the Secretariat for some time yesterday when two class-four employees traded blows with another over the collection of subscription of Tk 10 for the welfare fund of the Establishment Ministry Employees Association.

Later, police and other employees brought the situation under control.

Meanwhile, the leaders of Bangladesh Sachibhalaya Karmakarta O Karmachari Sangkuta Parishad could not meet the additional secretary of Finance Ministry Maniklal Samadder yesterday to discuss their demands.

The meeting has been postponed until 3 pm Sunday, a press release of the Parishad said.

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Autorickshaw drivers and owners held a rally at Paltan Maidan in the city yesterday protesting 'police harassment'. Their vehicles are seen parked nearby. —Star photo

OECF keen to provide more assistance for rural electrification

Japan's Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) has expressed its special interest to provide further assistance for the rural electrification programme in Bangladesh, reports UNB.

The positive response came on the basis of findings of an OECF mission that visited Bangladesh from June 24 to July 2, officials said.

Kikito Nakagawa, the leader of the fact-finding mission, told

the Economic Relations Division (ERD) that it was impressed with the general performance of Rural Electrification Board (REB) and Pally Bidyut Samity (PBS).

During the visit, the OECF mission examined the seven projects proposed by ERD and said that it is particularly interested to finance in the areas where there are more take-over of PDB and DESA facilities and where a remarkable reduction of system loss is expected after the takeover.

It said OECF is keen on providing further assistance for the rural electrification programme as it contributes to socio-economic development of rural communities.

The mission expressed its satisfaction over the proposed 7,000-km intensification and expansion project and Phase V-A and B project of the REB.

It said the REB should continue necessary preparations for these two proposed projects and make a formal request to the government of Japan soon for a further discussion during the next appraisal mission.

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Autorickshaw drivers protest 'police harassment'

Several hundred auto-rickshaw drivers, workers and owners yesterday demonstrated in the city to protest 'police harassment' in the name of controlling air pollution, reports UNB.

Police intercepted them at Zero Point on their way to Prime Minister's office and used clubs to disperse them, leaving at least 10 injured, alleged AMM Sher Shahadat, general secretary of Auto-rickshaw Owners-Traders Association.

Shahadat said two of the badly injured persons were rushed to the hospital. Police also picked up at least five of them.

He said the association decided to go for road barricade programme in the city on July 16 to protest the 'police excess' and to realise their demands.

Their road barricade programme coincides with country-wide half-day hartal called by the BNP-led 7-party alliance.

The Association, a platform of 4 organisations of auto-rickshaw workers and owners, earlier held a rally at Paltan Maidan and brought out a procession of auto-rickshaws towards PM's Office at Tejgaon. They wanted to submit a memorandum containing 14-point demand to the Prime Minister.

Later in the evening, the Association leaders called on BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleida Zia at her Minto Road residence.

They briefed her about their problems and informed her of their plan to launch a vigorous movement against the government move to restrict plying of auto-rickshaws on the city streets.

Begum Zia assured them of her support in realising their demands.

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11 more killed in Karachi violence

KARACHI, July 2: Rival factions of a militant ethnic group terrorised central and eastern neighbourhoods of this southern port city today, killing 11 people, including two policemen and two paramilitary soldiers, reports AP.

In separate incidents, seven other people, including a local government politician, were killed.

Police officials said all the deaths were linked to the ongoing dispute between rival factions of the militant Mohajir Quami Movement.

Two paramilitary Rangers were killed when gunmen opened fire on their vehicle. At the time of the shooting, they were on patrol in eastern Li-aqatabad neighbourhood.

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JCD leader Pintu released on bail

Senior Vice President of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) Nasir Ahmed Pintu was released yesterday upon a bail from High Court, reports UNB.

After his release Pintu went to the mazar of late President Ziaur Rahman and placed wreaths on the mazar.

At the brief rally, held at the mazar premises, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan said the government has arrested thousands of BNP activists for fear of mass movement against its misrule.

BNP Dhaka city unit Convener Sadek Hossain Khoka, Aman Ullah Aman, Barkat Ullah Bulu, Nazim Uddin Alam and Abdul Khaleq were present at the rally.

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