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Driving the wrong way

By Asad-uz Zaman
Vehicles are driving the wrong way down one-way streets, creating a public safety hazard despite efforts by police to crack down on the practice.

Panthapath Road, Mirpur Road near Dhaka College and Kalabagan, Manik Mia Avenue near Farm Gate and the wireless crossing near Maghbazar are some of the streets where drivers drive against the traffic flow to save a little time and energy.

Sergeant Pallab, a traffic officer who patrols the Panthapath-Green Road crossing, said they only allow vehicles to break the law under special circumstances.

"Sometimes we have to allow vehicles to drive the opposite direction down one-way streets on humanitarian ground," said Pallab.

Although rickshaws aren't allowed on VIP roads, Pallab said the police have to allow them occasionally at the passengers' request. However, he admitted some vehicles do evade the watchful eyes of the traffic police.

"Traffic police cannot watch each and every vehicle on the road since they are not computers," he argued.

Sirajul Islam, the traffic DC, said his office wasn't aware of the issue.

"We do not know of these sort of things ... we cannot deploy traffic personnel to every road," said Islam, who encouraged people to abide by the rules. "Some vehicles use to break the law. However, you should see that we are prosecuting those who do so now."

Interns at Osmani hospital on strike

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Feb 19: The interns at the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College continued their strike for the third day today protesting armed attack on a doctor of the hospital.

Meanwhile, the Sylhet district unit of BMA demanded arrest of the attackers within 72 hours from tomorrow morning.

The doctors at a meeting today also threatened to launch a fresh agitation programme if the demand was not met.

The Principal of the college Prof Golam Kibria and Director of the hospital Brigadier Farid Uddin Bhuiyan also attended the meeting. The speakers at the meeting condemned the armed attack on the physician.

The Sylhet BMA will wear black badges and observe a 24-hour token strike from 11 am tomorrow. It would also hand over a memorandum to the administration officials demanding action against the attackers.

The BMA leaders called on Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury at the Sylhet Circuit House in the afternoon. The Speaker asked the DC and SP to arrest those responsible for the incident within 24 hours.

4-yr-old girl allegedly raped by neighbour

By Staff Correspondent

A four-year-old girl was allegedly raped by her neighbour at Shekhertek in the city's Mohammadpur area yesterday.

The neighbour, Kawsar lured the girl at her house in the name of sightseeing, said hospital sources quoting the victim's relatives.

He took the girl to an under-constructed building at Road No 2 and violated her, the relatives alleged.

The alleged rapist left the spot as the victim cried for help. Local people rushed to the spot and rescued the girl. They took the victim to her family. Later, she was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with serious injuries.

Resist eviction of slum dwellers'

By Staff Correspondent

A rally was held at BNP Bazar at Agargaon in the city yesterday protesting Home Minister's announcement to demolish slums from today, said a press release.

Basti Okiya Sangram Parishad (BOSPA) leaders Rashed Khan Menon and A F M Mahbubul Huq and leaders of 11-party spoke at the rally.

The speakers urged the slum dwellers to resist the demolition programme, it said.

Menon said the Home Minister said terrorists live in slums. The ruling party has been providing shelter to the terrorists in posh areas of the city, he said. So if the government really wants to arrest terrorists, it should arrest the terrorists of its own party.

Demands arrest of the godfathers of the terrorists and drug traders. Menon said without any arrangement for rehabilitation, eviction of slum dwellers is unconstitutional, undemocratic and similar to ignoring an order from the High Court.

A F M Mahbubul Huq said the government is talking about eviction of slum dwellers since they want to clean Dhaka before the visit of US President Bill Clinton.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina unveiled the plaque of the Mukti Joddha, Bangabandhu and Bangladesh Research Institute at Kushli in Gopalganj yesterday. —PID photo

Conspiracy on to undermine spirit of Liberation War: PM

TUNGIPARA, Gopalganj, Feb 19: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today said the fallen autocrats have ganged up with communal forces and urged the people to remain alert against any design to undermine the spirit of liberation war.

The Prime Minister said that none would be allowed to undermine the spirit of the War of Liberation and distort the national history.

The Prime Minister said this institute will help project and preserve the history of the independence and sacrifices of the national heroes and mentioned steps of the government for restoring the spirit and values of the liberation war.

She said the government has already taken steps for projecting true national history in textbooks and the media. But some people who do not believe in the liberation and independence of the country are criticising the measures.

The government has set up Shikhi Chirantan (Flame eternal) at Suhrawardy Udyana and is setting up the independence monument at the historic places for keeping the memories of the national heroes alive. A war museum will also be built.

The Prime Minister said the government has taken all possible steps for preserving the memories of the War of Liberation.

Earlier, the Prime Minister unveiled the plaque of the foundation stone and witnessed the model of the project. She planted saplings on the premises.

Later, she distributed Bangabandhu Shishu Padak to meritorious students of primary schools of the district.

The Prime Minister said the government is working on the project.

Vice Chancellor of the National University Prof Aminul Islam presided over the function.

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