

Call for coordinated approach to tackling road safety problems

DU CORRESPONDENT

Experts at a workshop yesterday called for addressing the road safety problems through a coordinated policy of planning, implementation and evaluation of their solutions.

The rapid expansion of road transport services and motorisation will lead to more accidents and casualties in the coming years unless the problems' epidemic nature is addressed with due importance, they warned.

The figure of deaths from road accidents -- 1.2 million across the world each year, with about 85 percent of them occurring in the developing countries and many survivors becoming permanent disable -- has an enormous economic cost, ranging from one to

five percent of GDP for every nation, they added.

Road accidents are occurring in the country mainly due to lack of awareness about road safety among the drivers, passengers and pedestrians. There are also economic, social and cultural reasons for road accidents, the experts observed.

The Accident Research Centre (ARC), Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), organised the 'National workshop on organisational roles and responsibilities of road safety in Bangladesh'.

Health and Family Welfare Adviser Maj Gen (Retd) Dr ASM Matiur Rahman formally inaugurated the workshop on the Buet campus in the city.

Buet Vice-chancellor Prof

AMM Saifiullah, National Professor MR Khan, secretary to the communication ministry Md Mahbubur Rahman, ARC Director Prof Md Mazharul Hoque and Professor of Canadian University of Calgary Dr Richard Tay also spoke.

Dr ASM Matiur Rahman said many road users, including drivers, helpers, commuters and pedestrians, are not aware of traffic laws.

He also called for proper implementation of these laws.

The government is firm to address the road safety problems on priority basis, he said.

ARC Director Prof Md Mazharul Hoque said 1.2 million people die from road accidents worldwide a year.

"For every death, there are far

greater numbers of injuries -- four people become disabled, ten people require hospital admission and 30 people require emergency room treatment."

He also suggested developing a comprehensive and consistent approach to ensure that the society and the economy treat road safety and mobility with equal importance.

"Goals can be achieved through, among others things, safer design, technology, training, education, a policy of monitoring, enforcement and effective sanctions and incentive schemes," he added.

Prof Dr Richard Tay called for promoting leadership, strengthening organisational capacity and adopting scientific approach to address the road safety problems.

GRAFT CASES

Koyes Sami on 2-day remand, Aman to be quizzed in jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Former managing director of Oriental Bank Limited Chowdhury Koyes Sami, accused in a case of embezzlement of Tk 488.5 crore, was placed on a two-day remand yesterday.

Meanwhile, another Dhaka court directed an investigation officer (IO) to interrogate Amanullah Aman, former state minister for labour and employment, in the jail custody.

Metropolitan Magistrate Quamrunnahr passed the remand order against Amanullah Aman for a seven-day remand after the investigation officer produced Sami before the court at 12:30pm.

The defence lawyers submitted a petition for cancellation of the remand saying that their client was implicated in the case as part of a conspiracy to harass him.

In the remand prayer submitted on April 2, IO Syed Momin Hossain of the Criminal Investigation Department mentioned that the accused along with others misappropriated Tk 488.50 crore. So, he needs to be quizzed to find out where he deposited the money and to know the whereabouts of his accomplices, the IO added.

On March 25, Koyes Sami surrendered before a court and submitted a petition seeking bail. The court rejected the bail petition and sent him to the Dhaka Central Jail.

On January 25, the Oriental Bank filed the case with Tejgaon Police Station against Orion Group chief Obaidul Karim, Koyes Sami and 23 other present and former officials of the bank for embezzling Tk 488.5 crore.

According to the FIR (first information report), Tk 488.50 crore was misappropriated through unauthorised issuance of 369 inter-branch debit advices with the help of several officials at the Oriental Bank head office and at Bangshah, Nawabpur, Mirpur Road and Karwan Bazar branches between 2003 and June 2006.

"Obaidul Karim, who is a close relative of some members of the then board of directors of the bank, is the main beneficiary of the misappropriated money," said the FIR.

Aman Case

Metropolitan Magistrate Jagannath Das Khokon directed the IO Jibon Krishna Roy, deputy director of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), to interrogate Aman in connection with the graft case filed against him and his wife Sabera.

The court passed the order following the written prayer submitted by the IO for interrogating Aman in the jail custody about his wealth.

ACC DD Abdullah Al Zahid filed the graft case against the former state minister for labour and employment with Kafrul Police Station on March 6.

According to the FIR, Aman had acquired properties, including house and vehicles worth over Tk 28.28 crore.

It also mentioned that there is a wide discrepancy between incomes and expenditures of the former BNP lawmaker from Keraniganj. He had made vast sums by misusing power and bribery.

Besides, the DD accused Aman's wife Sabera Aman of giving false information in her statement to the anti-graft body.

Earlier, on his arrival, the president welcomed the navy chief at Bangabhaban.

Military Secretary to the President Maj Gen M Aminul Karim and Secretary to President Office M Sirajul Islam were present.

When contacted, Prof Dr Abdul

PHOTO: STAR
Chief Election Commissioner Dr ATM Shamsul Huda, second from right, inspects a transparent ballot box during his visit to Bangladesh Machine Tools Factory in Gazipur yesterday.

Pintu in BSMMU prison cell for medical tests

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former BNP lawmaker Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu was taken to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) yesterday for some diagnostic tests as his physical condition deteriorated.

Prison authorities took Pintu to the hospital at 10:30am where he was admitted to the prison cell.

DIG (Prison) Major Shamsul Haider Siddiqui told The Daily Star that Pintu will remain in the prison cell for another two to three days when the doctors will carry out diagnostics tests on him.

Siddiqui also said Pintu was taken to BSMMU for treatment on the recommendation of the prison doctors, who found blood in his stool.

Income tax clerk arrested while taking bribe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Members of joint forces arrested a clerk of income tax department while he was taking bribe of Tk 500 at his office in the city yesterday.

He was identified as AKM Joynal Abedin, a senior upper division clerk at the office of the Deputy Income Tax Commissioner of Circle-1, Khulna.

According to sources of joint forces, Joynal was caught red handed while he was receiving Tk 500 as bribe from Abdul Kalam Azad, an official of Khulna Branch of Popular Life Insurance.

Sources said the arrestee earlier demanded Tk 1000 from Azad for dealing with a matter relating to tax evasion.

He was sent to Khulna district jail in the afternoon.

BANGABANDHU AGRI VARSITY Classes suspended for indefinite period

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

The authorities of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Rahman Agricultural University yesterday suspended the academic activities of honours degree for an indefinite period in the wake of agitation by students demanding introduction of grading system in evaluating the results of their examinations.

The authorities also directed the students to leave the campus by 12:00 noon yesterday. But the students did not comply. However, they left the campus at around 3:00pm following requests from the police deployed on the campus in huge number.

The honours students have been demanding introduction of the grading system as per the directive of the University Grants Commission (UGC).

In a circular on June 13 last year, the UGC asked all the public and private universities to introduce the grading system, they said.

To press their demand, the students submitted a memorandum to the vice-chancellor of the university on April 8 giving him a 72-hour ultimatum to transform their previous results into grades.

They also started boycotting their mid-term examinations and classes from Sunday.

The students yesterday met Deputy Commissioner Syed Mizanur Rahman and submitted a memorandum.

When contacted, Prof Dr Abdul

Khaled said the academic council of the university at a meeting on April 10 decided to introduce the grading system, but it will be applicable for the students who got admitted in 2007, not for those admitted in 2005 and 2006.

Navy chief calls on president

UNB, Dhaka

Navy Chief Rear Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam made a courtesy call on President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday and apprised him of various aspects of the naval force.

During the meeting, the president, also the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, stressed the need for modernising of the Navy and training of its officials.

The navy chief hoped that Bangladesh Navy would work sincerely to fulfil the expectations of the nation and sought cooperation of the president in this regard.

Earlier, on his arrival, the president welcomed the navy chief at Bangabhaban.

Military Secretary to the President Maj Gen M Aminul Karim and Secretary to President Office M Sirajul Islam were present.

When contacted, Prof Dr Abdul

PHOTO: STAR
Chief Election Commissioner Dr ATM Shamsul Huda, second from right, inspects a transparent ballot box during his visit to Bangladesh Machine Tools Factory in Gazipur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR
Navy chief calls on president

UNB, Dhaka

Navy Chief Rear Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam made a courtesy call on President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday and apprised him of various aspects of the naval force.

During the meeting, the president, also the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, stressed the need for modernising of the Navy and training of its officials.

The navy chief hoped that Bangladesh Navy would work sincerely to fulfil the expectations of the nation and sought cooperation of the president in this regard.

Earlier, on his arrival, the president welcomed the navy chief at Bangabhaban.

Military Secretary to the President Maj Gen M Aminul Karim and Secretary to President Office M Sirajul Islam were present.

When contacted, Prof Dr Abdul

PHOTO: STAR
Navy chief calls on president

UNB, Dhaka

Navy Chief Rear Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam made a courtesy call on President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday and apprised him of various aspects of the naval force.

During the meeting, the president, also the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, stressed the need for modernising of the Navy and training of its officials.

The navy chief hoped that Bangladesh Navy would work sincerely to fulfil the expectations of the nation and sought cooperation of the president in this regard.

Earlier, on his arrival, the president welcomed the navy chief at Bangabhaban.

Military Secretary to the President Maj Gen M Aminul Karim and Secretary to President Office M Sirajul Islam were present.

When contacted, Prof Dr Abdul

PHOTO: STAR
Navy chief calls on president

UNB, Dhaka

Navy Chief Rear Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam made a courtesy call on President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday and apprised him of various aspects of the naval force.

During the meeting, the president, also the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, stressed the need for modernising of the Navy and training of its officials.

The navy chief hoped that Bangladesh Navy would work sincerely to fulfil the expectations of the nation and sought cooperation of the president in this regard.

Earlier, on his arrival, the president welcomed the navy chief at Bangabhaban.

Military Secretary to the President Maj Gen M Aminul Karim and Secretary to President Office M Sirajul Islam were present.

When contacted, Prof Dr Abdul

PHOTO: STAR
Navy chief calls on president

UNB, Dhaka

Navy Chief Rear Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam made a courtesy call on President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday and apprised him of various aspects of the naval force.

During the meeting, the president, also the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, stressed the need for modernising of the Navy and training of its officials.

The navy chief hoped that Bangladesh Navy would work sincerely to fulfil the expectations of the nation and sought cooperation of the president in this regard.

Earlier, on his arrival, the president welcomed the navy chief at Bangabhaban.

Military Secretary to the President Maj Gen M Aminul Karim and Secretary to President Office M Sirajul Islam were present.

When contacted, Prof Dr Abdul

PHOTO: STAR
Navy chief calls on president

UNB, Dhaka

Navy Chief Rear Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam made a courtesy call on President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday and apprised him of various aspects of the naval force.

During the meeting, the president, also the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, stressed the need for modernising of the Navy and training of its officials.

The navy chief hoped that Bangladesh Navy would work sincerely to fulfil the expectations of the nation and sought cooperation of the president in this regard.

Earlier, on his arrival, the president welcomed the navy chief at Bangabhaban.

Military Secretary to the President Maj Gen M Aminul Karim and Secretary to President Office M Sirajul Islam were present.

When contacted, Prof Dr Abdul

PHOTO: STAR
Navy chief calls on president

UNB, Dhaka

Navy Chief Rear Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam made a courtesy call on President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday and apprised him of various aspects of the naval force.

During the meeting, the president, also the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, stressed the need for modernising of the Navy and training of its officials.

The navy chief hoped that Bangladesh Navy would work sincerely to fulfil the expectations of the nation and sought cooperation of the president in this regard.

Earlier, on his arrival, the president welcomed the navy chief at Bangabhaban.

Military Secretary to the President Maj Gen M Aminul Karim and Secretary to President Office M Sirajul Islam were present.

When contacted, Prof Dr Abdul

PHOTO: STAR
Navy chief calls on president

UNB, Dhaka

Navy Chief Rear Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam made a courtesy call on President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday and apprised him of various aspects of the naval force.

During the meeting, the president, also the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, stressed the need for modernising of the Navy and training of its officials.

The navy chief hoped that Bangladesh Navy would work sincerely to fulfil the expectations of the nation and sought cooperation of the president in this regard.

Earlier, on his arrival, the president welcomed the navy chief at Bangabhaban.

</