

Major changes in tech edn planned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government wants to bring massive changes to the technical education system in order to produce skilled manpower in the country, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said yesterday.

"The technical education, especially polytechnic institutions, has been neglected. We want to improve the quality of technical education by putting our best efforts," he said.

To this end, the ministry is going to observe a technical education week from June 20 to uphold the importance of the technical education before the countrymen, Nahid said.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the week at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city, he added.

The minister made the comments after a meeting with a 25-member delegation of Bangladesh Polytechnic Teachers Association (BPTA) at his office.

Placing an eight-point demand, Mohammad

Shamsur Rahman, president of the association, said there are 50 polytechnic and monotechnic institutes in the country, which are suffering from tremendous teachers and technical staff crises.

Of the 50, 20 are old polytechnic institutes where 45 percent positions of teachers remain vacant. The rest institutes run under different projects by the government have only 30 percent teachers, he said.

The teachers at the institutes run under the projects are leading an inhuman life as they receive their salaries every three to four months, he said, adding many teachers left their jobs for this reason.

Besides, there is no appointment rule for the employees in the polytechnic institutes, Shamsur said.

Demanding a separate commission for the appointment of the polytechnic teachers, he said the Public Service Commission (PSC) takes at least three years to appoint teachers to the institutes.



City streets experienced less traffic yesterday as owners kept their vehicles off the streets fearing staggering gridlock because of the grand rally of BNP at Paltan in the city. The photo was taken from Farmgate area.

Processions disrupt traffic, commuters suffer

MUKHLESUR RAHMAN

Mahbubur Rahman impatiently kept asking his bus driver to pull away defying traffic signal in the city's Paltan intersection at about 11:30am yesterday, as the police stopped a BNP procession pass through the intersection.

Like Mahbub, thousands of commuters had to go through untold suffering because most of the city streets were gridlocked, as processions from all corners of the city were heading towards Paltan Maidan, the venue of BNP's grand rally.

But the traffic scenario changed completely in the afternoon as most city dwellers stayed indoor and many owners kept their vehicles off the street fearing further traffic congestion after the rally or untoward incidents.

Stuck in the gridlock, Mahbub was looking at his wristwatch repeatedly as he was worried about his six-year-old daughter who was waiting to be picked up by him at a coaching centre at Mouchak.

Mahbub, a trader, said he was sup-

posed to reach the coaching centre by 11:00am, but he finally reached Mouchak at about 12:30pm.

To avoid tailbacks, many buses did not go through the Gulistan area.

Muslem, a helper of a bus, said, "We were going to Gulistan from Gulshan in the morning but had to return back from Kakrail intersection as the road to Gulistan was gridlocked and the vehicles were moving inch by inch due to processions."

Many buses also remained off the road fearing possible untoward incidents, he said at around 3:00pm when the traffic scenario got changed.

Mohammad Shaheen, a resident of East Shewrapara, said, "On my way to Karwan Bazar office at about 1:00 pm, I noticed that less vehicles are plying Begum Rokeya Sarani and Farmgate areas."

Many city dwellers did not take out their private cars to the street fearing severe congestion and untoward incidents.

Nishi Begum, a resident of Gulbagh, said, "I did not take my daughter to her

college [at Farmgate], as I did not take out my car from my parking garage to avoid any untoward incidents."

Since the morning, BNP activists in their thousands started coming to Paltan Maidan from the districts of Dhaka division by buses, minibuses and other vehicles while more activists in the city marched towards the rally venue in processions, disrupting normal life in the capital.

However, traffic became thin at noon as a number of city dwellers did not take out their vehicles to streets fearing untoward incidents, said Joint Commissioner (traffic) Shafiqur Rahman of DMP.

He also said, "We have provided foolproof security to the city dwellers as well as the rally goers."

Traffic around the rally venue apparently came to a standstill in the morning as the BNP activists parked their buses and other vehicles at various points in the city including Hatkhola, Joykali Mandir, Khilgaon Biswa Road, Rajarbagh, Matsya Bhaban, and Dhaka University areas, he added.

Truck crushes cop to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A police officer was killed when a speeding truck ran over him at Halishahar in the port city yesterday evening.

Sheikh Md Alamgir, 55, son of Md Abdus Salam of Gopalganj, was a sub inspector of Halishahar Police Station.

Police said a truck knocked Alamgir's motorbike from behind near Boropole intersection at about 6:30pm, leaving him dead on the spot.

Alamgir was going to his office when the accident occurred, said SI Kalam of the police station.

Police seized the truck and arrested its driver Shafiqullah.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK



Today is the 6th death anniversary of Zafar Imam, a noted sports organiser

and former secretary general of Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA).

He was renowned both in national as well as the international arena for his contributions to sports.

Imam was a recipient of national award.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at the mosque adjacent to Paltan Maidan in the city after Maghrib prayers.

Arif Rahman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the first death anniversary of Arif Rahman, former general secretary of Bangladesh Crime Reporters' Association (CRAB), says a press release.

On the occasion, a memorial meeting and milad mahfil will be held at CRAB office in the city at 2.00pm today.

Newlywed woman commits suicide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Within seven months of love marriage, housewife Shawon Akter Smriti allegedly committed suicide at her Uttara residence on Tuesday night following a family feud.

The victim's cousin Masud Rana confessed that she was either provoked to commit suicide through torture by the family members or hanged her from the ceiling fan after killing her.

Family sources said 19-year-old Smriti and private company distributor Mainul Hasan Liton of Kumerkhali got married seven months ago in elopement.

Rana said they started their conjugal life in the city's Uttara where Liton's mother and a sister were also living.

Liton said his wife committed suicide, as she could not accept his mother and sister in their family.

"I had requested her to wait some days and assured her of sending my mother and sister back home," said Liton, adding: "But she did not wait and committed suicide."

However, Rana said two days before the incident, Smriti had phoned her another cousin Rima, saying that she was being tortured and she would no longer survive.

Officer-in-charge of Uttara Police Station said they were looking into the matter to be confirmed whether it was a suicidal incident.

Move to stop smoking in public transport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) will take necessary steps in implementing the law prohibiting smoking in public transport, said BRTA Chairman Aiyub Rahman at a program yesterday.

To protect children, women and non-smokers from the bad effects of smoking, non-smoking logos must be fixed compulsorily on the public vehicles, he said this at a view-exchange meeting organised by Bangladesh Anti-Tobacco Alliance.

Legal action would be taken to protect people, especially non-smokers from passive smoking, from the deadly impacts of smoking, the BRTA chairman added.

Smoke emitted from cigarettes and bidis have more

than 4,000 kinds of harmful chemical elements, which can lead to severe diseases even among non-smokers only for inhaling the smoke.

The alliance placed a set of recommendations to BRTA, including fixing 'No Smoking' logos on the public vehicles and penalty to those disobeying the rule by mobile court.

It also said, the licence for the driver would inform them on the rules of banning of smoking in the public vehicle and a mobile court should have the authority to punish a driver if seen smoking while driving.

Aminul Islam Sujon, representative of WBB Trust, Syeda Ananya Rahman, project officer of WBB, AKM Abdus Salam, director (admin) of BRTA, and Md Ferdaus Alam, deputy director of BRTA, also spoke at the meeting.

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