

Quader vows drive against illegal billboards in September

Says 506 buses added to BRTC fleet for Eid, 55 more on standby for emergency

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

An all-out drive will start in September to remove all illegal billboards across the country, said Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday.

The minister was talking to journalists during his visit to the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in Chera Ali Market area of Gazipur.

Obaidul Quader urged all to remove illegal billboards by the end of August.

He said billboards, springing up like mushrooms, are destroying the country's aesthetic appeal.

On a different note, he said work on the Joydevpur-Mymensingh and Dhaka-Chittagong four lane is nearly complete.

The minister admitted that many roads have been damaged by the recent rain, and assured of repairing those as soon as possible.

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Eid-ul-Fitr is only six or seven days away but the roadside shops, which cater to the poor, remain largely empty. Traders say the low-income people would be flocking to the shops two to three days before the festival. The photo was taken at Sholoshahar of Chittagong city.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS



Appeal for help

CITY DESK

Md Milu, 10, a class IV student in Lalmonirhat, has been suffering from blood cancer for two years, says a press release.

His father Md Ashraf Ali, a day labourer, has already spent around Tk 5 lakh for his treatment.

Doctors at Rangpur Medical College Hospital advised the family to continue his treatment which will cost Tk 3 lakh more.

As the family alone cannot afford the treatment, they sought financial assistance from the affluent of the society.

Aid can be sent to Md Shahebur Rahman, current A/C No-617, Janata Bank, Baura Branch, Lalmonirhat; b K a s h A / C N o - 01716189897.

BDR carnage case appeals verdict date likely to be fixed by September

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

With the majority of the hearings complete, the High Court is likely to fix by September a date to deliver verdict in the BDR carnage case, the biggest ever criminal case in Bangladesh's history in terms of the number of accused and convicts.

Before going on a two-week annual vacation on Friday, the three-member special HC bench sat for 89 working days since starting to hear the death reference and 255 appeals from January 18.

The state counsels have so far presented the first information report, charge sheet, confessional statements of the 538 convicts, and statements on the seizure list and of the 654 prosecution witnesses.

On reopening, the HC will start hearing on the 29 defence witnesses' statements on July 26, Deputy Attorney General AKM Zahid Sarwar Kazal told The Daily Star on Friday.

Then the lower court judge's findings and arguments of the defence and prosecution will be heard, he said.

There will be 40 working days from July 26 to September 17 before the court goes a 44-day annual vacation.

"We hope the hearings will be finished in the 40 working days and then the court will fix a date," he said.

The bench comprises Justice Md Shawkat Hossain, Justice Md Abu Zafor Siddique and Justice Nazrul Islam Talukder.

A Dhaka court on November 5, 2013 awarded death penalty to 150 soldiers of the erstwhile Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and two civilians, and sentenced 161 others to life imprisonment for their roles and involvement in the carnage.

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EID SHOPPING

Markets for poor still quiet in Ctg

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

When Chand Raat, the night to spot the new moon, would add to the Eid celebrations of the affluent people, the poor of Chittagong city would most probably be seen browsing through the footpath shops to find new clothes for the occasion.

The footpath or roadside shop sellers said they would start getting buyers in large numbers two to three days ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr.

The low-income people viewed the same because they are yet to save up enough or are looking to the night before Eid for cheap purchases.

Abdul Malek, a trader at Sholoshahar Gate No-2, said, "Every year we see them shopping two to three days before Eid day. A good number of them come on the night before Eid."

Sharif Uddin, a trader at GEC

Intersection, said, "At present the daily sales of my shops are hovering around Tk 8,000 but it will reach Tk 30,000 two to three days before Eid."

While people like rickshaw-pullers, cobblers, transport workers, street vendors and day labourers wait till Chand Raat to accumulate enough money, restaurant workers, shop staff, security guards and factory workers wait to get their salaries or bonus at that time.

Sales at reduced prices on the night are another reason.

"Every year I go for shopping on Chand Raat, as I can buy clothes at a cheaper rate," said cobbler Md Rubel. "I will have to spend Tk 200 to buy a shirt at present, whereas it will sell at Tk 150 to Tk 120 on Chand Raat," he said.

The sellers tend to sell items at the lowest possible prices or even at buying prices on the night.

Restaurant worker Abdul Halim

said, "I am waiting to get my salary and bonus, which will add up to Tk 8,000; I will go for shopping then with my family."

Rickshaw-puller Rahmat Ali said he was saving up every day for the Eid shopping. "I sent some money to my family in the village so that my two children can go for shopping," he said. "I will go home the night before Eid, and before leaving the city I will buy a lungi, a shirt, a pair of sandals and a punjabi for me and a sari, a pair of sandals and some cosmetics for my wife."

He also looks to Chand Raat for cheap purchases.

When asked, Md Tayab, who sells shirts and jeans pants in New Market area, said they would sell even for low profits two to three days before Eid.

"A slump in business continues for the next few months after Eid, so we want to sell as much as we can before Eid," he said.

EDUCATION SECTOR REPORTING

Dedicated media outlets needed

Seminar told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Separate television and radio channels, online sites and newspapers should be introduced that will only broadcast and publish reports on the education sector, said speakers yesterday.

They should also carry features, debates, analyses and documentaries on the sector, said the speakers.

They were addressing a seminar on "Role of the Media in promoting Higher Education" organised by Eastern University at its campus in Dhanmondi yesterday.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid, the chief guest of the programme, said higher education institutes should not be just certificate-giving bodies.

He also highlighted the role private universities can play in students' education as the universities outnumber the public ones.

"There are 38 public universities and 80 private universities," he said, adding that they cannot increase the number of public universities due to limited resources.

"Education and media are not business products but services," said Mustafiz Sofi, executive director of The Daily Samakal.

He added that media should not shy away from publishing negative news about private universities in fear of losing advertisements.

Rahul Raha, current affairs editor of Channel 24, presented the keynote speech at the seminar, which was attended by, among others, Abul Khair Chowdhury, chairman of board of trustees of the university, and Prof Abdur Rab, vice chancellor of the university.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

National Productivity Organization
Ministry of Industries
91, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000
www.npo.gov.bd

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- Organisations who are defaulter of loan, tax or convicted by the court or involved in conflict with foreign buyers need not apply.
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- Authority reserves the right to accept/cancel the incomplete application.

Dr. Md. Nazrul Islam
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GD-2361

NEWSIN brief

Fire breaks out at Karnaphuli Garden City in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fire broke out at Karnaphuli Garden City Market in the capital's Kakrail yesterday.

No casualty was reported.

The fire originated from an electric short circuit at a shop, Food Corner, on the third floor of the 19-storey building and damaged its ceiling partially around 9:00am, said fire officials. The blaze was doused within 10 minutes.

The fire caused only minor damage, said officials.

BCL to distribute nomination forms for central polls from today

DU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League will begin distributing nomination forms from today to elect a president and a general secretary of its central committee.

The forms will be offered and collected till July 25, before the 28th national council of the organisation, announced Bodiuzzaman Shohag, president of BCL, central committee at a press conference at Dhaka University yesterday.

Those interested in contending for the posts can collect a form after making a pay order of Tk 3,000 to BCL's savings account at Janata Bank Limited, Ramna Corporate Branch or by paying directly to the organisation's election commission.

The two-day long national council will be held from July 25 at Suhrawardy Udyan.

DMP to beef up security

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be deployed in different areas two days prior to Eid-ul-Fitr and the teams will work in coordination with different law enforcement agencies and private security teams, Monirul said at a press briefing in the capital.

The DMP official requested private organisations to check their CCTV cameras to ensure their proper function during the vacation.

Around one crore people will leave Dhaka to celebrate Eid with their families, he added.



Shrimp enclosures overflow due to heavy rains in the last couple of days in Paikgachha of Khulna. Farmers brace for losses of lakhs of taka. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

3 Bangladeshis

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The accident occurred at Al Humayat around 500km off Riyadh while they were returning from Makka after performing Umrah, Nazmul Islam, director general of foreign ministry's West Asia region, told The Daily Star yesterday.

The bodies, now in a hospital mortuary, will be sent back home after completion of official procedures, he added.

Meanwhile, four Bangladeshis Jahirul Islam, Moinuddin, Abdul Hamid and Ear Ali, who were injured in another road accident, are still in the intensive care unit (ICU) of King Khaled General Hospital.

Three Bangladeshis were killed and their 17 other compatriots including the four injured when a bus carrying them fell from a flyover at Majma'ah in the KSA early Friday.

2 arrestees placed on fresh

FROM PAGE 3

consignee, is on a second 5-day remand.

A 10-member Chittagong Metropolitan Police team is conducting the interrogations.

Sources in the Detective Branch of police said several persons from Bolivia, United Kingdom and India are involved in sending the consignment.

Moreover, the court is scheduled to hear today an appeal of the prosecution seeking to include sections of Special Powers Act 1974 in the case, filed under section 19 (1) (b) of the Narcotics Control Act and with Patenga Police Station.

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