



Traffic department of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has put a movable metal fence on this portion of Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue near the Saarc Fountain intersection to encourage buses to stop at the designated spot instead of taking and dropping off passengers in the middle of the busy thoroughfare. But many a rowdy bus drivers are apparently not interested to follow the rule. Inset, buses are taking in passengers right at the intersection ignoring a DMP warning sign asking buses not to stop there. The photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTOS: AMRAN HOSSAIN, PALASH KHAN



AL RALLY ATTACK  
Little progress  
in trial in  
16 years

UNB, Bagerhat

Although 16 years have elapsed, there has been a little progress in the trial proceedings of a case filed over the bomb attack on Awami League leader Sheikh Helal's election rally in Bagerhat's Mollahat upazila which killed nine people in 2001.

Public Prosecutor Sheikh Mohammad Ali said the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) submitted a charge sheet against four people with a recommendation for exempting 176 people from the case which drew huge criticisms.

The complainant filed a petition seeking re-investigation into the bomb attack case, he said.

During a recent visit to different villages in Mollahat upazila, this correspondent found that the victims' families have become frustrated over the slow progress in the case.

On September 23, 2001, nine people were killed and 50 others injured in the bomb attack on election rally of Helal on Mollahat Khalilur Rahman College ground. Two cases were filed against 169 people in this connection.

The CID submitted the final report to the court on December 7, 2003.

In 2009, the home ministry took steps for reinvestigation. On August 13, 2013, the then investigation officer of CID submitted two charge sheets against six people. They also recommended exempting 176 people from the case.

Of the six people, two died during the trial proceedings. The four charge-sheeted accused are banned militant outfit Harkat-ul-Jihad al-Islami (Huji) chief Mufti Abdul Hannan, local

FROM PAGE 4 COL 6

NEWS IN  
brief

DU postpones Sept 28 master's exams of 7 affiliated colleges

BSS, Dhaka

Dhaka University yesterday postponed the September 28 final examinations of master's courses of seven affiliated colleges under 2013-14 academic session due to unavoidable circumstances.

The postponed examinations will be held on November 1 while schedule of other examinations will remain unchanged, said a DU release.

The institutions are Dhaka College, Eden Mohila College, Government Shaheed Suhrawardy College, Kabi Nazrul Government College, Begum Badrunnesa Govt Girls College, Government Bangla College and Government Titumir College.

PM in Washington

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina reached Washington early yesterday (Bangladesh time).

PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim told the news agency from Washington over the phone that the prime minister left New York for Washington around noon (NY time) by road.

She will leave Washington for home on September 29. She will return home on October 2 via London.

Hasina reached New York on September 17 to attend the UN General Assembly.

Chief justice returns home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha returned to Dhaka last night after his visit to Canada and Japan.

"He has reached Dhaka around 10:30pm," High Court Registrar Abu Syed Diljar Hussain told The Daily Star last night.

On September 8, the CJ left for Canada to see his ailing daughter.

From there, he travelled to Japan on September 18 to attend a conference of chief justices of Asia and the Pacific.

IGP off to China to attend Interpol General Assembly

UNB, Dhaka

Inspector General of Police AKM Shahidul Hoque left for China on Friday night to join the 86th Interpol General Assembly.

He is leading a five-member Bangladesh delegation in the four-day conference which will formally begin at China National Convention Centre in Beijing on September 26 and will end on September 29, said Soheli Ferdous, additional IG (media) of the Police Headquarters.

Pro-BNP candidate

FROM PAGE 4

"They also beat my supporters in different unions and threatened them not to go to the polling stations," he said. "I informed the returning officer of it. Although he assured us of holding the election in a free and fair manner, I suspect whether my polling agents can stay at the polling centres," he said.

Forkan was threatened in many ways so that he stepped aside, he alleged. "But I want to see how the Election Commission performs," he said.

A total of 1,07,799 voters are going to elect a chairman, a vice chairman and a female vice chairman of the upazila parishad today. Apart from AL and BNP candidates, a pro-Islamic Front aspirant is also vying for the chairman post.

Faruk Chowdhury, the AL-backed chairman candidate, brushed aside all the allegations. "They were filing baseless complaints with Election Commission since the election campaign started," he said.

"We want a free and fair election here," he added.

Returning Officer Munir Hossain Khan, also district election officer, said the pro-BNP candidate verbally complained about vandalism of the BNP office. "I instantly sent police, Rab and BGB there."

A total of 21 executive magistrates will be deployed in the upazila for the polls while 10 police personnel will be deployed at 42 polling centres each, he said.

Besides, five platoons of border guards will be deployed as striking force along with Rab.

New think tank

FROM PAGE 4

Cirdap auditorium.

Eminent Gynaecologist Prof TA Chowdhury, also the chair of the think tank, presided over the discussion, where Dhaka University Professor Robaet Ferdous, Health Economics Unit Director General Asadul Islam, icddr, Director of Communications and Change Management Catherine Spencer, and SHARE Project Director Dr Iqbal Anwar, spoke.

Reviving rivers vital for flood defence

Say experts; World Rivers Day today

UNB, Dhaka

The recent floods that devastated the country's 27 districts and haor region are a wake-up call for the authorities concerned to act immediately to recover the dying rivers for protecting the nation from natural disasters in the days to come, said green activists.

Despite formation of different high-profile bodies, the prime minister's repeated directives and the outcry of environmentalists, there has been little progress in saving rivers, including the ones surrounding Dhaka, from grabbing and pollution and restoring their navigability.

Environmentalist Prof Ainun Nishat, Chief Executive of Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela) Syeda Rizwana Hasan, Chairman of Poribesh Bachao Andolon (Poba) Abu Naser Khan, and General Secretary of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa) MA Matin

also think that the lack of the government's strong political will, concerted efforts by different agencies, enforcement of laws and faulty demarcations stood in the way of recovering the rivers.

Under the circumstances, World Rivers Day is set to be observed in the country today with various programmes highlighting the importance of protecting the rivers.

Prof Ainun Nishat said there are many committees, laws, decisions and policies to reclaim rivers, but now proper actions are necessary. "The government has made some progress in reducing pollution in the Buriganga. Same efforts should be given to free other rivers..."

He said the recent floods are a wake-up call for the authorities concerned to restore the rivers' natural flow and redesign embankments, bridges, culverts and roads, and ensure planned urbanisation to protect the country from natural

disasters. Rizwana Hasan said the main barriers to recovering the rivers are the lack of the "government's good will", strong political commitment and enforcement of laws. "We must protect the rivers from encroachers and ensure their natural flow..."

MA Matin said there has been a movement by green activists in the country since 1997 to save the rivers.

"People are now aware of the importance of rivers... A National River Protection Commission and a taskforce have been formed...the High Court gave a landmark judgement to save rivers due to our movement. These are our achievements, but no river is still fully protected from grabbers and pollution..."

Matin said it is a matter of regret that the government could not make any major progress in recovering any river though the prime minister is very serious about it.

The green activist also feels that

the district and upazila administrations are a major obstacle to saving rivers as they do not take any directives of the PM, ministers and court seriously.

He said the premier should give a strong message to the administration and other authorities that she wants to see the rivers free from encroachment and pollution.

Matin said the High Court in 2009 clearly defined the three parts of rivers-bed, foreshore and bank and asked the authorities concerned to determine the exact boundaries of the four Dhaka rivers and install pillars on their banks.

But the authorities deviating from the HC order wrongly demarcated the rivers and set up pillars in most places in riverbeds, excluding foreshore, creating a scope for grabbers to encroach upon those foreshores and banks, he said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

SAVAR FIRES  
Eight of 2 families sustain burns

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Four members of a family suffered burns in a fire caused by a ceiling fan explosion in their Kuturia residence in Savar outside the capital yesterday.

Neighbours took them to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Al-Mamun, 21, sustained 65 percent burns, his wife Parul, 18, 24 percent, his cousin Asadul, 20, 15 percent and Asadul's wife Shumaia Akter 17 percent, neighbour Abu Bokkar quoted doctors as saying.

Quoting the victims, locals said the explosion happened while the fan was switched on. The fan fell down as it was burnt, they said.

A portion of a television was also damaged, they added. After hearing screams in the early hours, the neighbours rushed to the spot and doused the fire.

Earlier on Friday night, another four of a family sustained burns in a fire at Workers Colony in Jamgora area of Ashulia. Around 30 to 36 tin-shed houses were damaged in the fire.

Nasima, 28, her eight-month-old son Nadim, her sister Shanta, 32, and Shanta's husband Sohel, 36, were taken to DMCH.

Locals said the fire originated from a kitchen. However, Abdul Hamid, senior station officer of DEPZ Fire Station, said they could not ascertain the reasons immediately.

Three firefighting units doused the blaze after a two-hour effort.



Legendary Kathak maestro Pandit Birju Maharaj mesmerises audience with his performance at the "South Asian Music Festival: Timeless Classical Echoes" being held at MasterCard Theatres of Marina Bay Sands, Singapore yesterday. The four-day festival, organised by Blues Communications of Bangladesh with support from India's Perfect Harmony Global, ends today. The festival is presented by IFIC Bank.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Army joins relief operation

FROM PAGE 3

and distribution process under a chain of command. We have already inspected different refugee camps and also received aid consignments coming from different places," he told the news agency.

The army yesterday received some 30 trucks of aid sent by different people and companies and kept those in their control room. According to the sources, army will start distribution today.

Alongside army, the district administration will continue their aid distribution in five refugee camps in Teknaf and

seven in Ukchia. "If any international agency wants to distribute their aid directly to the refugees, we will not obstruct them," Maj Akter added.

Meanwhile, the refugees in Kutupalong camp are happy with the flow of aid. "We are receiving adequate aid including food and medicines," said Amena Khatun, a refugee.

The Rohingyas, who took shelter at the foot of hills outside the camps, however, said they are facing difficulties in receiving aid.

Campaign

FROM PAGE 4

He said, "When I went to Bhutan, I saw a slogan that reads: 'Let us not wait for someone to clean; we can do it.'"

It motivated him to launch a clean-up drive in the city with the help of Yoga Probhati members, he said.

Manik Rudra, general secretary of Yoga Probhati, said when they come to exercise at DC hill premises every morning, they feel very bad to see the pile of garbage here and there.

"So we decided to clean the premises by ourselves," he said, adding, "We thought we should not wait for any service providing organisations to clean the area. Rather we should start it ourselves so that others feel inspired to clean their own premises."

"If everybody keeps their own premises clean, the whole city will become cleaner," he said.

Changes likely as govt

FROM PAGE 4

"Excellerate Energy" and local firm "Summit" are setting up a daily 500 mmcf supply capacity floating storage and re-gasification unit (FSRU) in Chittagong. Excellerate's FSRU will start operating in April 2018 and Summit in October 2018.

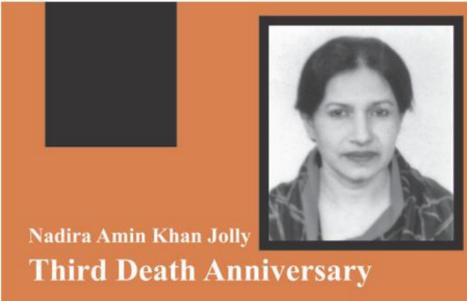
Indian firm Reliance Group will also set up another FSRU (500 mmcf) by June 2019 and Chinese firm Hong Kong Shanghai Manjula another one with same capacity in June 2020.

The government also signed a memoran-

dum of understanding with five more international companies to set up land-based LNG terminal in Moheshkhali and Paira Port areas.

To import LNG, the government has so far signed five contracts with international supply countries and firms including Qatar. It also received expression of interest from 10 international and local companies who will supply LNG.

Different companies under the Power Division are also taking initiative to set up LNG-based power plants.



Nadira Amin Khan Jolly  
Third Death Anniversary

Three years on

Wherever you have gone, wherever we might go  
It doesn't seem fair, the days just disappear  
Your light is reflected now, reflected from afar  
When we were stones, your light made us stars  
Three years on now, another year disappeared  
Your light is reflected now from afar  
Every inch between us feels like light years now

Nurul Amin Khan Nantu, Shusmita, Moin Shejuti, Shayam, Kamran, Roger, Umran Ayman Tazwaar, Aleena



Exclusive 3 Bedroom Finished Apartments  
One Apartment Per Floor  
At DOHS Mirpur

Please Feel Free To Call  
Tel: (+8802) 55068001-5  
01714 039846, 01714 016717, 01713 367486



ASD/240917