

## Realise revenues from Google, Facebook: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered the government to realise appropriate tax, VAT and other charges from the revenues earned by different digital platforms including Google, Facebook, Amazon, Yahoo and YouTube.

In response to a writ petition, the court also asked the government to form a special committee to assess the amount of their financial transactions in the last 10 years and to submit a report to it by June 25. It also fixed June 28 for passing a further order on this issue.

The HC also issued a rule asking the respondents to explain in four weeks why they should not be directed to realise appropriate tax and revenue on the financial transactions of the domain sales, licence fees and advertisements of digital platforms in Bangladesh.

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Synonymous with Pasha Baishakh, the tune, "Esho he Baishakh" (Come O Baishakh, Come upon Us), not just welcomes the Bangla New Year, it also ushers in new hope and aspirations for a better, peaceful year. The photo of a vendor putting finishing touches to a handicraft was taken in Doyel Chattar area near Dhaka University's Curzon Hall yesterday. The first day of the Bangla calendar will be celebrated across the country tomorrow.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Govt bowed down to fundamentalists

By limiting Pasha Baishakh celebrations, says Sultana Kamal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

By limiting the Pasha Baishakh celebrations, the government is encouraging those trying to legitimise torture and sexual harassment against women, said rights activist Sultana Kamal yesterday.

The state was supposed to ensure round-the-clock security for its citizens but the announcement proved that it had bowed down to fundamentalist groups, she added.

"We are constantly experiencing a shrinking space for women outside home," she said. She demanded withdrawal of the time restriction on the day so people can celebrate uninterrupted. Sultana was addressing a press briefing at the capital's Jatiya Press Club. "Nari Nirapotta Jote" and "We Can" organised the event with a call to "not to restrict women during New Year celebrations this year".

Nari Nirapotta Jote, a platform of rights groups, was formed following the incidents of sexual assault on women on Dhaka University campus during Pasha Baishakh celebrations in 2015. We Can is a platform of civil society members and organisations, aiming to end domestic violence against women.

Pasha Baishakh, the first day of the Bangla calendar, is celebrated on April 14. On April 2, the government instructed all cultural and other organisations to conclude Pasha Baishakh celebrations at open places by 5:00pm.

"All programmes at open places have been asked to wrap up by 5:00pm while the authorities of Rabindra Sarobar shall end

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## 'Unhealthy competition' to blame for accidents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With people reeling from the shock of recent road accidents in the capital, leaders of transport owners and workers yesterday blamed the unhealthy competition among the buses as one of the main reasons behind the accidents in Dhaka.

They said due to the reduction of trips caused by severe traffic congestion in the city, bus owners often rent out their vehicles to the drivers who indulge in reckless driving just to maximise profit by operating as many trips as possible.

They made the observations at a meeting

of transport owners and workers at the Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh in the capital to discuss how to bring discipline in transport sector and prevent road accidents.

Dhaka Road Transport Owners' Association (DRTOA), a platform of transport owners, organised the meeting amid recent incidents of road accidents in the capital.

On April 3, Rajib Hossain, a third-year student of Government Titumir College, lost his right hand after it got stuck between two speeding buses trying to overtake each other in the capital's Bangla Motor area.

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## DMP tightens security

Traffic restrictions on 7 routes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) yesterday said it has taken heightened security measures centring on Pasha Baishakh celebrations.

"SWAT and bomb disposal units, and special teams of detective branch will be deployed," said Asaduzzaman Mia, DMP commissioner, while addressing reporters at DMP Media Centre on Minto Road. "No one can enter the Mangal Shobhajatra in the middle as the procession will be escorted by police," he said.

Carrying bags will be

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## Fakhrul's mother passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Fatima Amin, the mother of BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, passed away at

a city hospital yesterday due to old age complications. She was 90.

Fatima left behind four daughters and three sons. She will be buried beside her husband at her family graveyard following a namaz-e-janaza on Thakurgaon High School field after Asr prayers today.

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader phoned Fakhrul and expressed his condolence.

Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, LDP President Oli Ahmed, JSD (Rob) President ASM Abdur Rob, Krishak Sramik Janata League President Kader Siddiqui and Nagorik Oikya Convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna expressed grief over her death.

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