



Clockwise from top left, students sit in to protest the death of Abrar Ahmed on Pragati Sarani. Agitators block Shahbagh intersection, among other important points of the city. A deputy secretary's vehicle is stopped after its driver is found to not have a license. Commuters walk to their destinations, as vehicle movement is limited due to the blockades. Children take advantage of the situation, enjoying a day out playing street cricket.

PHOTOS: AMRAN HOSSAIN, RASHED SHUMON, RAFIUL ISLAM

Tobacco companies luring vendors to display ads: study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tobacco companies are still running promotions and advertisements of their products in different parts of the country - particularly in rural areas, violating existing laws, finds a recent study.

They carry out such activities through luring vendors with gifts and rewards, says the study, blaming lack of government monitoring.

Work for a Better Bangladesh (WBB) Trust, a non-government organisation working on tobacco control, conducted the study at six locations in different districts, including Mymensingh, Barishal and Sunamganj, between September 2018 and February 2019.

The findings of the study were unveiled at a workshop organised by WBB Trust at Dhaka Club yesterday.

After surveying a total of 363 shops at those locations, the study found that all the shops were displaying advertisements and promotions of tobacco products [both smoking and smokeless] in various ways.

For displaying the ads and selling the tobacco products, the vendors received gifts and rewards from the tobacco companies on a daily, weekly, monthly or yearly basis, the study adds.

The study also found the taskforce committee on enforcement of tobacco control law - which exists from upazila to national level - were not working effectively in those areas.

According to Smoking and Usage of Tobacco Products (Control) Act, advertisement and promotion of tobacco products at any store are prohibited. Violators of the law will be punished with maximum three months of imprisonment or fine of Tk one lakh or both.

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White Panel decries DU provosts' demand of action against teachers

DU CORRESPONDENT

The BNP-Jamaat backed "White Panel" teachers of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday issued a statement condemning the demand of taking action against eight DU teachers, placed by the provosts of 18 halls on Tuesday.

"We are surprised and angry that the demand of punishment was placed, in the provost committee's meeting, against eight teachers who published observation report portraying irregularities in the (Ducus) election and demanded cancellation of the polls," reads the statement, signed by Prof Obaidul Islam, convener of the panel. The teachers claimed that the allega-

tions of irregularities - including stamping ballot papers the night before the polls - that were mentioned in the report are all true.

The authorities did not take any exemplary steps against those involved with the irregularities, rather the provost committee demanded punishment of those who spoke about the irregularities and raised their voice against it, the statement said.

On March 9, a group of teachers sought permission from authorities to observe the election, but the chief returning officer did not allow that. However, they visited polling centres during the election, and issued a statement that night, demanding cancella-

tion of the election on account of irregularities.

Meanwhile, four physically challenged students of the university yesterday staged a sit-in at the base of Raju Memorial Sculpture, protesting the alleged attack on Rabiul Islam, a visually-impaired student who contested the Ducus polls independently.

Taking to The Daily Star, Rabiul alleged that an unidentified person assaulted him on Tuesday, as he observed hunger strike demanding re-election to Ducus and hall union polls.

"I was going to room 326 from my room, when someone intercepted me at the corridor. He asked whether

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No exam for students of classes I, II, III

UNB, Dhaka

Primary and Mass Education Ministry has decided not to take any examination of class I, II and III students.

The ministry took the decision following Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's directives, Primary and Mass Education Secretary Akram-Al-Hossain told the agency yesterday.

"We'll try to implement the decision from the current year. If the decision is not executed this year for any reason, it'll be implemented next year," he said.

BANGABANDHU'S BIRTH CENTENARY PM announces 'Mujib Year'

UNB, Dhaka

The government is chalking out the country's biggest-ever nationwide programme to celebrate the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the birth centenary will be celebrated even at the grassroots level from March 17, 2020 to March 26, 2021 to make people aware of the authentic history of Bangabandhu and the Liberation War.

The prime minister was addressing a joint meeting of the national committee and the national implementation committee for celebration of the birth centenary.

The maiden meeting of the two committees was held at Prime Minister's Office in the city with Sheikh Hasina, who

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No movie on Jaha Alam: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday enforced a ban on any movie or drama on the life of Jaha Alam, who was wrongly imprisoned for three years due to an identity mix-up.

The bench of Justice MD Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice KM Hafizul Alam passed the order yesterday, in response to a writ petition filed by Anti-Corruption Commission.

The information secretary and cultural affairs secretary have been ordered to make sure that no film or

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DHAKA TODAY

FOOD FESTIVAL

Three restaurants will celebrate French gastronomy in a dinner festival, called "Gout de France." Venue: Le Méridien, Six Seasons Hotel, Ajo Idea Space Time: 7pm

BAISHAKHI FAIR

Shoilee, a lifestyle brand, is organising a fair for the upcoming Bengali New Year. Venue: Shoilee Creative Studio, Lalmatia Time: 10am

LECTURE

Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) will organise a lecture on Bangladesh-Japan Development Cooperation for Enhanced Connectivity. Venue: BISS Auditorium Time: 11am

CONCERT

Alliance Française de Dhaka is hosting "Concert: Chanson Française" -- The Seesaw Quartet featuring Mizanuddin Khan. Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka Time: 7pm

Dhanmondi to get circular bus service from Mar 26

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A circular bus service will begin in Dhanmondi-New Market-Azimpur route from March 26, said Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) mayor Sayeed Khokon yesterday.

The service will run with some 25 air-conditioned BRTC buses initially, which will take and drop passengers from 36 points on a circular route, said the mayor after holding the fourth meeting of Bus Route Rationalisation committee, formed to bring city bus service under discipline.

The decision comes at a time when students of the capital are staging demonstrations demanding justice to one of their fellows killed in a road crash near Basundhara residential area on March 19.

Sayeed Khokon said buses will be available every five minutes, and no bus will be

allowed to stay at a stoppage more than a certain time.

"Makeshift bus counters will be set up at the 36 points," he said.

The mayor said bus owners have been asked to withdraw all rundown buses from the route before the service begins.

The bus route will circulate from Katabon-Nilkhet to New Market-Azimpur, via Science Laboratory, Dhaka College, Dhanmondi Road-2, Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi-27, Palashi and New Elephant Road.

Similar bus services in Motijheel and Uttara will also be introduced shortly, the mayor said, adding that they will discuss it in their next meeting.

Sayeed Khokon said they also decided to arrange training for drivers. Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) will provide

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