

Make roads friendlier for pedestrians

Experts, road safety campaigners recommend govt committee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three experts and road safety campaigners yesterday provided several recommendations, including limiting private vehicles and making roads pedestrian-friendly in the city, to a government committee working on road safety.

They also suggested taking strict actions against shopping malls without required parking space and specific action plan to stop extortion in the road transport sector.

They submitted their suggestions to the committee headed by former shipping minister Shajahan Khan at a closed-door meeting held at Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) auditorium. Although the committee invited several eminent persons, only three joined.

Amid growing concerns over frequent road accidents, the government formed the body on February 17, to give recommendations on preventing road accidents and bringing discipline in the road transport sector.

After the meeting, environmentalist Iqbal Habib said the committee, in its draft report, recommended keeping parking spaces in all shopping centres but that is not enough; rather immediate and strict action should be taken against establishments without parking spaces.

Analysing the length, width of the roads and volume of vehicles in the city, authorities must limit them until new roads are constructed, he said, adding that the committee

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Clockwise from left, blocking a large part of Topkhana Road near Jatiya Press Club yesterday, hawkers protest the Dhaka South City Corporation's drive to keep streets and footpaths free from vendors. The blockade started around 10:30am and continued for almost four hours, resulting in long tailbacks in the area. An exhausted commuter dozes off in a bus.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

HEALTH HACK

Keeping your allergies in check: Along with April showers, come seasonal allergies. As the pollen count and pollution increases, sneezing, runny nose, and itchy eyes often make it difficult for many to stay outside for an extended period. Here's how you can contain allergic reactions:

1. Pollen counts are highest in early morning, so avoid outdoor activities at that time.
2. Wash your clothes and take a shower after returning home every day to rinse allergens.
3. Wear sunglasses to prevent dust from getting into your eyes.
4. Use saline-based nasal drops to prevent congestion.
5. If your allergies act up indoors, you can install an air filter.

Toying with lives of people won't be tolerated: ACC chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The tragic FR Tower fire is the consequence of taking irregularities for granted, said Iqbal Mahmood, chairman, Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), yesterday.

Terming such irregularities "corruption", he said, "Failing to complete a task on time is also corruption. We've already begun working against bribe; now, we'll work against such irregularities."

"Those who were involved in the irregularities will not be pardoned. Toying with lives of people will not be tolerated anymore," Iqbal said.

The ACC chief was speaking at 'Dudok Media Award' programme, organised by ACC, at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in Dhaka, according to a press release.

Asking grabbers to let go of government land, he said many have built rest houses on land belonging to Public Works Department, Roads and Highways, Bangladesh Railway and Department of Forest.

"Surrender the lands to government, otherwise you'll face severe consequences," he said.

Iqbal once again suggested that the government include ACC in its development

projects to check corruption.

Rasheda K Choudhury, executive director, Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE), said the spirit of Liberation War mandates a corruption and discrimination free society.

She lauded ACC for inspiring youths to take an anti-corruption stance.

"Ethics and values cannot be learned through GPA-5. ACC is trying to bring change in the classroom," she said, adding that because of ACC's initiatives, policy is formed against coaching centres.

Among others, ACC Commissioners AFM Aminul Islam and Dr Md Mozammel Haque Khan were present at the programme.

ACC awarded reporters for their investigative reports in two categories: print and electronic media.

Prothom Alo's senior reporter Fakhruul Islam Harun received the first prize and Samakal's special correspondent Hakikat Jahan Haki secured second prize for their reports in the print media category. Special correspondent of Maasranga Television Badruddoza Babu received the first and senior reporter of Ekattor TV Parvej Nadir Reza got second prize in the electronic media category.

HC issues injunction on earth-filling at Uttara pond

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued an injunction restraining authorities concerned from earth-filling in the water retention pond at Uttara in Dhaka for the next six months.

The court issued a rule questioning the legality of the handover of 40 acres of waterbody from 615.81 acres of the pond, marked by the city master-plan at Digan, Baunia and Barokakor moujas to the south of Uttara Sector 18, to Bangladesh Bridge Authority for rehabilitation of victims under the PPP Project of Dhaka Elevated Expressway, and the earth-filling on the pond.

The court also asked respondents to explain why the move should not be declared illegal and unconstitutional.

Secretaries to the ministries of land, environment, forest and climate change, housing and public works, and water resources, mayor of Dhaka North City Corporation, chairman of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk), director generals of Department of Environment and Bangladesh Water Development Board, chairman of National River Protection Commission, executive director of

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Pay Tk 50 lakh to Russel by Wednesday: SC to Green Line

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed Green Line Paribahan to pay Tk 50 lakh by Wednesday to Russel Sarker, who lost his left leg after a bus of the company ran him over in April last year.

The court also asked Green Line Paribahan authorities to inform it by Thursday after complying with the order.

The HC passed the order while hearing a writ petition filed by a Supreme Court lawyer Umme Kulsum Smrity.

Earlier in the day, the Supreme Court upheld the HC's March 12 order that asked Green Line Paribahan to pay Tk 50 lakh to Russel Sarker for his treatment.

A four-member bench of the Appellate Division, headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain passed the order, dismissing a petition filed by Green Line seek-

ing a stay on the HC's March 12 order.

Now, Green Line Paribahan must pay Tk 50 lakh to Russel following the apex court order, Advocate Shamsul Haque Reza, a lawyer for Russel, told The Daily Star.

During hearing of the same petition on March 12, the HC bench of Justice FRM Nazmul Ahasan and Justice KM Kamrul Kader directed Green Line to pay Tk 50 lakh to Russel in two weeks, to bear costs for his treatment.

The bench also fixed March 31 (yesterday) for further hearing on this issue and asked Green Line to submit a report on the progress of complying with the directive before it by this time.

Without complying with the HC order, Green Line recently filed a petition with the Appellate Division of the SC seeking stay on the HC's March 12 directive.

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'Remote-controlled polls will jeopardise election management'

EC Mahub Talukdar says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Election Commissioner Mahub Talukdar yesterday said elections to the upazilas will not be fair and flawless, if the upazila parishads were not made free from the control of lawmakers.

"If elections are remote-controlled, election management will be jeopardised, which is untoward for democracy," Mahub said while reading out a statement to journalists at his Nirbachon Bhavan office.

He also said that voters' lack of interest in casting their ballots is sending the nation to an edge. "Election is a tool of establishing democracy. Lack of interest in voting is an aversion to democracy. We do not want to join mourning procession of democracy."

He made the comments as the fourth phase of upazila election yesterday witnessed low voter turnout.

In all three previous phases, voters appeared to be uninterested in casting ballots, with the overall turnout hitting the lowest since the resumption of upazila elections in 2009.

In the 2009 polls, voter turnout was

70.57 percent, which fell to 61.23 percent in 2014. It dropped further to 43.31 percent in the first phase of this election and 41.25 percent in the second phase. The turnout stood at 41.41 percent in the third phase.

In the last three phases of the polls, at least 27 upazilas saw less than 30 percent voter turnout, while it was below 10 percent in two upazilas.

"Fourth phase of upazila [elections] ended today. There is no autonomy for local body upazila parishad. It is not possible to hold fair and flawless upazila polls if the upazila parishads are not freed from the control of lawmakers," Mahub Talukdar said.

"But it is entirely a matter of political decision," he observed.

EC ordered at least 23 lawmakers to leave the election areas following allegations that they breached rules by influencing the local government polls.

Mahub said many are saying that EC has made a turnaround during the upazila election, by suspending polls and taking action against irregularities. "Why have we not seen these moves during national

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HSC exams start today

BSS, Dhaka

More than 13 lakh students sit for the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) and equivalent examinations this morning with the government taking various measures to prevent question leak.

A total of 13,51,505 examinees from 9,081 educational institutions under 10 education boards

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DHAKA TODAY

FILM SCREENING
Matir Projar Deshe
Venue: Goethe-Institut Bangladesh
Time: 5pm

TREKKING WORKSHOP
Let's knot the quest
Organiser: The Quest
Venue: Peak 69 Adventure Camp, Elephant Road
Time: 5:30pm

GUITAR WORKSHOP
Basic Notation for Guitar
By Ahsan Rajib Ananda
Venue: 3rd Space, Dhanmondi
Time: 5pm

EXHIBITION
Mind Over Matter
By Salauddin Ahmed
Venue: Café Mango
Time: 6pm

MUSICAL PROGRAMME
Bosonter Madhuri Utsob-e
Organiser: Robiroshmi
Venue: Sufia Kamal Auditorium, Public Library
Time: 5:30pm

ROADSHOW
Celebration of Women Innovators
Organiser: UN Women
Venue: IBA, DU
Time: 5:30pm

FAIR
Baishakhi Mela
Venue: Women's Voluntary Association, Dhanmondi
Time: 10am



HC writ challenges legality of buildings without fire safety

STAFF CORRESPONDENT


A writ petition was filed with the High Court yesterday challenging the legality of constructing buildings in Dhaka without sufficient fire safety measures, and in violation of the Bangladesh National Building Code-2012.

Barrister Sarwat Siraj Shukla, a Supreme Court lawyer and secretary general of Gulshan Society, submitted the petition as public interest litigation to the HC, also seeking its directive on the government to provide sufficient and modern equipment, attire, vehicles and resources to the fire fighters working in Dhaka.

Barrister Sarwat in the petition prayed to the court to issue a rule asking the authorities concerned to explain why they should not be directed to take necessary measures to protect residents of Dhaka from fire hazards arising out of violation of Bangladesh National Building Code and Fire protection and extinguishment Act, 2003.

The petitioner urged the HC to direct the mayor of Dhaka North City Corporation to allocate a suitable place for a fire station in Gulshan area.

The lawyer also prayed to the court to order the education ministry to include awareness on fire safety and training of civil defence in the national curriculum.



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PRICE SENSITIVE INFORMATION

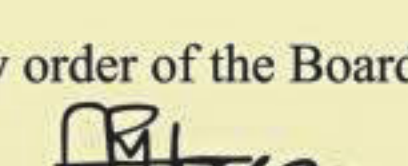
This is for information of all concerned that the Board of Directors of The Premier Bank Limited in its 214th Meeting held on March 31, 2019, Sunday at 5.00 p.m. at the Board Room of Head Office, Dhaka has considered and adopted the Audited Financial Statements of the Bank for the year ended 31st December 2018 and taken the following decisions related to 20th Annual General Meeting of the Bank:

Sl. No.	Particulars	20 th Annual General Meeting (AGM)
1.	Date and Time	Sunday, May 12, 2019 at 10.30 a.m.
2.	Venue	International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB) Hall-1 (Gulnaksha), Joar Sahara, Khilkhet, Dhaka.
3.	Recommended Dividend	15.50% Stock Dividend
4.	Record Date	April 23, 2019 (Tuesday)

The key financial indicators of the Company for the year ended December 31, 2018 are as follows:
(Amount in taka, where applicable)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Comparative Statement			
		Consolidated Position		Solo Position	
		2018	2017	2018	2017
1.	Net Asset Value (NAV)	15,416,960,268	13,159,018,948	15,279,797,588	13,073,944,206
2.	Net Asset Value Per Share (NAVPS)	19.27	16.45	19.10	16.34
3.	Earnings Per Share (EPS)	2.84	2.46	2.78	2.39
4.	Net Operating Cash Flow Per Share (NOCFPS)	2.75	3.10	2.68	3.01

By order of the Board



Mohammad Akram Hossain, FCS
Company Secretary

Dated: March 31, 2019
Dhaka