

Dhaka buses under six companies by Dec 2020

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The entire public bus system of Dhaka city and surrounding areas will be brought under six companies, on 22 routes, by December 2020.

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) Mayor Sayeed Khokon yesterday made the announcement to reporters after a meeting of the Bus Route Rationalisation Committee, which was formed to bring bus service in the capital under discipline.

The committee has taken the decision to develop transport management and bring discipline to the transport sector of the city, Khokon said.

Six companies will run public buses -- of pink, orange, green, violet, maroon and blue colours, he added.

The meeting also decided to conduct a feasibility study to learn about the viability of launching a circular service from Gulistan to Sadarghat via Babu Bazar, the DSCC mayor said.

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PHOTO OF THE DAY

AMRAN HOSSAIN



LUNGI PRIDE

In a unique initiative to showcase Bangladeshi culture, Dhaka University students showed up to class in colourful lungis. They gathered in front of TSC at 12:30pm yesterday, and brought out a procession towards Arts Building, terming it "Lungi Mahfil".

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Industrialists often lack morals: minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun yesterday said that industry owners of the county mostly focus on profit-making -- often lacking moral values.

"They try to find scopes to avoid what the workers are entitled to. I have experience in this regard...I personally saw people [workers] face these [exploitation]," said Nurul.

However, the government will work as a pressure group to ensure the rights of workers, he added.

The minister made the remarks while speaking at a dialogue on "Women's safety in workplace", jointly organised by Care Bangladesh and Unnayan Shamannay, a non-government organisation, at Bishwo Shahitto Kendro in the capital.

Several members of the parliament, labour leaders and NGOs officials participated in the dialogue.

"A lot of time has passed and many discussions [on ensuring labour rights] have been held. We want action now," said Nurul.

"I know them [the industry owners]... I know from where they got money, how much they embezzled from which bank... I can identify them individually right now," he claimed.

The minister also urged the workers to consider the situation of the industry owners, and not be instigated by conspirators.

"Do not block roads, observing random strikes... We'll solve issues together through discussion," he said.

About prevention of violence against women in

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DEATH OF ARITRY Court asks father if he agrees with probe report

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday asked father of Aritry Adhikary to appear before it on April 30 to place his opinion whether he will agree with the March 28 probe report submitted by the detectives.

Aritry, a ninth-grader of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College, was found hanging from the ceiling of her home in Shantinagar on December 3 last year, hours after she and her parents were allegedly insulted by some teachers of the school.

The next day, her father filed a

case with Paltan Police Station, accusing three teachers for instigating suicide.

DB Inspector Kazi Kamrul Islam, investigation officer of the case, on March 28 submitted the charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in Dhaka against Nazneen Ferdous, acting principal of the school, and Zinat Akhtar, the morning shift in-charge.

Both the teachers secured bail from a Dhaka court on January 14.

Aritry's class teacher Hasna Hena, another accused in the case,

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'Govt capable of providing school meals nationwide'

Claims planning minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is planning to provide nutritious food to pre-primary and primary students during school hours under a countrywide programme, so that they can concentrate more on their studies.

To implement the goal, the government has prepared the draft National School Meals Policy-2019, which was shared yesterday at a workshop arranged by the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education at InterContinental Dhaka.

One objective of the policy is to extend teacher-student "contact hour" in schools through addressing hunger, so that students "remain lively and learn more in an enjoyable and favourable environment."

The government is financially capable of implementing the programme, said Planning Minister MA Mannan.

"It won't be a problem, I believe. We have the funds, experience, willingness and commitment for our children," said the minister, speaking as chief guest.

The government and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) have been implementing a school feeding programme since 2011. At present, the programme is running in 104 upazilas, according to the draft copy of the policy.

Under the programme, some 32.31 lakh pre-primary and primary students are receiving fortified biscuits (75gm per student) during each class day, it says.

Besides, students in three upazilas are getting cooked meals on a pilot basis, it adds.

Presenting the draft policy, Giasuddin Ahmed, additional secretary of primary and mass education ministry, said roughly Tk 16 would be spent on each meal.

On the other hand, Tk 8 will be needed for providing fortified biscuits to one student, he said.

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High Court wants to hear Jaha Alam's account

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday asked Jaha Alam to appear before it next Wednesday for his statement about his sufferings in jail and to know how he is doing now.

Jaha Alam was wrongly imprisoned for three years because of an identity mess-up. He got released on February 4, following a HC order.

Yesterday, the HC passed the order while hearing a rule issued by it on January 28 over the legality of Jaha Alam's wrongful imprisonment.

The HC bench of Justice FRM Nazmul Ahasan and Justice KM Kamrul Kader gave one week's time to Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to submit documents over the cases in which Jaha Alam suffered in jail.

The court came up with the order after ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan prayed for more time to submit the documents.

During the proceedings, Advocate Amit Das Gupta, a

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Steps taken to stop airing ads on foreign TV channels

Says info minister at meeting with ATCO

BSS, Dhaka

Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud yesterday said the government has already taken necessary initiative to stop broadcasting local advertisements on foreign television channels.

"Cable operators have been asked to stop airing local advertisements using downlinks... As per law, advertisements would not be aired on foreign channels," he said.

Mahmud was speaking at a meeting with members of Association of Television Channel Owners (ATCO) in the conference room of the information ministry.

ATCO President and Managing Director of Maasranga Television Anjan Chowdhury, Journalist Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Managing Director of Channel 24 AK Azad,

Ekattor Television CEO Mozammel Babu and other ATCO members were present at the meeting.

The minister said they have served notice to two organisations in this regard and "in reply, they sought 15 days to inform us in detail".

All cable operators must abide by law to run their business, he said, adding that legal actions will be taken if they (cable operators) violate the law. "We will not allow unlimited time to respond to the notice...", he added.

Mahmud, also publicity and publication secretary of ruling Awami League, said the government has given around 44 licenses for private TV channels. Of those, around 33 channels are now running, he added.

There are legal restrictions in some countries including the UK, India and Pakistan as

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Long tailbacks on both sides of Airport Road in Banani yesterday after workers of an RMG factory in the area demonstrated over sudden closure of the establishment without payment of their arrears, inset. Police later dispersed the workers. The photos were taken around 10am.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

DHAKA TODAY

FESTIVAL

3rd International Mime Festival 2019

Organiser: Dhaka University

Mime Action (DUMA)

Venue: TSC, University of Dhaka

Time: 6pm

THEATRE

Jadur Latim

Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy

Time: 7pm

FAIR

Diabetes Mela

Venue: Krishibid Institution of Bangladesh

Time: 2pm

THEATRE

Konjush by Loko Natyadal

Venue: Mohila Shomity, Baily Road

Time: 7pm

TALK

WildHour: Forest and Water -- Conservation Aspect

Venue: Cosmos Centre, Malibagh

Time: 5:30pm

THEATRE

Ujane Mrittyu

Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy

Time: 7pm

BAISHAKHI PROGRAMME

InclusionX Boishakh

Celebrations 1426

Venue: EMK Center, Dhanmondi

Time: 3:30pm



AVIJIT MURDER

One accused acquitted

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A tribunal in Dhaka yesterday acquitted Shafiur Rahman Farabi, who had issued repeated death threats to writer-blogger Avijit Roy before his death, in a case filed under the ICT Act.

Judge Ash-Sams Joglul Hossain of Dhaka Cyber Tribunal passed the acquittal in presence of Farabi, an accused in the Avijit murder case, as the prosecution failed to prove the charge against him.

But Farabi cannot be released from jail as he is now accused in a dozen other criminal cases filed with different police stations across the country.

Earlier the prosecution and the defence completed their arguments and the tribunal recorded statements of seven prosecution

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Include proclamation of independence in nat'l curriculum

Nirmul Committee suggests

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The proclamation of independence accepted on April 10, 1971 should be included in the national curriculum to spread the fortitude of Liberation War among the youth, speakers at a discussion said yesterday.

They also urged the government to "adopt a law like the laws against Holocaust denial", so that no one can put "distort the history of the Liberation War".

Ekattor Ghatik Dal Nirmul Committee organised the discussion at a conference room of Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh, marking the 48th anniversary of the proclamation of independence.

"The first government of Bangladesh was formed in April 17, [1971] based on the April 10th proclamation of independence. It is not possible to write the history of Bangladesh excluding the history of April 10 and 17," said agriculture minister Dr Abdur Razzak while speaking as chief guest.

Barrister Turin Afroz presented a keynote at the event, while former Justice Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik presided over the programme.

Eminent jurist Barrister M Amir-UI Islam, who wrote the proclamation, reminisced how it was adopted and the Mujibnagar government was formed.

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Apollo Hospitals Dhaka welcomes

Prof. Dr. Md. Masum Kamal Khan

MBBS (DMC), FCPS (Medicine), MD (Nephrology)

Senior Consultant- Nephrology

- Over 32 years of clinical experience as a practising physician
- 16 years of work experience as a Nephrologist at Bangladesh Medical College & Hospital, Square Hospitals Ltd. and Asgar Ali Hospital
- 14 years involvement in teaching of medical students and management of patients at Bangladesh Medical College & Hospital
- Experience in taking care of many haemodialysis and kidney biopsy patients at previous hospitals as well as the management of around 20 kidney transplant patients
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Apollo Hospitals Dhaka is delighted to have Prof. Dr. Md. Masum Kamal Khan on board.

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