DHAKA

A FUTILE ATTEMPT AT AIDING THE DISABLED





In a laudable move, city corporations installed tactile paving on footpaths to facilitate smooth movement of visually impaired pedestrians. In different areas, sidewalks were rebuilt with yellow textured tiles and signs were put up urging people to help them cross the street. But some footpaths were either grabbed or had traffic lights installed in such a way that even able-bodied people would find it difficult to maneuver. To make matters worse, Dhaka Metropolitan Police installed vertical iron poles on several footpaths to prevent illegal parking and bikers from using those. The city corporation officials allege that police did not consult them before installing the poles, while law enforcers say they did it to maintain discipline. The photos were taken on Mirpur Road near Russell Square yesterday PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

No censorship imposed on media: info minister

Bins report on Bangladesh sliding four notches in Press Freedom Index

BSS, Dhaka

Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud yesterday binned the Reporters Without Borders' report alleging government regulation on media, saying the media is free to publish any report in the country.

"The government has not enforced any media censorship," he told journalists.

Bangladesh slid four notches and is now 150th in the World Press Freedom Index revealed by Reporters Without Borders on Thursday.

The situation was worrying in Bangladesh, where reporters covering protests and the election were targets of unprecedented violence, says the index, available on its website.

"I do not agree with the report and I think the media in Bangladesh is working independently," he told journalists after attending the inauguration of "Ruposhi Bangla National Photo Exhibition, Competition and Reception Ceremony" at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

Bangladesh Photo Journalist Association (BPJA) organised the event.

Dr Hasan said, "I know that there are many restrictions on publishing reports in the top 10 countries, as per the organisation. Even they [media] have to pay a fine if they publish any wrong report."

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PORN STARS' NAMES ON QUESTION PAPER Culprits to face action: Dipu Moni

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Dipu Moni yesterday said that actions will be taken against culprits who used name of "porn stars" in school question paper. On Wednesday, multiple choice ques-

tions in Bangla First Paper exam of Ramakrishna Mission High School's class 9 contained names of two porn stars. The incident drew wide criticism as soon

as a photograph of the question paper went viral on social media sites.

"This incident is unfortunate," Dipu Moni told journalists after visiting the 15th teachers' registration preliminary examination centre at Government Titumir College.

gate the matter and take action against the culprits.

She said that the government will investi-

Nawfel, Secretary to the Secondary and Higher Education Division of Ministry of Education Sohorab Hossain, and Non Government Teachers Registration and Certification Authority (NTRCA) Chairman SM Ashfaq Hossain also visited the centre.

Photographs of a question paper from the school were posted by several individuals on their social media accounts. In question number 8, students were asked who wrote the classic Bengali novel "Aam Atir Bhepu" and name of an Indian born porn star and actor was one of the four options.

In question 21, students were asked who the father of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore was, and the name of another porn star was as an option.

In February, the government blocked at least 244 pornographic websites as per a Among others, Deputy Education November 2016 direction of the High Minister Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury Court.

Car chase ends in arrest 36,746 vacant posts of 'drug trafficker'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion arrested an alleged member of a drug trafficking syndicate yesterday. He sustained bullet wounds during a "shootout" between his gang and Rab, while fleeing in a car after ignoring a Rab check point in the city's Gabtoli area.

The arrestee, Asad Mia, 29, is the driver of a private car used in ride sharing services. He is undergoing treatment at Suhrawardy Hospital, Rab officials said. "Asad used to carry consignments of phensedyl as part

of the gang's operations from Hemayetpur in Savar to Dhaka. For each trip he used to get Tk 5,000," Rab-2 Commanding Officer Lt Col Ashique Billah told The Daily Star. The Rab official said that they had received information

that a group of drug traffickers with a huge consignment of phensedyl would enter Sher-e-Bangla Nagar area by car from Hemayetpur. Hence, they set up two check posts at Amin Bazar and Gabtoli.

The private car carrying three members of the drug trafficking syndicate eluded the check post at Amin Bazar.

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in ministries State minister for public administration says

UNB, Dhaka

The government is filling over 36,000 vacant posts at various ministries to make public services dynamic, says State Minister for Public Administration Farhad Hossain.

"We've taken an initiative in this regard following the prime minister's directive," he told the agency.

Farhad said they will approve the ministries' applications for filling vacant posts instantly.

He also promised to do everything to bring back dynamism in public administration, saying, "We've taken steps to make the administration dynamic to take the country to a middle-income status from a lowerincome one."

Asked about the allegation that people are often harassed by district and upazila-level administrations, the state minister said they

are taking steps to develop a pro-people administration. "We're trying to fulfil our goal of delivering quick services to people." "I myself saw that the general people

can't go to government offices and even if

they do, they don't get proper respect. There are quite a few errors in this system. We want to develop the administration as a propeople and welfare-oriented one," he said. Farhad said the government has undertaken various programmes in this regard

and his ministry has sent messages to grassroots officials. "We're trying to remind them that people

are the source of all power and the administration has to work as service providers," he said.

PEOPLE-FIRST POLICY

Asked about steps taken to make the administration corruption-free, he pointed out that

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Getting a good night's sleep: Are you sacrificing sleep, and in turn heath, to take care of other commitments that will help you pay the doctor's bills later in life? Why not just sleep now and be healthy when you're old?

1. Don't browse social media right before going to sleep. The blue light of the phone disrupts natural sleep cycle. If you must, install a night filter.

2. Try to keep the room a bit cooler when it's time to sleep.

3. Stress and excitement are major enemies of sleep. It's important to be relaxed; an engrossing book or meditation might help.

4. Control your caffeine intake. Gulping down tea or coffee in the evening is not the best idea.

'If judiciary acts freely, Khaleda will be out soon'

BNP chairperson's lawyer hopes; bail petition to be moved before HC soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's lawyers may move a petition before the High Court (HC) soon, seeking bail for her in the Zia Charitable Trust corruption case in which she has been sentenced to seven years' imprisonment by a lower court.

If they can secure bail in this case from the HC, they

will take necessary legal steps at the Appellate Division

of the Supreme Court for her bail in the Zia Orphanage Trust corruption case in which the HC enhanced Khaleda Zia's punishment from five years' imprisonment to 10 years. "We are working on Zia Charitable Trust case. We will move a bail petition on behalf of Khaleda Zia before the High Court at the earliest possible time. Then we will take

Zia Orphanage Trust case," Barrister Kayser Kamal, a lawyer for Khaleda, told The Daily Star yesterday. "If the law can take its own course, the state mechanism and government don't interfere, and the judiciary can act independently, we believe that Khaleda Zia will come out of jail very soon," he added.

necessary legal steps at the Appellate Division for her bail in

Meanwhile, Anti-Corruption Commission's lawyer Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan told this correspondent that they are ready to place arguments before the court to oppose bail for Khaleda Zia in the corruption cases.

Khaleda was convicted in Zia Charitable Trust corruption case and sentenced to seven years' rigorous imprisonment by a special court of Dhaka on October 29 last year.

On November 18 last year, she filed an appeal with the HC through her lawyers, challenging the trial court verdict.

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A unique installation stands in the middle of the road in Shahbagh with the stoic face of a mannequin staring at citizens, saying "You don't have to clean up the mess, just don't make things worse. That's all, thanks." The photo was taken yesterday.

Date: 19-04-201 Women Entrepreneurs' Association

A section of the rally, seeking justice for Nusrat, in front of National Museum.

JUSTICE FOR NUSRAT Rally demands immediate arrest of ex-Sonagazi OC

social media.

talked about issue.

incident]," Shibly alleged.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a citizens' rally yesterday demanded judicial probe into police's role over the killing of Feni madrasa student Nusrat Jahan Rafi.

Alleging that former officer-in-charge of Sonagazi Police Station Moazzem Hossain was involved in the killing, they demanded his and others' immediate arrest as well as exemplary punishment.

Students Community against Rape and Sexual Violence arranged the protest rally in front of National Museum.

Sonagazi Islamia Senior Fazil Madrasa student and Alim examinee Nusrat lost her battle for life, five days after she was set on fire on April 6 -- an incident that ignited outrage all over the country.

A group of five people poured kerosene on the 18-year-old and set her on fire, allegedly for refusing to withdraw a case against F principal of the madrasa, Siraj Ud Doula,

over sexual assault. Siraj has been in jail since Nusrat's

police station to complain against the prin-Later, police released the video clip on social media -- that went viral -- reflecting their involvement, he said, further alleging

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mother filed a case accusing him of sexually

Digital Security Act on Monday, on charges

of recording a video of Nusrat without her

consent and publishing the footage on

convener Shibly Hasan said so far local

police's "negligence" has been the most

gence, rather it was involvement [in the

27, police did not take any prompt action.

Moreover, police secretly recorded the

victim's statement when she went to the

"However, it was not local police's negli-

He said despite filing of a case on March

Addressing yesterday's rally, platform

Moazzem Hossain was sued under the

harassing Nusrat at his office on March 27.

FESTIVAL

Time: 5pm

pal Chub CENTER

WORKSHOP

Artistic Arsenal – Workshop on Songwriting

Bengal Creative Hub and EMK Center **Artistic Arsenal**

20th April | EMK Center

Venue: EMK Center, Dhanmondi

Time:5pm

7th International Festival of Docufilms on Liberation & **Human Rights**

Time: 6pm WORKSHOP

Borshoboron

Mindful Art Expression Venue: Psychological Health and Wellness Clinic, Banani

Venue: Liberation War Museum, Agargaon

DHAKA TODAY

MUSIC AND COMEDY

Venue: Jamuna Future Park

Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala

Stand Up Dhaka

Time: 5:30pm

THEATRE

Academy

Time:7pm

Loko Gaaner Shurey

Venue: The Daily Star

MUSIC

Circus Circus

Time: 2pm