

BCL activists again impede

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they were walking towards Teacher Student Centre (TSC) to join the demonstration.

The BCL men were quizzing female students aggressively. Ahnaf Tahmid, a second-year student of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, who was passing by, approached the BCL men and wanted to know what was happening.

Suspecting him to be a demonstrator, the BCL men -- including Nabil Haider, activist of Salimullah Muslim Hall unit -- beat him up, leaving his right eye injured, Ahnaf claimed.

The agitating students later held a press conference in front of the university central library at around 11am, declaring that they will continue their demonstration.

"The university administration has been giving us false assurance, though we have been pressing for the demands for several days. We cannot trust them. Our agitation programme will continue," said Shakil Miah, spokesperson of the movement.

Meanwhile, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said a logical decision regarding affiliation of the colleges will be taken after prime minister returns to the country.

"We are aware that students of Dhaka University are demonstrating, demanding cancellation of affiliation of the capital's seven colleges with the university," Quader said.

The PM has been informed of the matter and once she is back, a logical decision will be taken after considering the practicalities, he added.

He also said Education Minister Dr Dipu Moni will sit with the demonstrators within two-three days, though her husband is critically ill.

With the aim to improve quality of education and to reduce pressure on National University, on February 17, 2017, the government affiliated Dhaka College, Eden Mohila College, Government Shaheed Suhrawardy College, Kabi Nazrul Government College, Begum Badrunnesa Government Mohila College, Mirpur Government Bangla College and Government Titumir College with Dhaka University.

Enumerators did not visit

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they would gradually be included in the electoral roll after reaching the age of 18.

A draft of the updated voter list will be published on 21 next year.

EC collected information of residents who reside in areas under 12 police stations: Lalbagh, Sabujbagh, Uttara, Motijheel, Ramna, Gulshan, Dhanmondi, Mohammadpur, Mirpur, Pallabi, Cantonment and Tejgaon.

They collected information in areas under Demra, Sutrapur and Kotwali police stations during the first phase, which was from April 23 to May 13.

Many Dhaka dwellers also alleged that on some occasions, enumerators urged residents to gather at a designated place for collection of their data. In some cases, enumerators also urged people to visit schools to get their name in the list.

"They announced that people who did not have their name collected should contact the local housing committee chairman office. They made the announcement by miking on the streets, so you had to be outside and at that spot hear it," said a Lalmatia Housing Society resident.

"Action will be taken against enumerators if we get specific allegations," Dhaka District Election Officer Faisal Quader said.

Brig Gen Mohammad Sidul Islam, director general at the EC's National Identity Card Wing, said that in many instances, city dwellers did not allow enumerators to enter their house over different issues. "On many occasions, they found houses locked," he said.

"If anyone's data was not collected, they will be able to list their name when we start taking photographs of listed people in September," he said.

Currently, there are around 46 lakh voters in the capital and 10.42 crore voters in the country.



Journalist-columnist Ranesh Maitra observes young photographers' work at a 19-day long exhibition organised at a Pabna restaurant on Tuesday. The photos showcase historical sites and the natural beauty of the district.

PHOTO: STAR

Air quality can be managed

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transportation, dust from construction and burning of materials as done in brick kilns.

Dr Schauer shared how air quality improved in the US and what Bangladesh can learn from that.

USA has been very successful for the past 20 years in curbing fine particles, he said, adding, "Around 20 years ago, we realised that we need to reduce PM2.5."

They monitored PM2.5 and adopted a technique called "source apportionment". The technique, used in air quality management system, has two basic approaches in determining the sources of air pollution.

"We identified what sources are most important and took action accordingly. We made sure that those actions reduce emissions effectively. This is a [air quality] management cycle. It's not a stagnant idea. We know that the number of cars will increase,

need for energy will increase, and number of people will increase in cities. I think it's a very important message for other places in the world, including Dhaka -- to look at this kind of system and put it in place."

When told that there are many development works going on in the city that are a big source of air pollution, Dr Schauer said, "I strongly think that Dhaka can move forward with managing air quality in a way that will not affect economic growth. We can see from US history that we can curb air pollution and have economic growth at the same time."

He said the scientific community has basic understanding of the sources that affect air quality in Dhaka. It's very important to conduct further source apportionment studies to better understand what sources are affecting the city, during what time of the year, and design a control strategy that can mitigate them, he opined.

Sell essentials

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the land ports open for extra one to two hours so that more goods-laden trucks can enter the country. He also requested wholesalers not to make excess profit ahead of Eid. "In return, we will make sure that you are benefited afterwards," he added.

"The production and supply systems have been hampered due to flood, while India withdrew 10 percent subsidy on onion which

pushed its price up slightly. Prices of other commodities remained stable," he said.

The commerce minister asked TCB to strengthen its monitoring and marketing systems. He said businessmen have the responsibility to keep the market stable for people. The meeting advised trucks and trawlers carrying sacrificial animals to display the name of cattle markets or destination to avoid hassle.

BRTA to work overtime

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BRTA issued and renewed fitness certificates of 6.7 lakh vehicles in 2018-19 fiscal.

'REPAIR FLOOD-DAMAGED ROADS BY SEVEN DAYS BEFORE EID'

Meanwhile, the minister yesterday once again asked authorities concerned to finish repair works of all roads affected by the recent flood at least seven days before Eid-ul-Azha.

Eid is expected to be celebrated in the second week of August.

Quader, also General Secretary of ruling Awami League, gave similar instruction from an emergency meeting at his ministry office on Tuesday.

According to the central control room of Roads and Highways Department, around 400kms of roads and highways under the department have been damaged by floods across the country.

Of the 396.14km flood-affected roads, the highest of 122.48km was damaged in Gaibandha, while 102.4km was affected in Kurigram, 69.5km in Rangpur, and 61.5km in Netrakona. Seven other districts where roads were also damaged are Kishoreganj, Jamalpur, Mymensingh, Moulvibazar, Lalmonirhat, Sylhet, and Habiganj.

Asked whether the RHD will be able to fix 400kms of roads within this short time, Quader said RHD engineers have experience to do such work within this time.

Besides, a monitoring team of the ministry is overseeing the matter, he added.

Saving Dhaka rivers

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Arial Khan, Ichhamoti, Palong, Nariakhal, Shitalakhya, Kaliganga, Gaghor, Madhumati, Turag, Kumar, Dhaleswari, old Brahmaputra, Titas, Surma, Bakkhali, Bhairab, Atrai, Bhola, Padma, Meghna, Gabkhan channel, Karnaphuli channel, Pashur river channel, Tetulia and others.

Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury, state minister for shipping, who is also chairperson of the taskforce, chaired the meeting.

It was also attended by Environment and Climate Change Minister Md Shahab Uddin and Shipping Secretary Md Abdus Samad.

HC to hear on BSTI

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Institute, and Bangladesh Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. Controversy regarding milk stirred up last month, after a team of Dhaka University researchers and BSTI gave conflicting test reports on milk. In its tests, the DU team found detergent and antibiotics in samples of packaged milk available in kitchen markets. But BSTI said it did not find any harmful substances in the milk samples it tested.

For Social Islami Bank Ltd.

(Abdul Hannan Khan)

SEVP & Company Secretary

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