

LETTER TO MAYOR Misdirected mosquito hunting

SHAMSAD MORTUZA

The combing operation to nab Aedes mosquito at its larvae stage can very well be described as scenes from dystopian fiction. Then again, citizens are not machines farming insects for their sustenance, and the government is not an oppositional category. In a fight against mosquitoes, citizens and the city fathers should act as a family, and address the issue from a collective platform.

The TV scroll is snaking a mayoral hiss of applying penal code against those who will fail to cooperate in the ongoing combing operation. It makes me reflect on an incident involving a family acquaintance in Gulshan-1.

A mobile court accompanied by the police force raided the house in search of Aedes larvae. The building had a card system for its lift. The caretaker had already taken a group

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Govt mulling taskforce to curb road accidents

Says Obaidul Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is considering forming a taskforce to curb road accidents and bring discipline to the transport sector, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said yesterday.

The minister said the taskforce will oversee the implementation of the recommendations given by a committee led by former Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan. The committee had recommended for setting up one or more taskforces to oversee the implementation.

The minister however said they will take final decision in this regard at the next meeting of National Road Safety Council (NRSC) to be held on September 5.

"We have got a proposal to form a strong taskforce. We will approve it at the meeting of the road safety council," he said.

Quader, also the general secretary of the ruling Awami League, was talking to reporters after a meeting with the Shahjahan Khan-led committee over their proposals at his secretariat office.

Shahjahan Khan, also the executive president of Bangladesh Road Transport Workers Federation, handed over the report of their committee to Quader.

At the last meeting of National Road Safety Council on February 17, the committee was formed to give recommendations for curbing road accidents and bringing discipline in the transport sector. The committee on April 28 submitted its report, with 111 recommendations, to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as Quader was undergoing treatment abroad.

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No more travelling on train roofs

Railways ministry asks authorities to ensure it

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The railways ministry has directed authorities concerned to intensify efforts to stop people from travelling on trains roofs, terming it a major reason behind fatalities and slowing down of trains during Eid rush.

Railways Minister Nurul Islam Suhan and Secretary Mofazzel Hossain on Wednesday gave the directives to Railway Nirapotta Bahini (RNB), Railway Police and relevant section of Bangladesh Railway.

"We have asked them to ensure that no one can travel on train roof," Mofazzel Hossain told this newspaper yesterday.

Although travelling on train roof is prohibited by law, people often take the risky option, particularly during the pre-Eid home rush every year when thousands travel this way.

In many cases, authorities forced



FILE PHOTO

to slow down speed of the trains for the safety of these unauthorised passengers, the secretary said.

"Roof travelling is one sort of culture. They would not travel inside a train even though there are vacant

seats. We want to stop this practice," the secretary said.

He said there are several trains which are run by private operators, and there are allegations that they

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Irregularities won't be tolerated: ACC chief

UNB, Dhaka

Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Iqbal Mahmood yesterday warned its officials that no irregularity, nepotism, partiality and laxity will be tolerated in investigation into any complaint.

He made the remarks while addressing an urgent meeting with directors of all ACC divisional offices, deputy directors of all district coordinated offices, and secretary, directors general and directors of the head office on how to ensure transparency and accountability in investigation and enquiry.

Taking about the timeline of enquiries, he said, "From now on, those who will fail to follow the timeline should switch to another institution, as the ACC rules do not allow this."

Expressing his dismay over the delay in enquiry in the name of queries, Iqbal Mahmood said this will not be allowed from now on. "No query can be given without the approval of the Commission. We're trying our best to make this organisation a symbol of people's confidence. We can't allow the image of the institution to be tarnished for negligence and authoritarianism of anyone."

Mentioning that there were allegations of rude behaviour against some officials, he urged them to behave well with people, saying "Be careful of your behaviour and responsibility."

ACC Commissioner Dr Md Mozammel Haque Khan said the legal mandate of the Commission will be implemented. "So, any rude behaviour is not desirable. If you respect the law, you cannot be arrogant," he said.

Service seekers should leave police station with smiles: IGP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Mohammad Javed Patwary yesterday directed policemen to remain alert so that no innocent person falls victim to harassment.

"Police members have to be sincere so that service seekers leave police stations with smiles," the IGP said at a programme at Police headquarters.

Twenty newly promoted additional Deputy Inspector Generals of police were adorned with rank badges at the programme.

Police stations should be centres of providing service, the IGP said.

The police chief also urged his force members to remain vigilant about activities of militant outfits.

Form nat'l commission for low-income people

Speakers demand at roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday demanded forming a national slum commission to ensure permanent housing project for the low-income people, and investigate causes behind slum fires.

They alleged that although the High Court has issued a rule not to evacuate slum dwellers without proper rehabilitation, slums are burnt down and evacuated every year. It should be revealed whether there are accidents or sabotage, they said.

They were speaking at a discussion titled "Frequent fire incidents at slums and permanent solution to housing crisis" at the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

Environmental rights body Poribesh Bachao Andolon (Poba) and non-government development organisation Bangladesh Resource Center for Indigenous Knowledge (BARCIK) jointly organised the event.

Speaking there, Pankaj Bhattacharjee, president of Oikya NAP (National Awami Party), alleged that the government is

deceiving the people by being negligent in developing their standard of living.

"A commission should be formed immediately to look into all issues of slum dwellers" he demanded.

He also suspected involvement of an influential group behind evacuating the slums by setting fire, to occupy these places.

Citing acute disparity in housing between poor and rich people, he stressed the importance of changing the state policies resolve such crisis.

The discriminatory view of the state about slum dwellers has to be changed, as it is important to remember that this state is dependent on their contribution in many ways," he said.

In his speech, Pavel Partha, a researcher at BARCIK, blamed unplanned establishment of slums behind fire incident.

He demanded a planned and healthy environment for slum dwellers.

Awami Bastuhara League general secretary Rashed said the government

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PHOTO OF THE DAY

PALASH KHAN



Amena Begum and her neighbours from the recently-devastated Mirpur Chalanika slum fire watch over her newborn girl Samia, on a makeshift bed made by putting together classroom benches at the Bangabandhu Bidyaniketan school, where victims of the blaze have sought refuge. Samia's father, meanwhile, catches a nap behind them. Samia was born on Tuesday morning at a nearby clinic, and the family returned to the temporary shelter on Wednesday.



As this telephone box beside Tejgaon link road is left almost unused, it is utilised for other purposes. Rickshaw-van pullers have hanged their locks with chains from its head and people have attached a donation box to it. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

WRONG TREATMENT

HC for compensating DU student Tk 5cr

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday issued a rule seeking explanations from authorities concerned as to why a Dhaka University student -- whose left side was paralysed due to wrong treatment at a private hospital -- will not be compensated with Tk 5 crore.

The bench of Justice JBM Hassan and Justice Md Khairul Alam issued the rule, after hearing a writ petition filed by Barrister Jyotirmoy Barua.

Mehedi Hasan Shamim, a student of Women and Gender Studies Department of Dhaka University, at a press conference at Dhaka University on April 18 said he was admitted to Square Hospitals in the capital on October 14, 2018 with brain tumour.

After admission, he said his physician Dr Krishna Prabhu suggested he needed to undergo urgent surgery, and did not disclose anything about its possible risk or post-operative complications.

The operation was conducted on January 23, 2019.

Two days after the surgery, the duty doctor at the hospital informed Shamim's brother that the left side of his body was not working. When he sought the CD of the surgery for

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DHAKA TODAY

MUSIC

Rushlan's Acoustic Night
Venue: Counter Culture Club, Dhanmondi
Time: 4:30pm

SESSION

Artist Talk by MR Hasan
The talk will revolve around photography and visual art.
Venue: Counter Foto Mirpur Campus, 14 East Shewrapara
Time: 6pm

MUSIC

Get Unplugged 9
Venue: The Espresso Coffee, Banani
Time: 3pm

THEATRE

Hamlet
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Time: 7pm

EXHIBITION

Bangladesh Heritage Crafts Foundation
Venue: Radisson Blu Dhaka Water Garden
Time: 11am

MUSIC

The Armeen Musa Band
Venue: Jatra Biroti, Banani
Time: 7pm

WORKSHOP

Graphic Design, Web Design & Freelancing
Organiser: Spade Academy
Venue: EBL Building, House 15, Block A, Bashundhara Residential Area

MUSIC

Bauler Konthe Bangabandhu
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Time: 5pm