

Special police unit to ensure metro rail security: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Putting emphasis on ensuring the security of metro rail project, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said a special police unit will be formed to this end.

The prime minister was speaking at a review meeting on the progress of the ongoing Mass Rapid Transit Project held at her official residence Gono Bhaban.

At the meeting, the premier saw a power-point presentation on the progress of Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) Line 6, MRT Line 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 being implemented by the government owned Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd in collaboration with Jica.

The prime minister also gave some specific directives and guidelines to the authorities concerned to accommodate those in the implementation process.

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Legal action against party men if involved in misdeeds: Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said not only organisational but also administrative and legal actions would be taken against party men if they are found involved in misdeeds.

Quader, also road transport and bridges minister, made the remark days after the president and general secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra League were removed from their posts for their controversial activities, including alleged involvement in extortion.

He was taking to reporters after a views exchange meeting with officials of Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) at its headquarters in Motijheel.

When a reporter tried to ask him about Chhatra League, Quader said, "I don't want to hear this question...Why should I answer such questions every day? Don't I have any work to do?"

He said the prime minister has taken the decision to remove them from their posts and she will take the next step in this regard.

Asked whether the ruling party is going to take similar actions regarding its youth wing, Jubo League, Quader said he has "learnt from the media that Jubo League has already formed a tribunal to resolve its issues."

"We will observe how they are solving their problem," he said.

The minister said apart from party men, the PM received information from different intelligence agencies and from her won cell on irregularities.

"I can tell you for sure, none would be spared if found involved in misdeeds -- no matter what position they hold in the party or whatever power they have," said Quader.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Trucks parked on the road taking up entire lanes in Tejgaon's Satrasta area is a perennial problem. The late DNCC Mayor Annisul Huq successfully spearheaded a campaign in 2015 to recover the area from illegal truck parking but sadly, the nuisance has returned. These BRTC trucks along with cars and other vehicles were seen parked, taking up much of the road space, in Satrasta area yesterday.

JU VC should resign or be sacked: Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday demanded removal of Jahangirnagar University (JU) Vice Chancellor Farzana Islam for reportedly bribing Chhatra League leaders.

"Why only remove the two top leaders of Chhatra League? What will happen to the [JU] vice chancellor? The VC should resign immediately or she should be sacked," Fakhrul said while speaking at a human chain in the capital.

"The offence of demanding bribe has been labelled as 'asking for fair share'. This means, BCL men demanded fair share and the VC has given Tk 1 crore as bribe," the BNP leader said.

Referring to the removal of two top BCL leaders, Fakhrul said, "Corruption has engulfed every sector and institution due to absence of accountability of the government."

Jatiyatabadi Muktijoddha Dal, an

associate body of BNP, organised the human chain in front of the Jatiya Press Club demanding immediate release of party chairperson Khaleida Zia from jail.

BCL President Rezwanul Haque Chowdhury Shovon and General Secretary Golam Rabbani were removed from their posts on Saturday amidst widespread allegations of misconduct. They reportedly demanded "4 to 6 percent" cuts from a Tk 1,445-crore project on JU campus from its VC Prof Farzana Islam.

Meanwhile, speakers at a discussion said that such removal is only an eyewash.

They were speaking at a discussion on 'International day of democracy and us' organised by Nagorik Oikya at Bangladesh Shishu Kalyan Parishad auditorium in the capital.

Speaking there, Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said Awami League has been following the ideology of fascism since the formation of Baksal and they even put

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DENGUE OUTBREAK

Suspected number of deaths 203: IEDCR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The suspected number of deaths caused by dengue -- sent to the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control And Research (IEDCR) for review -- went up to 203 yesterday.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), a committee of DGHS reviewed 116 deaths and concluded that 68 were from dengue till yesterday.

Prof Meerjady Sabrina Flora, who is leading the DGHS death review committee, recently said the committee members assess medical documents and treatment records of a deceased.

Several months later, they conduct "verbal autopsy". It is a method of interviewing one or more people who know about the symptoms and circumstances of the deceased, members of the committee said.

They also collect blood samples of the dead patients and examine them at labs of IEDCR, said Flora, also director of the institute.

"For verbal autopsy, we wait for one to three months, because on many occasions, the near and dear ones remain in shock," Flora said.

"We need some time to review. This might have caused the difference in the numbers," she added.

According to DGHS data, 653 dengue patients were admitted to hospitals across the country till 8am yesterday, of which 460 are in Dhaka. With the addition, a total of 81,839 have been admitted to hospitals all over the country this year.

Some 2,507 dengue patients are undergoing treatment at the moment, of which 983 are in Dhaka.

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'Insulted by teacher', college student jumps off building

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A student of Dhaka's Banophool Adibashi Green Heart College was injured after jumping off a building yesterday, as his teacher allegedly hurled abusive words at him for not doing well in an examination.

Shahriar Alam Akash, 19, is a 12th-grader at the college in Mirpur-13 area.

Akash is undergoing treatment at National Institute of Neuroscience and Hospital at Agargaon. He suffered injuries in head, said a doctor of the hospital.

Quoting students, officer-in-charge (OC) of Kafrul Police Station Selimuzzaman said, Akash jumped off a three-storey building of the college after one of his teachers hurled abusive words at him and his parents as he failed an examination.

As the news spread at the college, his

classmates vandalised several teachers' rooms and a microbus of the college, the OC added.

The agitating students also brought out a protest rally outside the campus, OC Selimuzzaman said.

"We are yet to receive any word from the college authority," the OC further said.

Lubna Jahan, a teacher of the college said they heard a sound of someone falling and found the student on the ground in front of teachers' room. He was unconscious and bleeding.

While visiting the college yesterday, this correspondent found some students protesting. They said they want justice through proper investigation of the incident.

Shahriar jumped off the building after being insulted by teachers, they said.

9TH WAGE BOARD BFUJ asks govt to address 'frustration' of journalists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A faction of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) yesterday urged the government to take necessary initiatives to address journalists' frustration over the newly-issued ninth wage board.

In a press statement, BFUJ said the journalist community is disappointed by the new wage board, as several facilities for them were cut down in the gazette as recommendations.

These are -- reducing gratuity from two to one, introducing income tax payment by journalists

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STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday called upon the government to protect the country's northwestern districts -- a major source of agricultural products -- from natural calamities triggered by climate change.

The country might face food security threat if the government fails to do so, they said at a roundtable. The Daily Star and NETZ Bangladesh, an independent organisation registered in Germany and Bangladesh, jointly arranged the discussion at The Daily Star Centre.

Speaking at the discussion, lawmaker Israfil Alam said though farmers are the worst victims of climate change, they are neglected in the country.

Giving a comparison, he said, "I've seen in Geneva that when the

'We're looking after loan defaulters, not farmers'

MP Israfil Alam tells discussion on climate change impact



Discussants at the roundtable yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

market price falls, the government of the country buys apples and other crops from farmers to support them. They always ensure that farmers' best interests are protected, so that they are not disheartened."

"In Bangladesh we are busy looking

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