

Onlookers gather in front of **Daffodil Polytechnic Institute after** a fire broke out there around 11am yesterday. Many students of the institute, located on Mirpur Road in Kalabagan, had to go out the second and third floors' windows and slide down bamboo poles to save themselves. Firefighters eventually doused the blaze and no casualties were reported.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

safety in Bangladesh

Says vice president of global financier

## DSCC to free up its roads soon: Khokon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sayeed Khokon yesterday said authorities will very soon take necessary steps to remove illegal vehicles and rickshaws from city roads to reduce traffic congestion.

DSCC authorities, in cooperation with Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Traffic department, will also conduct a drive to free footpaths in Motijheel, Gulistan and New Market from grabbing, the mayor told journalists.

He was speaking after a meeting of a Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority (DTCA) committee, at the Nagar Bhaban (Dhaka South).

"We had cleared footpaths at Gulistan, New Market and Motijheel but hawkers often reoccupy footpaths during office hours," said the DSCC mayor, adding that they allowed hawkers to run their businesses after office hours.

He said they will take initiatives so these footpaths remain permanently free for pedestrians during office hours. "Gradually, we will free footpaths of other areas

accordingly involving local public representatives," he said. About illegal ramps on footpaths which are creating obstacle to smooth pedestrian movement, the mayor said ramps which are erected violating Bangladesh National Building Code on footpaths in the city will also be demolished in the drives.

Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha will led the drive to remove ramps from footpaths, he said.

DMP Commissioner Md Shafiqul Islam and Chairman of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) Masud Alam were present, among others, at the meeting.

Ensuring Child Rights

DHAKA

# Intent is there, realisation inadequate: report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has recently made significant progress in changing the lives of children -- in terms of education and health, but a large number of them still face various forms of violence and cannot even enjoy their basic rights, said a report.

It happens because many of the government's initiatives and good intentions are not realised.

There is big gap among the relevant government bodies, and laws related to child rights see few implementations, the report said.

"Joining Forces Bangladesh: Child Rights Now" -- an alliance of six non-government organisations -- prepared the report based on their consultation with children from different parts of the country.

The findings of the report were unveiled at an event held at a convention centre in the capital's Gulshan yesterday.

To ensure the country's advancement, the report suggested ensuring strong legal measures against abuse of children, listening to children's demands, formulating a separate directorate for children, and investing more into education and health

Sharing the findings, Rafsan Chowdhury, one of the lead researchers, said almost every institution in the country intends to protect child rights.

"But we don't see a reflection of that

intention in reality," he said.

About the report's outcome, Mark Pierce, country director of Save the Children in Bangladesh, said the findings will help safeguard child rights in Bangladesh through solving the ongoing issues. Speaking as the chief guest at the event,

Planning Minister MA Mannan asked the experts working in the sector to design new projects -- particularly for children who are underprivileged and differently-abled. He assured of assistance in getting the projects approved soon.

"We are committed to ensuring child rights. There are some vulnerable sections in our society -- women, children and persons with disabilities. We will timely approve the projects for them," said Mannan.

Shamsul Haque Tuku, president of parliamentary caucus on child rights; Prof Syed Md Golam Faruk, director general of the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education; Orla Murphy, country director of Plan International in Bangladesh; Mahmudul Kabir, country director of Terre des Hommes Netherlands in Bangladesh; Fred Witteveen, national director of World Vision Bangladesh; Johny Sarker, country director of Educo Bangladesh; and Golam Ahmed Ishaq, national director of SOS Children's Village Bangladesh, also spoke at the event.

## 'Nothing can happen beyond administration's knowledge'

City

#### Finance minister says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal yesterday said nothing can happen in the country beyond the knowledge of the administration.

"Administration should be aware; if they are not, they must explain. Nothing can happen in the country which the administration does not know of," he said while talking to the media at a Dhaka hotel following an event.

Journalists asked the minister about the ongoing drive by law enforcers against casinos and bars.

When asked whether NBR was directed to take action against them, he said, "Of course.'

Replying to a query on casino equipment import and the role of NBR, the minister said, "Everything is documented...Those [equipment] may be imported as spare parts, machinery or through false declaration. So, none will be spared."

He also said NBR cannot just take away illegally earned money. "There are some procedures to follow."

When asked about Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministry Secretary Mohibul Haque's statement that casino facilities will be available only for foreign tourists at exclusive STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To continue its robust growth, Bangladesh must take urgent steps to improve road safety, said World Bank Vice President for South Asia Hartwig Schafer yesterday.

"Two to five percent of GDP is lost because of road safety issues, and it is preventable. We can reverse the trend. We can address the issue," Schafer said while speaking at an event in the capital. He said Bangladesh has been growing

rapidly over the last decade but that comes with increasing number of vehicles, more accidents and more fatalities. "It is not only a transport issue. It is an issue

of education; it involves healthcare; it involves

Everybody has to work together," he said. Referring to the newly formed UN trust fund

different stakeholders. It involves investment.

for road safety, Schafer said, "I sincerely hope that Bangladesh will be one of the first countries to benefit from this trust fund." He also said the World Bank and the United

Nations together stand ready to support Bangladesh in improving road safety. Wrapping up a two-day visit to Bangladesh, the

UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for Road Safety, Jean Todt, said road crashes are the fourth leading cause of death of children aged between 5 and 14, and 67 percent victims are within the 15-49 age group in Bangladesh. He said Bangladesh is not yet a contracting

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



WB, UN to help improve road

(L-R) UNFPA representative in Bangladesh Asa Britta Torkelsson, RHD secretary Nazrul Islam, WB vice president Hartwig Schafer, finance minister AHM Mustafa Kamal, UN envoy Jean Todt and WB country representative Mercy Tembon at the event. PHOTO: COLLECTED

### **DHAKA TODAY**

FESTIVAL 14th National Children's Drama and Cultural Festival-2019 Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Time: 4pm

Cottage Industries Fair 2019 Venue: Anarkali Convention Centre, Mouchak

Time: 10am-9pm

ART EXHIBITION

Time: 11am-7:30pm

Venue: Galleri Kaya, Uttara

THEATRE Szechuan er Sukonna by Theatron

Venue: Bangladesh Mahila Samity Time: 7:15pm

**ART EXHIBITION** Jolokabbo 2, Musings in Watercolor Venue: Edge, The Foundation, Gulshan Time: 10am-8pm

ROHINGYA REPATRIATION

## Bangladesh, China, Myanmar to jointly evaluate progress

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh, China and Myanmar have agreed to form a "tripartite joint working mechanism" to evaluate the situation on the ground for Rohingya repatriation.

Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen came up with the development after a joint meeting with his Chinese and Myanmar counterparts on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York on Monday.

"On the ground, Bangladesh, China and Myanmar will evaluate the progress jointly," Dr Momen told reporters after the meeting, adding that Myanmar agreed with the Chinese proposal though Myanmar had some objections initially at the meeting.

The first meeting of the tripartite

working body is likely to be held in October.

Though Myanmar claimed they have taken all the necessary steps to take back their nationals, Bangladesh said Myanmar could not build confidence among the Rohingyas yet.

Dr Momen said the good news is that Myanmar has agreed to take their nationals back as soon as possible.

Two attempts of Rohingya repatriation have failed as the Rohingyas are unwilling to go back to their place of origin amid lack of required conditions in Rakhine State for their return.

Bangladesh is now hosting over 1.1 million Rohingyas, most of whom entered Cox's Bazar since August 25,

Welcoming Chinese involvement in repatriation process, British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Robert Chatterton Dickson recently said Chinese involvement has a "great deal of potential" to help bring the Rohingya crisis to an end,

Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Li Jiming had earlier said China stands ready to "mediate and promote" Rohingya repatriation in an "active manner" to help find a solution as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, European the Parliament (EP) has reiterated its call on the UN Security Council (UNSC) to impose a "global comprehensive arms embargo" on Myanmar.

It also called for suspending all SEE PAGE 4 COL 3 Plies, Fistula, Constipation, Polyp, Colonscopy, Laparoscopy, Colon & Rectum Cancer

To Know about most



modern treatment of diseases involving Colon Rectum and Anus like, Piles (bleeding in toilet) Longo operation (Piles operation without cutting anus), Cause of failure of operation around anus,



pain after passing stool (Fissure), Swelling, Discharge around anus (Fistula), Constipation Chronic dysentery (IBS), Blood dysentery (Ulcerative Colitis) for incomplete evacuation (Obstructed Defecation) STARR operation, Colonoscopy, Bowel (Colon & Rectum) Cancer, most modern stapling rectum cancer opperation without artificial stool collecting bag (Colostomy), Laparoscopic colon/Rectal cancer operation without Cutting abdomen, Childrens bleeding in toilet (Polyp), you may read the book written by

Pioneer Colorectal Surgeon of Bangladesh & the Sub-Continent Performer of highest number of colorectal operations worldwide Prof. Dr. AKM Fazlul Haque

International Scholar (USA) ; Fellow, Colorectal Surgery (Singapore, Founder Chairman (Retd.), Dept. of Colorectal Surgery
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Dhaka Edited by: DR. ASIF ALMAS HAQUE MBBS(SSMC) MRCS(ENGLAND) FCPS(SURGERY), Consultant Surgeon.

mosjid Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka, Phone: 02-58150507-1 Mobile: 01715-087661, 01718-735269, 01726-703116 www.profdrakmfazlulhaque.com, www.piles.care

APPOINTMENT OF NEW NHRC CHIEF

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Human Rights Forum Bangladesh (HRFB) yesterday expressed deep concern and frustration over the appointment of new members of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

In a press statement, the platform of 20 leading rights and development organisations claimed that NHRC, without any discussion with other stakeholders, gave priority in appointment of individuals who have no work experience of human rights.

The consortium -- consisting Ain O Salish Kendra, Bangladesh Legal Aid & Services Trust, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Manusher Jonno Foundation, Nijera Kori and Transparency International Bangladesh, among others -- called on the electoral committee to pursue an open and participatory process in line with the Paris Policy on National Human Rights Institutions before the appointment process begins. No discussion have been held or negotiated with the stakeholders in

the process, said the statement signed by its convener Sheepa Hafiza. HRFB alleged that after nearly ten years of establishment, the role and

neutrality of NHRC remain questionable for various reasons, and feared that transforming the institution as a workplace for retired government officials will raise further questions about its effectiveness.

On September 22, a gazette notification of the law ministry was issued about the appointment of former senior secretary Nasima Begum as the chairman of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). Two other members of the commission are also retired secretaries.

### Army chief Rights bodies concerned welcomes drive against casinos UNB, Dhaka

Hailing the ongoing drive against

corruption and misdeeds, Chief of Army Staff General Aziz Ahmed yesterday said action will be taken if any retired army official is found involved in casino business in the name of any club. He made the remarks while talking to

reporters after inaugurating a dairy facility at Savar Military Farm in the morning. General Aziz said their intelligence

agency has been asked to investigate corruption and misdeeds. "If anyone is proven guilty after investigation, we'll do whatever is needed," he said. He also said powdered milk factory will

be established in the country and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has approved it in principle. Besides, steps will be taken to sell beef and milk in different parts of the country, the army chief added.



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Manager (Corporate Affairs)

The Daily Star, 64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue Dhaka-1215

Phone: 09610-222222, Mob: 01711-582702