

Bus driver remanded over pedestrian's death in Mohakhali

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed a bus driver on a two-day remand in a case filed over the death of a pedestrian near Mohakhali flyover in the city on September 5.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Shahinur Rahman passed the order after police produced Shamim Soiyal, 20, before the court with a 10-day remand prayer, court sources said.

Police arrested Shamim in Mohakhali Bus Stand area on Friday.

On September 5, Farha Naz was killed in Mohakhali after a bus ran over while she was attempting to cross a road. She was rushed to Kurmitola General Hospital, where doctors declared her dead.

Najmul Hasan, the victim's husband, filed the case with Banani Police Station on that day.



Vehicles are forced to move at a snail's pace on this part of a road in Sylhet city's Zindabazar area since a wooden cable reel and other construction materials have taken up almost half of its width. The authorities concerned have been working on Zindabazar-Chowhatta road for a long time to expand it and improve utilities. But due to the disorderly work, vehicles and pedestrians continue to bear the brunt. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Employment for all capable persons by 2030: finance minister

BSS, Dhaka

Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal yesterday hoped that there would be employment for all capable persons in the country by 2030.

"No one would be able to suppress us anymore as our economy is moving ahead. Bangladesh is expected to be among the first 20 economically developed countries by 2041," he said.

The finance minister was addressing a function to distribute educational equipment to students of different schools at the National Museum in Dhaka, marking the birth anniversary of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Sheikh Russell Jatiya Shishu-Kishore Parishad organised the programme.

Founding Chairman of the Parishad M Roqibur Rahman chaired the event, also addressed, among others by State Minister for ICT Junaed Ahmed Palak, Mahmud us Samad Chowdhury MP, Bangladesh Economic Association General Secretary and Janata Bank Chairman Jamaluddin Ahmed.

The finance minister said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina often suggest that he make necessary arrangement so that at least one member of every family of farmers, potters, workers, blacksmiths and handloom workers get employment.

"I believe that by 2030, every capable person in the country would come under cent percent employment," he added. Mentioning that the current poverty rate in the country is 21 percent, Kamal said the government aims to alleviate this rate to between 0 and 3 percent by 2030.

Quoting data from the World Bank and the IMF, Kamal said Bangladesh is at the top in gaining GDP growth over the last 10 years while the country would achieve the 26th position in the global economy by 2027.



As an elderly man carries jute on his head in Aicha village of Barishal Sadar upazila, his grandson tries to help however he can, carrying his grandfather's walking stick.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Dhaka's first bike lane

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the last nine months, and it will be completed before March 2020, said Sharif Uddin, adding that another bicycle lane stretching about one kilometre is under construction at Manik Mia Avenue under the same project.

Welcoming the initiative, Architect and former president of Institute of Architects Bangladesh Mubasshar Hussein said, "Parents can let children ride bicycles without any worry, as this lane is only for bicycles. This is an attempt to make a standard road in Dhaka city, and it is a wonderful initiative."

He further opined that it is now important to keep the lane solely accessible for bicycles, and not only mayor but also police should be alert to ensure that the lane remains free for cyclists.

The cycling community of the city also welcomed the move.

Commending the step, Fuad Ahasan Chowdhury -- a representative of BDCyclists -- said, "Our community always wanted such initiatives by the government, and we are happy that the DNCC has come forward in making it happen."

"The city corporation can also consider setting up another lane from Banani to Uttara in the future like the one at Agargaon," he said, thanking the DNCC officials.

Admission test for DU 'Cha' unit held

UNB, Dhaka

The first-year honours admission test of "Cha" unit (drawing part) under the Fine Arts faculty of Dhaka University for 2019-20 academic sessions was held yesterday.

The test was held at four centres on the campus, said a DU press release.

The VC, pro-VC (admin), treasurer, proctor and faculty dean visited the exam halls.

A total of 1,511 candidates, who passed the general knowledge section, appeared in the test against 135 seats under the unit.

DMP files 5,337 cases over traffic irregularities

BSS, Dhaka

Traffic Division of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) in their simultaneous drives on the city streets on Friday filed 5,337 cases against different modes of vehicles for violating traffic rules.

Police at the time fined the traffic offenders Tk 22,60,400 and sent 12 vehicles to dumping ground. Apart from this, a total of 572 vehicles were sent for wrecking.

A total of 125 vehicles were sued for using hydraulic horns, six for using hooters and beacon lights, 727 for going the wrong way and 12 minibuses were booked for using black window glasses, said a DMP press release yesterday.

Cases were also filed against 1,534 motorcycles for violating traffic rules and 133 more were seized.

A total of 154 drivers were also booked for talking on mobile phones while driving, added the DMP press release.



Long way

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Alam said it is necessary to consider whether a law to ensure the safety of information providers can be enacted similar to witness protection act, so that they can provide information without fear.

"Most of the time, the information provider is under pressure," he noted.

Information Commissioner Suraiya Begum and Additional Secretary of Information Commission Mizan-ul-Alam also spoke at the programme.

In observance of the day, the CIC took up a two-day programme. As part of the programme, it organised rallies, discussion and cultural programmes at district and upazila levels.

Strengthening capacity to fight human trafficking

AUW organises seminar in Ctg

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A daylong seminar on human trafficking and safe migration was held at Asian University for Women (AUW) at Mehedibag in Chattogram city yesterday.

The seminar was jointly organised by Rights Jessore, USAID and Brac. Prof Nirmala Rao, vice chancellor of AUW, inaugurated the programme at 10am.

"AUW is committed to advance the health and social well-being of our students and faculty to strengthen their capacity for fighting against human trafficking," said Nirmala in her opening remarks.

A presentation by the students of the university followed next, where the elements, causes and consequences of human trafficking and many other serious issues regarding the matter were depicted. Assistant Professor Selim Reza of Development Studies at AUW coordinated the presentation.

Representatives from Rights Jessore, a human rights organisation, presented case studies illustrating different practical challenges to combat the issue in Bangladesh.

Shariful Islam, head of Brac's migration programme, discussed the social integration of victims of human trafficking and challenges Bangladesh and other Asian countries face to tackle the issue.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

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Child marriage prevention must for attaining SDGs

Speakers tell discussion in Rangpur

BSS, Rangpur

Prevention of child marriage has become a must to promote female education, in order to ensure their equal rights for attaining the sustainable development goals (SDGs) of the United Nations, said speakers at a views-exchange in Rangpur yesterday.

The discussion, on "Prevention of Child Marriage" was held at the Begum Rokeya auditorium of RDRS Bangladesh.

Rangpur district administration and Department of Women Affairs, in cooperation with RDRS Bangladesh and Plan International Bangladesh, organised the event.

Around 200 participants, including officials of government and non-government offices and organisations, public representatives, marriage registrars, imams, civil society members, women rights activists and professionals attended the event.

With Director (field operations) of RDRS Bangladesh Humayun Khaled in the chair, Deputy Commissioner Md Asib Ahsan attended the meeting as chief guest.

Deputy Director of the District Department of Women Affairs Kawser Pervin, Special Public Prosecutor to the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-1 of Rangpur Advocate Rafique Hasnine, Senior Manager (Women Rights Unit) of RDRS Bangladesh Mezbahun Nahar, addressed the event as special guests.

The chief guest urged the participants to play leading roles in preventing child marriage to build a better society free from all sorts of social curses, repressions and violence against women.

"Marriage registrars, imams, union parishad chairmen and members can effectively prevent child marriage, checking smart national identity cards and birth registration documents," Md Asib Ahsan said.

Mezbahun Nahar highlighted the present situation of child marriage in the country, saying that the social curse shatters life of teenage girls and hinders their education.

"Early marriage leads teenage girls towards catastrophic lives, destroying their mental and physical health and future along with causing neonatal and maternal deaths in many rural areas of the district," Nahar added.

Advocate Rafique Hasnine, in his speech, emphasised on the importance of creating social awareness to achieve proper implementation of the Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017 -- by involving adolescents, youths, government and NGO officials, public representatives, religious leaders and marriage registrars.

Atomic Energy Commission Scientists' association elects new leaders

CITY DESK

Bi-annual election of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Scientists' Association (BAESA) of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) was held on September 26, said a press release.

Members of BAESA voted to elect a new 13-member executive committee that will serve for two years. Dr SM Asaduzzaman, director of Institute of Tissue Banking and Biomaterial Research (ITBBR) was elected president, and Dr Abid Imtiaz, chief scientific officer of Nuclear Safety, Security, and Safeguards Division (NSSSD) was elected general secretary.

Dr Md Shakilur Rahman, director of business development unit (BDU) secured the post of executive member with the highest number of votes. Other elected representatives for the administrative posts of the committee are -- Dr Md Abdur Razzaque, vice president; Dr AFM Mizanur Rahman, treasurer; Abu Rayhan Mohammad Tareq, assistant general secretary; and Dr Momtaz Fatima Waheed, information and publication secretary. Other elected executive members are -- Dr AKM Fazle Kibria, Dr Debasish Paul, Md Abdul Bari, AKM Atique Ullah, Md Kaosar Ahmmad Rabby, and Nayan Kumar Datta.

The newly-elected executive committee is committed to continuous enhancement of research and development activities of BAEC and the welfare of scientists.



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