

'We made no change to Road Transport Act'

Secretary says it will be implemented from Nov 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Road Transport and Highway Division Secretary Nazrul Islam yesterday said the government will start implementation of Road Transport Act 2018 from next month, without making "any change" as it has pledged to ensure road safety.

"The new road transport act is going to be implemented from November 1. The act has been kept as it was passed in the parliament; we didn't even change punctuation marks," said Nazrul.

The government is committed to ensure safe roads for all. It is working hard and has already taken several initiatives to do so, he said at a roundtable.

Nirapad Sarak Chai (Nischa), a non-government organisation campaigning for road safety, in association with Global Alliance of NGOs for Road Safety, held the discussion titled "Round the World Roundtable" at Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

Speaking as chief guest at the event, Nazrul said the implementation of the act will not be effective unless people abide by it, because laws cannot be enforced with police action alone.

The secretary also said the government has a plan to provide training to about 4 lakh drivers, and the primary process will start soon.

Appreciating the government's move, Nischa Chairman Ilias Kanchan said there is no alternative to implementing the road transport act to ensure road safety, which is a long-time public demand.

"Training drivers properly is the key to reduce accidents... We want to train all drivers within 2025. We are working with the government in this regard," said Ilias.

Recently, there was a confusion over amendment to the

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MPO INCLUSION

Legal action if edu institutes gave false info: Dipu Moni

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education minister Dipu Moni yesterday said legal steps would be taken against educational institutions that have provided "false information" to be included in the monthly pay order (MPO) scheme.

"If we find that any educational institution has provided false information and breached the conditions of MPO enlistment, we will cancel the order of MPO enlistment of that institute," Dipu Moni said in press conference at the Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics (Banbeis) office in the capital.

She said that there were no scope for unqualified educational institutions to get MPO facilities. "We followed the MPO enlistment policy properly," she said.

The government on October 23 brought

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With construction materials lying haphazardly on the already dug-up road, walking on Mugda-Manik Nagar Wasa Road is no less than partaking in adventure sports. The road has been in this condition for over a month. These three friends were seen making the best of this frustrating situation on Saturday while returning from school.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

'Lokman got Tk 21 lakh per month'

Says ACC case against Mohammedan director over casino business; online gambling 'ringleader' Salim Prodhan also sued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday filed two separate cases against Mohammedan Sporting Club director (in-charge) M Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan and alleged online casino kingpin Salim Prodhan, for amassing wealth illegally.

The ACC in its enquiry found that Lokman amassed wealth of Tk 4.34 crore and Salim amassed wealth of Tk 12.27 crore beyond their known sources of income.

The anti-graft body's Assistant Director Saiful Islam filed the case against Lokman while Deputy Director Gulshan Anwar Prodhan filed the case against Salim with the ACC's Integrated District Office.

According to the case statement, Lokman Hossain showed his non-movable property worth Tk 64.2 lakh

and movable property worth Tk 79.7 lakh in the 2018-19 tax year, but failed to show any legal source behind the property.

Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) found Lokman's wife and children have Tk 2.96 crore, but he concealed the information in his income tax statement.

The FIR reads, Lokman collected Tk 21 lakh per month from the casino business at Mohammedan Sporting Club.

He transferred about Tk 41 crore to banks in Australia, it adds.

Since Rab started an "anti-gambling operation" on September 18, Lokman -- also a director of Bangladesh Cricket Board -- was in hiding.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) on September 25 arrested him from his Monipuripara residence.

Rab arrested businessman Salim

from a Bangkok-bound flight at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on charges of running an online casino and money laundering on September 30.

Salim in his 2018-19 income tax file showed immovable property of Tk 11.64 crore and movable property worth Tk 20 lakh.

According BFIU, Salim has Tk 54.5 lakh more in savings in different banks, but did not point it out in the tax file.

"Salim Prodhan could not show any particular source of Tk 12.385 crore which is incongruent to his known source of income," reads the FIR.

Last month, ACC decided to enquire into the illegal wealth of persons whose names came up in the wake of ongoing drive against casinos and corruption.

FARAAZ COURAGE AWARD

In search of a valiant soul

CITY DESK

PepsiCo Global has launched the call for nominations for the Faraz Hossain Courage Award.

The application submission deadline for the award is October 31, said a press release.

Faraaz Ayaaz Hossain was killed in the gruesome terror attack at Holey Artisan Bakery on July 1, 2016. He could have saved himself but refused to leave his friends behind, and was eventually killed by the attackers.

To honour his sacrifice and bravery, Faraz Hossain Courage Award was initiated in 2016.

The purpose of the award is to recognise acts of exceptional courage by individuals and encourage the spirit of bravery among Bangladeshis youth.

In addition to a certificate of recognition and a plaque, the winner of

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TACKLING AIR POLLUTION

Green activists demand a more focused law

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The proposed law on clean air must be more focused and specific to achieve its goal of tackling rampant air pollution in the country, said leading environmentalists and officials at a discussion in the capital yesterday.

Such a national law must reflect the government's commitment to relevant international treaties, said Hafizul Islam Khan, executive director of Centre for Climate Justice Bangladesh.

"The primary draft of the law made government organisations liable for air pollution, but the proposal was excluded in the later draft," he said.

Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela) organised the discussion on the proposed Clean Air Act 2019 at the Parliament Members' Club in Jatiya Sangsad complex.

Bela Chief Executive Syeda Rizwana Hasan, in a detailed presentation, said that for the sake of proper interpretation and application, the proposed law must reflect the policies of precaution and sustainable development.

Some of the vital provisions excluded in the later draft are management of controlled emitters, advisory council and its mandate, role of Department of Environment (DoE), national air quality report and implementation report on national air quality management, offences committed by government authority, public participation and data management, she said.

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Award winners with guests at the ceremony.

PHOTO: STAR

DHAKA TODAY

FILM SCREENING

Anote's Ark
Venue: ULAB, Campus A,
Dhanmondi
Time: 5:30pm

FAIR

Biggest Discount Fair – 2019
Organiser: Festivity Events
Venue: White Hall, Uttara
Time: 11am

WORKSHOP

Digital Marketing
Organiser: UY Lab
Venue: Colombia Super Market,
Mohakhali
Time: 1pm

ACADEMIC SESSION

Why Choose a Professional Degree
Instead of an Academic One?
Venue: Edbase, Dhanmondi
Time: 4pm

SEMINAR

Myth and Reality of Blockchain
Venue: Syndicate Hall, North South
University
Time: 2:30pm

FESTIVAL

Bangla Natto Utshab 2019
Venue: National Theatre,
Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Time: 7pm



MEENA MEDIA AWARD 2019

45 recognised for reports on child rights

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unicef Bangladesh yesterday recognised 45 media professionals for reporting on child rights, through handing over the Meena Media Award at a city hotel.

The winners were selected from 76 nominees in 14 categories, with the total number of entries rising to 1,000 this year.

The awards were given in seven categories, including print/online, visual, radio and news photography. All categories except news photography were divided in two age groups -- under 18 and above 18, and three winners were chosen in each category.

First prize winners received Tk 50,000, second prize winners Tk 25,000 and third prize winners Tk 15,000.

Participants from Dhaka and outside brought attention to issues affecting children across the country in their reports and creative works. They wrote and published on child marriage, religious bigotry, child healthcare, adolescence and so on.

The award ceremony also featured a musical performance by popular rock band Warfaze, and song and dance performances by a group of disadvantaged children from a Unicef-supported project.

A 12-member jury comprising of leading creative writers, veteran media professionals both from print and broadcast media, photographers and academics assessed

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ABSENCE AT MEETINGS

DSCC show-causes 21 ward councillors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) issued show-cause notice to 19 ward councillors and two women councillors of reserved seats, for being absent in board meetings for more than three consecutive times.

The notice was issued on Wednesday, signed by DSCC secretary Mostafa Kamal Majumdar, asking them to give their answers within seven working days, said an official.

The councillors are: Masud Hossain Mohsin (ward 3), Mohammad Golam (ward 4), Ashrafuzzaman (ward 5), Abdul Basit Khan (ward 7), Golam Ashraf Talukdar (ward 12), Mostafa Zaman (ward 13), Mohammad Selim (ward 14), Jasim Uddin Ahmed (ward 18), Md Tariqul Islam Sajib (ward 22), Mohammad Anwar Parvez Badal (ward 28), Mohammad Hasan (ward 30), Rafiqul Islam Rasel (ward 31), Mohammad Billal Shah (ward 32), Mohammad Awal Hossain (ward 33), Moinul Haque Manzu (ward 39), Mokbul Islam Khan Tipu (ward 40), Sarwar Hossain Alo (ward 41), Mohammad Arif Hossain (ward 43) and Mohammad Nasim Miah (ward 52).

Two women councillors of reserved seats are Rashida Parveen Moni (ward 13) and Shiuly Hossain of (ward 19).

Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) had also issued show-cause notices to 14 public representatives last week, four of whom are female ward councillors of reserved seats.

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Khaleda may not recover: Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday voiced grave concern over the well-being of party Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

"Khaleda Zia's condition is very critical now and there's a possibility that she might not recover," Fakhrul said.

He was talking to reporters after placing wreaths at the grave of the party founder Ziaur Rahman at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar area of Dhaka.

Fakhrul was flanked by a good number of leaders and activists of the party's youth front Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal, marking its 41st founding anniversary.

"Khaleda Zia would seek treatment as per her preferences if she gets bail, but the government is denying her bail with an ill-motive," the BNP leader alleged.

The former prime minister has been in jail since she was convicted in the Zia Orphanage Trust corruption case on February 8 last year.

She was found guilty in another

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Youths brainstorm climate solutions

Gen Lab organises Climathon 2019

CITY DESK

On the occasion of Global Climathon Day, a solutions-hackathon was organised at The Daily Star Centre by Gen Lab, a youth engagement platform, on October 25-26. This hackathon is a part of Climathon, a global year-round programme initiated by EIT Climate-KIC, the EU's main climate innovation initiative, said a press release.

Across 122 cities, Climathon brings together entrepreneurs, students, programmers and policymakers to formulate creative solutions to local climate change challenges.

A total of 85 participants were present at this year's event, focusing on problems surrounding food safety, waste management, and energy consumption in Dhaka, with help from experts in corporate, development, and public service professions.

The three winning teams will get to continue working on their ideas with Brac University's Centre for Entrepreneurship. Team Nikhad



PHOTO: COLLECTED

devised the idea of an app that provides fresh product from farm to table, Xerotech came up with an energy efficient lighting system using solar power, and Waste Fixers created a cartoon character that will help create mass awareness.

IPDC Finance was the sponsor of Climathon for the second consecutive time, while United Nations Development Program (UNDP),

Torun Digital, Colours FM 101, JCI Dhaka North, BNO Lubricants, Save and Serve Foundation, BracU Centre for Entrepreneurship Development, ULAB Centre for Sustainable Development, International Centre for Climate Change and Development, Independent University Bangladesh, and Green Savers Association were partners.

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