2nd Edition

Jawed Alam new RHD chairman STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mohammad Jawed Alam, an additional chief engineer of Roads and Highways

Department (RHD), has been made the chairman (current charge) of RHD. Road Transport and Highways Division issued a gazette in this regard on Sunday.

Alam, currently working as the director of Western Bangladesh Bridge Improvement Project, will take charge on December 15.

He will replace the outgoing RHD Chairman Ebne Alam Hasan, who will go into retirement on December 14.

Media can from page 5

Renowned columnist Afsan Chowdhury also spoke at the event. Terming the current media structure an ancient one, he asked journalists to embrace digital platforms.

Dr Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of TIB, said, "in our country, the risk is higher for investigative journalism. But journalists need to survive through this risk."

To encourage risky journalism, TIB has been giving awards to journalists for the last 21 years, he added.

Awards were given under four categories – Print Media (Local), Print Media (National), Electronic Media (Report), and Electronic Media (Documentary).

The awardees are: eight reporters of Gramer Kagoz of Jashore for a report on corruption in maternity allowance; Prothom Alo's Fakhrul Islam Harun for a report on graft in Titas Gas; Channel 24's Iqbal Ahsan for a report on Sonali Bank's loan scam; investigation team for documentaries.

POLLUTION IN COX'S BAZAR HC questions govt inaction STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday asked authorities concerned of the government to explain in three months why their failure to stop marine pollution, waste dumping and use of disposable plastic products in Cox's Bazar should not be declared illegal.

It also asked why concerned authorities should not be directed to demolish unauthorised structures set up at reserved areas of the sea beach. The respondents have also been asked to explain why they should not be ordered to ensure environmental clearance certificates and sewage treatment plants for constructing hotels, motels, restaurants and other commercial structures at municipal areas in the district.

Secretaries to the cabinet division and ministries of forest and environment, civil aviation and tourism, housing and public work, public administration and water resources, and 16 others concerned were made respondents to the rule. The bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman issued the rule following a writ petition filed recently by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela)

In the petition, Bela said Cox's Bazar Development Authority has reportedly identified 216 hotels and 24 fish hatcheries that pollute the sea, as there was no sewage treatment plant in the hotels and hatcheries.

Bela prayed to the HC to pass orders on the respondents to protect hills, hillocks and forests, and save the beach from pollution and encroachment. Sayeed Ahmed Kabir, a lawyer for Bela, told The Daily Star the government declared 10,465 hectares of the sea beach ecologically critical area in 1999. Construction of all kinds are prohibited there, but the rule is not being enforced. Hills, hilly forests and hillocks are being damaged in Cox's Bazar's Sadar, Maheshkhali, Teknaf, Ramu, Chakaria, Ukhiya and Pekua upazilas. Illegal structures are being built there but authorities concerned are not taking any effective action, he added.

Experts demand cancer screening at upazila level

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Primary cancer screening services should be integrated at Upazila Health Complexes, speakers at a conference said yesterday. They were speaking at the '1st National Conference on Cancer Screening' at

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU). Community Oncology Centre Trust

organised it, along with National Institute of Cancer Research and Hospital (NICRH). According to the World Health

Organization, screening is the use of simple tests across a healthy population to identify individuals who have the disease, but do not yet have symptoms.

Bangladesh has an estimated 13 to 15 lakh cancer patients, with two lakh new patients diagnosed each year.

At a policy dialogue session, Prof Syed Abdul Hamid of Institute of Health Economics at Dhaka University showed that Tk 2,000 crore in a year is enough to bring all possible patients of major NCDs under treatment, by imposing Tk 10 levy charge on average to all mobile phone users per month.

Govt only arresting

Fakhrul alleged that corruption has reached such a level

He said the government is arresting only some "small

"No action is being taken against the big fish. Not only

that, the election process has been destroyed through

corruption and thus the government has usurped power.

I think the people of Bangladesh must put up a resistance

Quader's remark that BNP is approaching foreigners with

complaints after failing to wage any movement, Fakhrul

said such comments from ruling party leaders have no

prevailing in all sectors of the country, he said.

People should start a movement to prevent corruption

About BNP's protests for its Chairperson Khaleda

Zia's release from jail, he said, "We have taken an oath to

Regarding Awami League General Secretary Obaidul

that the Anti-Corruption Commission chairman and an

Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha (Jasas).

against this all-pervasive corruption."

meaning and importance to people.

MP has engaged in a war of words over it.

fry" in the name of its drive against corruption.

More awareness needed informed about the guidelines so that they

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both men and women will be guaranteed and exploitation-free violenceа workplace."

At the same time, a forum can be arranged for informal sector workers. Of the labour force, 35 percent are women, and of them, an overwhelming majority work in the informal sector, she added.

Farzana Khan, general manager of SME Foundation, mentioned that women's promotions are not given duly, and their qualifications are often overlooked in large organisations.

Md Barkat Ali, deputy manager of Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), said, "Apart from the 2009 HC guidelines, we have Women and Children Repression Prevention Act 2003, Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act 2010, Bangladesh Labour Act 2006 and the latest Civil Service Act 2018 to fight against sexual harassment, but we must first be aware of the law."

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad's Joint General Secretary Shima Moslem said, women in the informal sector must be

Circular bus route

FROM PAGE 3 engagement of committee members with the national polls and dengue crisis," said Khokon

"But we can finalise 20-22 routes for operating modern buses under franchised companies by March next year, as the consultant company is working smoothly," he added

The DSCC mayor chaired the 11th meeting of the 13-member coordination committee on Bus Route Franchise yesterday. The special committee has been working to launch the bus service by 2020, to bring discipline in Dhaka's transport system

The committee was formed on

September 9, 2018 following directives from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). But the committee did not set the

can identify what behaviour falls under

by ActionAid Bangladesh, 65 percent of

professionals are not familiar with the HC

According to a 2018 study conducted

Khadija Akter, treasurer of Awaj

Foundation, a grassroots labour rights

NGO, said women usually don't want to

complain to the [prevention] committees

as in many cases, they face retaliation from

officer of the government's Multi-Sectoral

Programme on Violence against Women,

suggested that every organisation can

arrange a weekly meeting for employees'

issues and check the complaint box

national helpline 109 to report violence

against women and the Joy app that

directly connects with the helpline, local

police station and FnF numbers in case of

Sultana also mentioned the 24-hour

Sabina Sultana, senior programme

sexual harassment.

guidelines.

harassers.

regularly.

any emergency.

bus routes and number of franchise bus companies yet due to reluctance of bus owners, according to sources.

Sayeed Khokon said, "The committee will sit in a meeting with top transport sector leaders within this month to revise the bus routes in Dhaka, and to bring over 100 bus routes under 20-22 routes."

Among others, Additional Police Commissioner (Traffic) Mofiz Uddin Ahmed, BRTA Chairman Dr Kamrul Ahsan, BRTC Chairman Ehsan Alahi and transport expert Dr SM Saleh Uddin also attended the meeting.

Cabinet approves FROM PAGE 5

The last (fifth) session of the 11th parliament was prorogued on November 14. The maiden session of the 2020 calendar of the constitution.

year is likely to begin in early January as the period between the two sessions cannot exceed 60 days according to Article 72 (1)



Police waiting

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Around four hours later, her body was found in the alley. The pair of sandals was found near the body.

On Friday, police found sandal prints on an edge of Ayesha Shopping Complex's rooftop.

Quoting her school friend, police said Rumpa had gone to the complex's rooftop before.

After conducting her autopsy on Thursday, Dr Sohel Mahmud, head of Dhaka Medical College's forensic medicine department, told reporters that the deceased's hands, legs, waist and spinal cord were fractured.

Different agencies are investigating the murder case filed with Ramna Police Station. The case was shifted to DB on Saturday.

On Sunday, Saikat was arrested and placed on a fourday remand in connection with Rumpa's death.

Saikat was a BBA student at Stamford University. But after one semester, he transferred to a college under National University because of a family crisis, he claimed to this newspaper before his arrest.

Police said they could not yet say whether it was a murder or suicide.

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