



ELECTRIC VEHICLES Guideline talks start after 2-year pause

TUHIN SHUBHA ADHIKARY

While countries across the world promote production and sales of electric vehicles, Bangladesh does not even have a guideline to regulate them.

A draft guideline was submitted to the Road Transport and Bridges Ministry in November 2018.

The ministry then sent a four-member delegation to India to gain experience.

But the initiative did not see the light of day. The ministry amended several sections of existing rules to register electric cars, but didn't finalise the draft. But issues remained unresolved.

Over two years later, the ministry asked the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) to revive the plan for creating a guideline. The latter has called a meeting over the issue today.

BRTA Chairman Nur Mohammad Mazumder will preside over the meeting.

Representatives from finance, environment, forest, and commerce ministries, the power division, National Board of Revenue (NBR), Accident Research Institute and Mechanical Department of Buet, major auto importers, and other agencies concerned were asked to join the meeting.

"We have updated the draft guidelines and called the meeting with stakeholders to change or incorporate issues," the BRTA chairman told The Daily Star yesterday.

"The ministry asked us to prepare the draft by holding several meetings. This would be the first one," he said when asked how long it would take to prepare the draft.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



Hundreds of people gathered at Goyagari Beel at Daulatpur union in Sylhet's Biswanath upazila to attend a 200-year-old fishing festival. People from all walks of life participated in the festival and caught fish using fish traps. Mostly they caught local fish like Rui, Cuttle, and other seasonal fish.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Posing as gangsters, they extort

DB arrests six suspects

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Detective Branch (DB) of police arrested six persons for allegedly extorting money from people, posing as members of a top terror gang.

Walid Hossain, deputy commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said the accused, who identified themselves as members of "Seven-Star Group", were arrested from Jatrabari, Motijheel, Paltan and Turag areas on Thursday.

The arrestees are Billal Khan, Rakib Khan Titul, Abdul Hannan, Delwar Hossain, Mohammad Sohag and Rashed Alam.

Seven-Star Group once enjoyed widespread notoriety, boasting top criminals like Subrata Bain, Mollah Masud and Murgi Milton.

Law enforcers carried out raids based on complaints of a Cox's Bazar based businessman whom the gang called over phone

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

BEGUM ROKEYA UNIVERSITY A vice-chancellor largely missing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Teachers and officials of Rangpur's Begum Rokeya University have been resentful as its vice-chancellor (VC) left the campus, for the second time since March, without meeting with them, even after they waited for hours in front of his official on-campus residence on Friday.



VC Professor Dr Nazmul Ahsan Kalim Ullah visited the campus on Friday for a couple of hours, said campus sources, adding that a section of teachers and officials of BRU has been demonstrating for long against the VC's prolonged absence.

He prefers staying in Dhaka, said the teachers.

Campus sources further said the VC came to the campus at around 9:00am and went straight to his official residence.

Hearing about his arrival at the campus, teachers and officials of the university gathered in front of his official residence at around 11:00am, said the VC's personal secretary, Md Aminul Islam, after he joined the agitating teachers.

Professor Dr Motiur Rahman, convener

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Trump to leave DC on Inauguration Day

National Mall closed amid security fears; Pelosi calls for prosecution of any Congress members who might have helped Capitol siege

AGENCIES

By the time Joe Biden is sworn in as the 46th US president Wednesday, his scandal-tainted predecessor Donald Trump will already be far away, having helicoptered out of the White House a last time earlier that morning, an official has said.

Trump will be the first president in a century and a half to snub the inauguration of his successor.

An official who asked not to be identified said Trump would go to his Mar-a-Lago golf club in Florida, which is his legal residence and will become home after the White House.

He is expected to be out of town well before Biden is sworn in on the steps of the Capitol building at exactly noon.

After spending more than two months trying to overturn the results of the November election, pushing false conspiracy theories about fraud, Trump's presence had not been expected at the inauguration.

The final straw came on January 6 when Trump gathered a huge crowd of supporters on the National Mall and once more claimed that they had to fight to stop a fraudulent election. A mob then stormed Congress, halting proceedings underway to certify Biden's win.

For longer than anyone can remember, outgoing presidents have stood by their replacement on the Capitol steps, watching them take the oath -- and in so doing showing visible support for the peaceful transfer of power.

Trump, who was impeached for a record second time in the wake of



SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

21 more die, 578 get Covid-19

Infection rate drops below 4 percent

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh's Covid-19 fatalities is now 7,883 as the health authorities confirmed 21 more deaths in 24 hours ending 8:00am yesterday.

As per the latest data, the daily infection rate dropped to 4.73 percent.

The country recorded a daily infection rate of 4.90 percent on January 14, 8.29 percent on January 10, 7.52 percent on January 4, and 8.18 percent on January 1.

Country's Covid-19 caseload stands at 527,063 with 578 new cases during the period.

The fatality rate stands at 1.49 percent, according to the Directorate General of Health Services.

So far, 3,444,007 tests, including 12,212 new ones, have been carried out.

However, 471,756

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

'Super Earth' surprises scientists



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A 'super Earth' has been discovered near one of the oldest stars in the galaxy.

The planet, called TOI-561b, is approximately 50 per cent larger than Earth, and it orbits around its star astonishingly quickly: in just one of our days, it has seen two years.

Despite the planet having a mass nearly three times as much as the Earth, its density is

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

WhatsApp delays data sharing change

AFP, San Francisco

WhatsApp has postponed a data-sharing change as users concerned about privacy fled the Facebook-owned messaging service and flocked to rivals Telegram and Signal.

The smartphone app, a huge hit across the world, canceled its February 8 deadline for accepting an update to its terms concerning sharing data with Facebook, saying it would use the pause to clear up misinformation around privacy and security.

"We've heard from so many people how much confusion there is around our recent update,"

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



PHOTO: COLLECTED

BRIDGES CLAIMING LIVES

This bridge over the Sreemanta river near Mahishkata Bazar area of Patuakhali's Mirzaganj upazila collapsed Friday night with 10-15 people and a three-wheeler. Locals were able to fish out all but one of the people who fell into the river alive. The body of the superintendent of Kalagachhia Asmatia Entezia Dakhil Madrasa was found floating around two hours after the accident. On January 12, a bridge on the Boro Mohapurum river in Khagrachhari collapsed, unable to take the load of a truck. At least three people were killed there.

Two killed in clash over land dispute

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

At least two people were killed and two others injured in a clash yesterday over land ownership in Nariagodai area of Santhia, Pabna.

Munnaf Hossain, 40, who claimed to be the owner of the land, and construction worker Nasir Hossain, 35, died when they were attacked with sharp weapons by men allegedly sent by Bacchu Pramanik, who also claims to be the owner of the land.

They were attacked after they began construction work on the disputed land.

Rawshan Ali, also a construction worker, was admitted to Pabna General

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

PRAYER TIMING JANUARY 17

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5:30	12:45	4:00	5:36	7:00
JAMAAT 6:05	1:15	4:15	5:40	7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

ওয়েজ আর্নর্স কল্যাণ বোর্ড
প্রবাসী কল্যাণ ও বৈদেশিক কর্মসংস্থান মন্ত্রণালয়
প্রবাসী কল্যাণ ভবন
৭১-৭২, পুরাতন এলিফ্যান্ট রোড, ইন্সটান গার্ডেন, রমনা, ঢাকা-১০০০
(www.wewb.gov.bd)

নম্বর-৪৯.০৪.০০০০.২২১.১৮.০০৩.২০২০.(০৭)-২৩৭ তারিখঃ ১২/০১/২০২১খ্রিঃ

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

প্রবাসী কর্মীর প্রতিবন্ধী সন্তানদের "প্রতিবন্ধী ভাতা" প্রদানের জন্য দরখাস্ত আহ্বান

মুজিববর্ষ উপলক্ষে প্রবাসী কর্মীর প্রতিবন্ধী সন্তানদের মধ্যে "প্রতিবন্ধী ভাতা" প্রদানের নিমিত্ত প্রতিবন্ধী সন্তানের পিতা/মাতা/অভিভাবকের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

শর্তাবলীঃ

- যে সকল প্রবাসী কর্মীর সন্তানগণ ভাতা প্রাপ্য হবে-
ক) বিএমইটি'র বহির্গমন ছাড়পত্র/ওয়েজ আর্নর্স কল্যাণ বোর্ডের মেম্বারশীপ গ্রহণ করেছেন;
খ) প্রবাসী কর্মীর ক্ষেত্রে দু'তাবাসের এনওসিতে বৈধতার উল্লেখ আছে অথবা ওয়েজ আর্নর্স কল্যাণ বোর্ড কর্তৃক আর্থিক অনুদান প্রদান করা হয়েছে।
- একজন প্রবাসী কর্মীর সর্বোচ্চ ০২ (দুই) জন প্রতিবন্ধী সন্তান এ ভাতা প্রাপ্য হবে; একাধিক সন্তানের ক্ষেত্রে পৃথক পৃথক আবেদন করতে হবে।
- আবেদনপত্রের সঙ্গে নিম্নোক্ত কাগজপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে-
ক) প্রবাসী কর্মীর হওয়ার স্বপক্ষে আনুষ্ঠানিক কাগজপত্রাদি (যেমনঃ বিএমইটি'র বহির্গমন ছাড়পত্র সম্বলিত পাসপোর্টের পৃষ্ঠা/মার্ট কার্ড অথবা ওয়েজ আর্নর্স কল্যাণ বোর্ডের মেম্বারশীপ গ্রহণের কপি সহ কর্মীর পাসপোর্টের ফটোকপি);
খ) প্রবাসী মুক্তবরণকারী কর্মীর ক্ষেত্রে বাংলাদেশ দু'তাবাস কর্তৃক ইস্যুকৃত NOC;
গ) প্রতিবন্ধী সন্তানের ০২ (দুই) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের সত্যায়িত ছবি;
ঘ) সুবর্ণ নাগরিক পরিচয়পত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি;
ঙ) পিতা/মাতা/অভিভাবকের ব্যাংক স্টেটমেন্টের কপি;
- মাসিক ১০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা হারে পাঁচ বছর মেয়াদের জন্য এ ভাতা প্রদান করা হবে এবং জানুয়ারি-২০২১ থেকে তা কার্যকর হবে;
- আবেদনপত্র ওয়েজ আর্নর্স কল্যাণ বোর্ডের প্রধান কার্যালয় অথবা ওয়েবসাইট (www.wewb.gov.bd)/জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়ের প্রবাসী কল্যাণ শাখা/জেলা কর্মসংস্থান ও জনশক্তি অফিস/জেলা সমাজসেবা কার্যালয় হতে বিনামূল্যে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে;
- আবেদনপত্র যথাযথভাবে পূরণ করে প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্র সহ আগামী ২৮ ফেব্রুয়ারি, ২০২১খ্রিঃ তারিখের মধ্যে সরাসরি/ডাকযোগে ওয়েজ আর্নর্স কল্যাণ বোর্ড, ৯ম তলা (ডেসপাশ শাখা), প্রবাসী কল্যাণ ভবন, ৭১-৭২, ইন্সটান গার্ডেন, রমনা, ঢাকার পৌছাতে হবে অথবা সংশ্লিষ্ট জেলা কর্মসংস্থান ও জনশক্তি অফিসে জমা দেওয়া যাবে।
- অসম্পূর্ণ আবেদনপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে;
- প্রতিবন্ধী ভাতা প্রদান সত্ত্বেও যে কোন বিষয়ে কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্ত চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে;
- যে কোন তথ্যের জন্য প্রবাসবন্ধু কল সেন্টারে (ফোনঃ ০১৭৮৪৩৩৩৩৩৩, ০১৭৯৪৩৩৩৩৩৩, ০২-৯৩৩৪৮৮৮) যোগাযোগ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

শেখায়েব আহমাদ খান
যুগ্মসচিব
পরিচালক (অর্থ ও কল্যাণ)
d.fw@wewb.gov.bd

জিডি-১০৩