

SERVICE LIFE OF COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

Govt finally moves to set limits

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The government is finally going to fix the economic service life of all commercial vehicles, including buses and trucks, more than two years after a high-powered committee recommended it.

The committee had identified the plying of outdated vehicles as one of the major reasons behind road crashes and put forward a set of measures to reduce accidents and bring discipline in the road transport sector.

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) will sit today with all the stakeholders -- experts, transport sector leaders, and vehicle manufacturers and importers -- to discuss the issue of setting the economic service life of commercial vehicles.

Currently, there is no fixed economic service life for such vehicles. Taking advantage of this, owners of decades-old buses and trucks have been running their rickety vehicles.

Though the transport authority in 2010 banned over 20-year-old buses and over 25-year-old goods-carrying vehicles in the capital, many such run-down vehicles operate on district and inter-district highways, posing serious risk of road crashes and causing environmental pollution.

"We have started the process of fixing the economic service life of commercial vehicles in line with the committee's recommendations. As a part of it, we have called a meeting tomorrow [today]," BRTA Chairman Nur Mohammad Mazumder told The Daily Star yesterday.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5



Owner of Wahed Mansion in Chawkbazar's Churihatta, which was badly damaged by a disastrous fire in February 2019, has changed its look by plastering the building and repainting it. Over 71 people were killed in the chemical-fuelled fire in Old Dhaka. After the incident, the government declared the building risky. Inset, the damaged building after the fire.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



HC asks for documents on Khaleda's birth date

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court has sought relevant documents from the government in order to determine the actual date of birth of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

In response to a writ petition, the court yesterday asked authorities concerned of the government to provide the record regarding her birthday to it in 60 days.

The HC also issued a rule asking the respondents to show causes as to why their inaction to prosecute Khaleda Zia under the relevant law for celebrating her birthday on different days to deliberately

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2

Djokovic wins 19th Grand Slam title



REUTERS, Paris

Novak Djokovic fought back from two sets down to beat Greek fifth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-7 (6/8), 2-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 to win the French Open title for the second time on Sunday.

The Serbian world number one increased his Grand Slam tally to 19 titles, and is now one adrift of the men's record held by Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

Snare of Bigo Live runs deep

Live streaming app abused to rake in fortune, says CID; 5 arrested

MUNTAKIM SAAD

A 40-year-old reputed businessperson joined Bigo Live, a video streaming app, a year ago and spent around Tk 26 lakh on young women, who lured him through live streaming.

These women were recruited by Bigo's agents in Bangladesh. Recently, after being defrauded by one of the Bigo users, he complained to the Criminal Investigation Department of police.

When the CID nabbed one of the agents, it found a transaction of Tk 23 crore, only through his mobile banking merchant account.

The CID then conducted raids in the capital's Karwan Bazar, Kataban, Chawkbazar and Mirpur areas on Saturday and arrested five people, including a Chinese national, who introduced himself as the country manager of Bigo Live in Bangladesh.

The arrestees are Jie Yao, 31, Mostafa Saif Reza, 26, Arif Hossain, 27, SM Nazmul Haque, 27, and Asmaul Husna, 28.

"We got some more names. Law enforcers have so far tracked down transactions of more than Tk 100 crore in banks and mobile financial service accounts of the arrestees and their accomplices. We suspect that the majority of the money earned through Bigo Live and Likee is siphoned from the country," Jamil Ahmed, deputy inspector general (cyber wing) of CID, told reporters at a press briefing yesterday.

A CID official, wishing not to be named, told The Daily Star that Jie Yao, who lives in Gulshan area, himself collected most of the money in cash from the hosting agents.

The official said that they first arrested Nazmul from his home in Kataban area. They found a transaction of Tk 23 crore made through his mobile banking accounts. On his mobile, the CID found a Whatsapp

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

GUARD OF HONOUR FOR FREEDOM FIGHTERS Parliamentary body suggests 'alternative to female UNO'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday recommended taking necessary measures to find alternatives to a female upazila nirbahi officer's presence during the guard of honour given to valiant freedom fighters after their deaths.

The standing committee on Liberation War Affairs Ministry came up with the recommendation in a meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban with ruling Awami League lawmaker Shajahan Khan in the chair.

The parliamentary watchdog also suggested giving the guard of honour during the daytime.

According to meeting sources, a committee member raised the "issue of guard of honour given to

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Yahya delays plan for power transfer

JUNE 14, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

YAHYA SAID TO DELAY PLAN FOR CIVIL RULE

Pakistan President Agha Mohammad Yahya Khan postponed the announcement of his plan for the transfer of power to a civilian government. The president, who rules by martial authority, said May 24 that he would announce the plan in two to three weeks' time.

The Chairman of the Pakistan People's Party Zulfikar All Bhutto, who met President Yahya today, said the delay was due to the Government's preoccupation with the budget, to be announced later this month.

Bhutto reiterated his demand for an "early and effective" transfer of power to the elected representatives, both at the national and provincial levels. He said Yahya was sincere about transferring power, but "a coterie of civil servants, defeated politicians and big business" had been trying to impede the process.

MUKTI FOJLI ACTIVE ON WIDE FRONT IN BANGLADESH

The Mukti Fojli guerillas were active on a wide

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4



Netanyahu out as new Israeli govt approved

REUTERS, Jerusalem

Benjamin Netanyahu's record 12-year run as Israel's prime minister ended yesterday with parliament approving a new "government of change" led by nationalist Naftali Bennett, an improbable scenario few Israelis could have imagined.

But the razor-thin 60-59 vote of confidence in a coalition of left-wing, centrist, right-wing and Arab parties with little in common except for a desire to unseat Netanyahu,

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

RMG workers take to street demanding arrears

1 die trying to escape police chase

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

A readymade garment worker was killed in a clash between police and factory workers at Dhaka Export Processing Zone (DEPZ) in Savar yesterday.

The victim is Jasmine Begum, a swing operator at Goldtex Garments Limited, said police.

Asaduzzaman, superintendent of Dhaka Industrial Police (zone-1), said, "She died after hitting an electric pole while trying to escape the clash."

More than 600 workers of Lenny Fashion Ltd and

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2



Workers of two closed factories of Dhaka Export Processing Zone yesterday blocked the Nabinagar-Chandra highway in front of DEPZ in Ashulia, demanding their arrears. A female RMG worker was killed as police and workers clashed.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

FLASHING GUNS AT PWD OFFICE Two pro-AL contractors surrender arms



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Following reports that pro-Awami League contractors wielded guns during their showdown at the Public Works Department office in Pabna, two contractors handed over their firearms to police yesterday.

Police said they were looking into the incident that took place on June 6, but PWD has yet to file any complaint over this.

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) yesterday condemned the incident and demanded proper investigation and punishment of the culprits.

It was reported that on June 6, a group of pro-AL contractors went to the PWD office in Pabna carrying firearms. Six days later, security camera footage of the office was leaked to journalists.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2

PRAYER TIMING JUNE 14

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-05 12-45 5-00 6-50 8-15
JAMAAT 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-55 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION