



Every day, Dhaka's traffic takes its toll on the commuters, as everyone has to suffer through the long hours, accompanied by the swelter. The usual scene is evident inside this Laguna, in which the passengers are trying their best to deal with yet another day of misery. This photo was taken from Green Road.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Fake universities, false certificates

Six including VC and doctor impersonators held in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The detective branch of police have arrested six people, including the “vice chancellor” of a fake university, his associate and four fake MBBS doctors from the capital's Malibagh area.

“The racket has been selling certificates for the past two decades through a fake institution. They used to put up advertisements on websites, newspapers and social media,” AKM Hafiz Akhter, additional commissioner of



DB, told a press briefing yesterday.

They charge Tk 5 lakh for local certificates and Tk 25 lakh for foreign ones. So far, they have accumulated crores by providing hundreds of fake certificates of 144 degrees of different disciplines, such as MBBS, BDS, MPhil, PHD and engineering. The arrestees are Md Nurul Haque Sarkar alias Sheikh Gani Sarkar (72), so-called VC of “Premier University of Technology”; his associate Moazzem Hossain (58); and fake doctors Saidur Rahman alias Nasrul (30), Mahfuzur Rahman alias Mahfuz (37), Aman Ullah (38) and Debashish Kundu (52).

Kulsum Akter, wife of arrested Saidur, alleged that Saidur was picked up by plainclothes men on Saturday.

Sarkar also used to introduce himself as the VC of “Pitch Blende University of Science and Technology” and “Peace Land University”, both of which are fake.

Highway management set to improve

RHD to introduce country's first road operation unit



RHD constructs or expands roads under different projects, usually those are maintained by different divisions. The country currently has no mechanism for road operation.

- ›› RHD to set up Road Operation Unit to manage highway
- ›› To include 3 ROU offices, headquarters in Dhaka
- ›› To build 3 axle-load stations, Intelligent Transport System
- ›› Operation, maintenance to cost Tk 6.66cr for 4 years

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The Roads and Highways Department (RHD) is going to establish a dedicated Road Operation Unit (ROU) for the first time to manage and monitor a national highway efficiently.

The unit will include three ROU field offices and a headquarter in Dhaka, three axle-load control stations (ALCS) and Intelligent Transport System.

The department has hired a Bangladesh-China joint venture firm for constructing the facilities on the 260-km Joydebpur-Rangpur highway and their operation and maintenance for four years.

National Development Engineers Ltd (NDE) of Bangladesh and FiberHome Telecommunication Technologies Co Ltd of China will construct the facilities within 18 months for Tk 145.29 crore.

The operation and maintenance will cost Tk 6.66 crore for four years, said officials.

RHD engineers said currently they construct or expand roads under different projects and usually those are maintained by different offices.

According to RHD engineers, the country

currently has no mechanism for road operation to ensure proper maintenance and utilisation of roads.

“We should have introduced this much earlier. However, it is good that a move has been finally taken,” said an RHD engineer on condition of anonymity.

RHD Chief Engineer AKM Manir Hossain Pathan and NDE Managing Director Rizwan Mustafiz have signed the contract at RHD headquarters in Dhaka yesterday.

On behalf of NDE, its two subsidiaries -- NDE Solutions and MCC Ltd -- will implement the project. They are expected to start working after Eid-ul-Fitr, Riyad SA Husain, managing director of NDE Solutions, told this correspondent yesterday.

ELEMENTS OF ROU
RHD has almost completed expanding 70 km of the highway into four lanes, with two service lanes on both sides, from Gazipur's Joydebpur to Tangail's Elenga under the SASEC-1 Road Connectivity Project.

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Free Hriday Mondal

Demand rights groups

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different rights bodies yesterday demanded the immediate release of Hriday Chandra Mondal, the Munshiganj school teacher who is now behind bars in a case filed over demeaning religion.

“We demand the unconditional release of Hriday Mondal, who is a victim of fundamentalists' conspiracy,” read a statement by Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee.

The statement, which was signed by around one hundred dignitaries, also demanded punishment for those involved with the conspiracy.

“If the victim's family members want, Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee will provide legal assistance to the victim,” it added.

In another statement, Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) also demanded Mondal's immediate release and security for his family members.

As per news reports published in different media, it appears that an evil force is trying to create chaos by capitalising on religion, it said.

ASK also demanded an investigation into the role of local administration, police and school authorities during the incident.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Hindu Bouddha Christian Oikya Parishad and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Inu), in separate statements, also demanded Mondal's immediate release.

Demanding his release, social organisation Nipironer Biruddhe Shabagh will hold a rally tomorrow at Shabagh.

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From student to ringleader

12 of inter-district robbery gang arrested, say police

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Back in 1996, Lokman Hakim alias Liton was still a student. But early on in life, he had a brush with law, when he abducted a girl.

Following the incident, the girl's family filed a case with Gopalganj Sadar Police Station against him and some of his friends. He was then arrested and sent behind bars for three months.

During his stay in jail, however, Lokman got in touch with some local robbers, and using his connections, got involved in the crime.

At some point in the last two decades, Lokman became the ringleader of an inter-district gang of robbers.

“ We have found six to seven cases against each of them. They were arrested a number of times before, but after securing bail, they would go back to the life of crime. ”

GOLAM MOSTAFA RASHEL
SP of Madaripur

Detective Branch (Tejgaon Division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police and Madaripur District Police in separate drives managed to arrest around 12 members of the gang, including Lokman, from the capital's Mohammadpur and Madaripur.

Investigators said the gang was planning to rob an agricultural bank's Tungipara branch and a temple. They used to move around as auto-rickshaw drivers in rural areas to avoid law enforcers.

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Govt lobbying foreigners to save itself

Alleges Fakhurul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday alleged that the government is lobbying foreigners to save themselves from their “misdeeds”.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhurul Islam Alamgir made the comment while addressing a discussion to mark World Health Day at a city hotel.

“On one hand, sanctions were imposed and on the other, their [government] misdeeds were exposed to the world. That's why they are lobbying foreigners.”

Referring to Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen's meeting with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, the BNP leader said, “As the election is nearing, they are seeking help from the US to bring BNP to the elections. But these people (AL) always said we lobby foreigners.”

Fakhurul also said the country's health system has completely collapsed due to rampant corruption.



Holding empty bottles, people wait in line in front of West Tejturibazar Jame Mosque to get water. Residents of West and East Tejturibazar, Green Road and Farmgate areas gather there to get drinking water from the mosque's tube-well. Though all of them have Wasa's supply at home, they say Wasa water is okay for bathing and other uses, but not for drinking. This newspaper published a report on the issue on March 26, where the authorities concerned assured that they will look into the issue. However, it's been more than 10 days, and the tap water remains smelly, while the queue for drinkable water continues to get bigger. This photo was taken yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

GRAFT CASE

SC order on Zubaida's plea Apr 13

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court will deliver its order on April 13 on an appeal filed by Dr Zubaida Rahman, wife of BNP's acting chairman Tarique Rahman, challenging a High Court verdict that cleared way for lower court to resume trial of a corruption case against her.



A four-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddique fixed the date yesterday.

On September 26, 2008, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed the case against Tarique, Zubaida, and her mother Iqbal Mand Banu for amassing assets through illegal means and concealing information in their wealth statement.