

Will Dhaka finally be free of faulty buses?

BRTA to conduct drives after Nov 30

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The section 25 of Road Transport Act 2018 clearly states that operation of unfit and rundown vehicles is a punishable offence and one may face up to six month jail or Tk 25,000 fine or both.

Besides, there are dedicated persons such as vehicle inspectors, at the offices of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA), who are supposed to check all these aspects before giving fitness clearance to a particular vehicle.

But, even with the strict legal provision and monitoring mechanism in place, rundown buses ply the city streets, contributing to road crashes and pollution, under the very nose of the authorities.

Although the authorities on several occasions took steps to drive such vehicles off the city streets, they often failed in face of the opposition from transport associations.

BRTA once again decided to conduct

drives against such vehicles.

The regulatory authority last week wrote letters to the transport associations for fixing problems of all faulty buses and minibuses within November 30, BRTA officials said.

Otherwise, the authority will conduct a mobile court drive against the vehicles after the deadline, they said.

BRTA has also published advertisements on different national dailies asking transport owners to fix their problem within November 30.

In the meantime, BRTA has directed all of its vehicle inspectors not to provide fitness clearance to any faulty vehicles. Otherwise, punitive actions would be taken against them too, the officials added.

WHY THE MOVE?

The move came after the Road Transport and Highway Division last week asked BRTA to take strict action against rundown buses.

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PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

While trying to make a turn towards Monipuri Para on Sangshad Avenue, a truck got upturned yesterday morning. When this photojournalist took the picture of the vehicle leaning precariously on the divider, it was already 1:30pm, but the authorities were yet to remove the truck.

DU observes Mourning Day

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka University (DU) authorities yesterday observed Mourning Day, commemorating the tragic deaths of students, employees and guests in a building collapse at the university's Jagannath Hall in 1985. A total of 39 people, including 26 students, died as the roof of the auditorium of the then Assembly Building (now October Smriti Bhaban) collapsed on this day in 1985.

To mark the day, university authorities organised various programmes and hoisted black flags atop all student dormitories and kept the university flag at half-mast. Students, teachers, officials and employees of the university placed at wreath at the October Memorial Building at Jagannath Hall. A discussion was also held.

Speaking at the programme, DU Vice Chancellor Prof Md. Akhteruzzaman said the university authority will not compromise when it comes to security concerns on the campus. Special prayers were also offered at Jagannath Hall and the university mosques. The museum of October tragedy at the hall remained open to all from 9:00am to 6:30pm.

30 held over attack on cop, police boxes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police have arrested 30 people after battery-rickshaw drivers attacked an officer and vandalised police boxes in the capital's Mirpur and Pallabi on Friday.

Different police teams made the arrests from Friday night to yesterday.

Mirpur police arrested 13 people, Pallabi police arrested eight, while a team of Detective Branch (DB) arrested nine from different areas of Mirpur.

At a press conference yesterday, Dhaka Metropolitan Police Additional Commissioner (DB) Mohammad Harun Or Rashid said some unruly battery-rickshaw drivers vandalised traffic-police boxes and attacked an officer, who was

House tutors not in the house

DU dorm students have no guardians to listen to their problems

SUHANUR RAHMAN SHUVO

The house tutors at the dormitories of Dhaka University are assigned to hear and solve problems of the residential students, as per the university ordinance.

However, finding them has become an ordeal for students as they are rarely available.

These tutors are responsible for the education and overall well-being of students. But they are hardly present at the dorms, while most of the students don't even know where to go when they are in



On March 27, DU authorities provided specific guidelines for house tutors, instructing them to be available at the dorm offices, visit the floors (block) under them at least once a week, and hold at least one monthly views-exchange meeting with students.

150 house tutors in 13 male dorms

73 tutors in five female dorms

ISSUES



Tutors hardly available

Many students don't know who their house tutors are

Situation at female halls somewhat better

trouble.

The 1973 DU ordinance directed the hall authorities "to supervise and control the residence, and discipline of the students of the university, to regulate their extra-curricular activities and to make arrangement for promoting their health."

However, it didn't specifically mention the responsibilities of house tutors.

But on March 27, the university authorities provided specific guidelines for house tutors, instructing them to be available at the dorm offices, to visit the floors (block) under them at least once in a week, and to hold at least one monthly views-exchange meeting with students.

The purpose of such meetings was to listen to students' problems and solve them.

There are around 150 house tutors in 13 male dormitories and 73 tutors in five female halls, according to the DU

administration.

This correspondent asked at least 10 students of the Shahid ATM Jafor Alam block of the Shaheed Sergeant Zahirul Huq Hall about how many times their house tutor visited their blocks this year.

The respondents said the house tutor responsible for their floor, Rafat Alam Mishu, an assistant professor of the Bangla department, visited them only once since October last year.

"But it was not for hearing or solving our problems," said Imran Hossain, a master's student.

Contacted, Rafat Alam said though he could not visit his floor on a regular basis, he remains available at his office regularly. "My doors are always open to students," he said.

Interestingly, some students of the hall couldn't even tell the name of their house tutors.

Mustakim Rahman, a master's

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Abul Mansur Ahmad book-review contest starts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University Shahitya Sangsad has launched a book-review competition on two titles of renowned journalist, politician and litterateur Abul Mansur Ahmad.

The organisation is holding the competition to spread the works and thoughts of Abul Mansur Ahmad among youths. Submissions will remain open for all students from today to November 10.

Students will need to review any of the two books -- "Aina" and "Sher-e-Bangla hoite Bangabandhu". The review will need to be between 1,200 and 2,000 words and in Bangla.

The submitted file should be in a format that can be opened by Microsoft Word, and the review should be composed in "SutonnyMJ" typeface. Reviews must be e-mailed to duls1921@gmail.com.

However, if anyone wants to send a hard copy, they can drop it off at the organisation's office at Teacher-Student Center (TSC).

The best reviewer will

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Think science!
Speakers call for initiatives to involve youths in research, technology

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a ceremony yesterday stressed for initiatives to encourage the country's youths to take part in science-related activities, saying that such steps can help achieve excellence in the field of science.

Monthly science magazine Bigganchinta and Farming Future Bangladesh jointly organised the event to hand over awards among winners of the competition "Youth for Science 2022" at the capital's Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, said a press release.

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Dengue claims six more lives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of six dengue patients died while 734 were admitted to different hospitals across the country in the last 24 hours ended at 8:00am yesterday.

The total number of dengue cases have crossed 24,000 mark, which is the third highest number of cases since the first outbreak in Bangladesh in 2000.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), a total of 24,326 dengue patients were hospitalised across the country this year.

With the new cases, the total number of deaths this year rose to 89, of which 34 died within the first 15 days of October.

Among the death cases, 50 are in Dhaka, 21 in Cox's Bazar, 12 in Chattogram, five in Barishal and one in Narsingdi.

Carry out activities in disciplined way Home minister tells BNP

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan yesterday urged BNP to carry out their political activities in a "disciplined way", making it clear that the government will not shy away from taking action if they resort to violence.

Asserting that carrying sticks to political programmes is clearly "against the law", the minister said, "We've seen BNP activists thronging rallies with sticks in their hands, following the directives of their leaders. We won't interfere if they are peaceful. But we'll surely take action if they become violent."

"I hope that the BNP will conduct their programmes in a disciplined way. We won't spare them, if they endanger people's lives and damage properties by blocking roads or resorting to vandalism," he added.

Asaduzzaman said these on the sidelines of the inauguration ceremony of the mini-marathon and annual sports competition arranged by the Public Security Division at the Secretariat on Saturday.

The minister urged the BNP leaders to be careful with the words that they speak.

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PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

The Kalyanpur Khal, which many know as "Pongu" khal, owing to its proximity to the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation, is on the verge of extinction due to pollution. Along with mindless waste dumping, locals also built a makeshift bamboo bridge to get across, for which plastic waste gets stuck, obstructing the canal's water flow. This photo was taken in Agargaon yesterday.

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PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 16

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:50 12:45 4:00 5:38 7:15
JAMAT 5:25 1:15 4:15 5:41 7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION