

INTER-DISTRICT BUS No parking outside terminals from Apr 1

Says DNCC mayor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

No inter-district bus will be allowed to park outside of its terminal from April 1 next year, said Dhaka North City Corporation Mayor Atiqul Islam yesterday.

Counters of the transport companies must be set up at their respective terminals from that date, the mayor told reporters following a meeting of the Bus Route Rationalisation Committee (BRCC) at Nagar Bhaban.

"Drives will be conducted on the three active routes of Nagar Paribahan buses from December 20 to January 5. Buses and three-wheelers operating on those routes illegally will face consequences," the mayor said.

Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh said the renovation work of

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Protesting the "anti-state activities of BNP-Jamaat", Dhaka north city unit of Awami League organised a rally at the old trade fair ground in the capital's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar yesterday. AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader, among others, addressed the crowd.

PHOTO: STAR

Resist threats to nat'l security: PM

UNB, Dhaka



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday stressed the need for addressing traditional and non-traditional threats to national security as the use of new technologies has changed the pattern of crimes.

The prime minister made the comments while addressing the graduation ceremony of Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC) Course-2022 and handing out certificates among graduates at the Sheikh Hasina Complex in Mirpur Cantonment in Dhaka.

"We want a peaceful environment to prevail in our country," she said.

She also reiterated her call on world leaders to initiate steps to stop the Russia-Ukraine war immediately for the welfare of the global community.

"We want peace, not war. We want to resolve all sorts of disputes and differences through talks," she added.

"Our foreign policy, Friendship to All, Malice towards None, is very clear. We're running the state with maintaining friendly relations with all following the foreign policy adopted by the Father of the Nation," she said.

She said Bangladesh has not even engaged in any quarrel with Myanmar over repatriation of their forcibly displaced nationals -- Rohingyas to their homeland.

"We're trying to solve the problem through discussions," she added.

She once again alerted the citizens about rumour on the foreign currency reserve and liquidity in banks.

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Medical waste management in a shambles Reveals TIB study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite the amount of medical waste generated in the country is the second highest among the South-East Asian nations, the waste management situation is poor to say the least, according to a study.

The study, conducted by Transparency International Bangladesh, also revealed that a ring of corrupt contractors is selling unrefined and harmful waste as fresh medical equipment with the help of a section of medical staffers.

The study findings were revealed during a virtual event yesterday.

TIB collected data from 231 public and private hospitals, city corporations, municipalities and contractor organisations, and interviewed 93 persons involved in medical waste management from June 2021 to November 2022.

"An anarchic situation is evident in medical waste management. There are weaknesses in the relevant legislation. The institutional framework is absent and there is an overall lack of coordination in this regard."

Iftekharuzzaman
TIB executive director

Around 60 percent of hospitals do not have bins to store medical waste, while 83 percent of hospitals have no waste treatment system, according to the study, titled "Governance Challenges in Medical Waste Management and Way Out".

The study revealed that a section of hospital staffers and a ring of contractors were found to be involved in supplying medical wastes back to the market, posing a major threat to public health.

The study has also revealed irregularities and corruption in every step of medical waste management, including collection, storage, transportation, and treatment.

There is a shortage of human resources in waste management. On the other hand, financial corruption was found in the recruitment process, where officials and

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MARTYRED INTELLECTUALS

No comprehensive list in 5 decades

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The government's initiative to prepare a complete list of martyred intellectuals is advancing at a snail's pace. And so, the nation is still in the dark about the exact number of luminaries killed during the Liberation War.

Two years ago, the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs formed a committee to make the list and scrutinise the names of martyred intellectuals proposed by the public administration and individuals.

The ministry has so far published two gazettes mentioning the names of 334 intellectuals, based on recommendations of that committee.

The committee is now reviewing names of another 300 and is likely to sit in a meeting later this month with the aim of publishing the third gazette.

"We are not going that slow. Scrutiny requires some time," Khaja Miah, secretary at the ministry, told The Daily Star.

"It is a continuous process. We have already published two gazettes. We need to publish more names, as there are many applications still pending," he said. "These applications came through district administrations and individuals."

The Pakistani army, with the help of local collaborators, abducted and killed the country's leading intellectuals, who were the guiding light for Bangladesh, from the night of March 25, 1971.

Faced with impending defeat, the Pakistan army killed more and more luminaries in the days ahead of December 16, to cripple the future nation intellectually.

These shining individuals were instrumental in the mass

movements against the widespread disparity and oppressive Pakistani rulers. The movements ultimately contributed to the Liberation War efforts.

Sadly, even 51 years after the country's independence, the nation is still in the dark about how many



AT A GLANCE

Ministry formed committee to make list on Nov 19, 2020

In Dec 2020, the committee approved 1,222 names for primary list

It so far published 2 gazettes listing 334 intellectuals

Committee now reviewing another 300 names for another gazette

The government documentary "Bangladesh" said 1,109 intellectuals were martyred. "Banglapedia" estimated that 1,111 intellectuals have been killed.

Buddhijibi Nidhan Tathyanusandhan Committee, 1972, had made a primary list of 20,000 intellectuals who were killed.

of these luminaries were martyred.

Against this backdrop, on November 19, 2020, the ministry finally formed an 11-member committee -- comprising freedom fighters, Liberation War researchers, and government officials -- to prepare the list. The committee

later set up a sub-committee to scrutinise applications.

In its first meeting in December 2020, the committee approved 1,222 names for the primary list. Of them, 1,070 are names the ministry already had, and 152 were obtained from postal stamps issued in the name of martyred intellectuals at various times.

Names of intellectuals are available in "Shaheed Buddhijibi Koshgrantha", a biographical encyclopaedia of martyred intellectuals prepared by Bangla Academy; "Bangladesh", a documentary of the government in 1972; "Banglapedia"; and postal stamps.

Littérateurs, philosophers, scientists, artists, teachers, researchers, journalists, lawyers, physicians, engineers, architects, sculptors, government and non-government employees, politicians, social workers, cultural activists, musicians, and people involved in film-making, theatre and arts, who were killed by the Pakistani forces or went missing between March 25, 1971 and January 31, 1972, are being defined as martyred intellectuals, said Chowdhury Shahid Kader, one of the committee members and associate professor of history at Jagannath University.

Following the committee's recommendation, the government in May 2021, published names of 191 martyred intellectuals, and in May this year, published names of 143 more.

A sub-committee member said the ministry has received around 1,000 applications for the list. It is now reviewing 300 such names to publish in the third gazette.

Shahriar Kabir, president of

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Will write to UK to deport Mueen, Ashrafuzzaman Says law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will write a letter to the UK government requesting it to deport the two fugitive killers of intellectuals, Chowdhury Mueen Uddin and Ashrafuzzaman Khan, to Bangladesh.

"I requested a British high commissioner in Bangladesh to take steps to end the two fugitives, who were sentenced to death for their offences, including the killing of intellectuals during the Liberation War, back to the country," Law Minister Anisul Huq said while talking to reporters at his secretariat office ahead of the intellectuals killing day to be observed today.

The minister said the British high commissioner suggested him to formally place the request to the UK government in this regard.

He said the law ministry has already drafted a letter to this effect. After receiving opinion from the home ministry, the letter will be finalised and then it will be sent to the UK government. "Besides, we will continue bilateral talks with the UK government to bring the convicted killers back to the country," he said.

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 on November 3, 2013 handed down death penalty to Chowdhury Mueen Uddin and Ashrafuzzaman Khan.

They were sentenced to death for abduction and killing of nine Dhaka University teachers, six eminent journalists and three physicians in December 1971 with the intent that the new nation becomes devoid of intellectuals.

Chowdhury Mueen Uddin and Ashrafuzzaman Khan were among the most wanted criminals after the Liberation War in 1971 for killing intellectuals as part of Al-Badr's plan to eliminate intellectuals from the soon-to-be independent Bangladesh.

'Hope for migrants' Govt working to ensure migrant workers get fair minimum wage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is working to prepare a demand letter of minimum salary for migrant workers in different countries, said Expatriate Welfare and Foreign Employment Minister Imran Ahmad yesterday.

He was speaking to reporters after a seminar titled "Protasha: Hope for Migrants" at a hotel in the capital yesterday. The Ministry of Expatriate Welfare and Foreign Employment, European Union, IOM and Brac organised the event.

The minister said, "The number of our workers going abroad has become 11 lakh this year (year 2022). But it could reach 15-16 lakh in the current fiscal year if workers go to Malaysia as per the government to government treaty."

At this time, the minister highlighted the difference between the salaries of Bangladeshis and workers from other countries working in Saudi Arabia.

"Our workers in Saudi get 800 riyals (minimum) and workers of other countries get 1,000-1,200 riyals (minimum). We are preparing a demand letter asking host countries to pay a fixed minimum wage to our workers similar to other countries."

Regarding the cost of immigration, the minister said, "Immigration is not a one-way process. It happens from both sides. As a worker-sending country, we have some limitations. But we do not control the countries to which we send workers to."

Regarding Malaysia, the minister said,

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Dengue death toll 267

Total number of patients 60,742

994 still undergoing treatment

Number of recovered patients 59,481

220 more hospitalised yesterday

SOURCE: DGHS

PRAYER
TIMING
DECEMBER 14

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5-15 12-45 3-45 5-19 7-00

JAMAAT 5-50 1-15 4-00 5-22 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



In the advent of winter, the demand for flowering plants has increased. To meet this demand, vendors have been moving from one place to another, carrying such plants on vans to attract potential customers. This photo was taken in Kataban yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

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Fakhrul, Abbas given division facilities in jail AG office tells HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The attorney general's office yesterday informed the High Court that detained BNP leaders Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and Mirza Abbas have been given division facilities in jail.

Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Abdullah Al Mahmud Bashar also placed a letter issued by the section concerned of the law ministry in the regard to the HC during hearing of two petitions seeking directives upon the prison authorities to give division facilities to Fakhrul and Abbas in jail.

He also told the HC bench of Justice KM Kamrul Kader and Justice