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Won't allow unregistered rickshaws on Dhaka roads

Says Taposh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh yesterday issued a stern warning, vowing that unregistered and illegal rickshaws will no longer be tolerated on the streets of Dhaka.

He made this announcement during his visit to a rickshaw stand in Dhanmondi in the morning.

He said the city authorities were taking strict measures to ensure compliance with this rule and maintain a safe and regulated transportation system.

"We have declared all unregistered rickshaws illegal on streets. They can't ply the roads anymore. We will implement this decision gradually. We have already started registering rickshaws," he added.

The Rickshaw Owners Association also agreed to this decision. They will now manage the service from a designated location, he added.

"At the same time, we want passengers to get on the rickshaws from designated places and get off at specified locations."

Nine Dhaka areas to be without gas for 6hrs today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gas supply will remain suspended in different areas of the capital for six hours -- from 2:00pm to 8:00pm -- today due to gas pipeline replacement works.

According to a public notice issued by Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Limited, the areas that will be without gas supply during that time are: Shyamoli, Adabor, PC Culture, Mohammadiya Housing, Japan Garden City, west part of Dhanmondi's Satmasjid Road, Hazaribag and Rayerbazar.

Consumers in adjoining areas may experience low pressure in gas supply, Titas said. Titas also expressed regret for the inconvenience.



THE GIRLS ARE BACK... Even after being attacked and threatened, the U-17 Khulna divisional team players resume training, showing strength in the face of fear. This photo was taken at Super Queen Football Academy in Khulna's Batiaghata area yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Attacked and intimidated, all for playing football

Khulna U-17 football team girls passing days in fears following attack

DIPANKAR ROY

First, they were attacked for playing football. Now, they are being threatened with acid attacks.

Their crime? They wanted to play for the country.

The girls are now passing days amid fear and panic as the attackers are intimidating them.

They even threatened to throw acid on one of the victims who filed a case against the criminals.

"They (accused) have threatened to throw acid on me, if I don't withdraw the case," said Sadia Nasrin, one of the victims.

"They also threatened to implicate us (female footballers) and our coach in false cases," Nasrin told The Daily Star yesterday.

On July 29, at least four girls, all members of the under-17 Khulna divisional football team, came under attack by a group of people for wearing shorts and playing football at Tentultala village of Khulna's Batiaghata upazila.

Nasrin, who is captain of the team, filed a case on the same night accusing six persons -- Nur Alam, Alauddin, Salauddin, Nupur Khatun, Ranji Begum and

Monwara Begum.

Of the victims, three were released from a local hospital after receiving primary treatment.

But Mangali Bagchi, who was severely injured, is still undergoing treatment at Batiaghata Upazila Health Complex.

On July 29, at least four girls, all members of the under-17 Khulna divisional football team, came under attack by a group of people for wearing shorts and playing football at Tentultala village of Khulna's Batiaghata upazila.

"Doctors told us that Mangali will have to stay two or three days more in the hospital for her recovery," said her father Ranjit Bagchi.

"I have learned that the attackers are angry now because of the case. They (the accused) might attack them again. We are passing our days in fear," he added.

Ranjit said he would allow her

daughter to continue playing football, despite all the hurdles.

Mizanur Rahman, upazila health and family planning officer, said Mangali suffered head injuries, but she is out of danger.

The girls play football at Super Queen Football Academy in Batiaghata.

Contacted, the academy's trainer Mostaq Hossain demanded security for the footballers and their family members.

Khulna District Football Association President Md Saiful Islam demanded exemplary punishment for the attackers.

"If the perpetrators avoid punishment, similar atrocities against girls will continue. We urge the authorities to ensure that the attackers face harsh legal consequences," he told The Daily Star.

Shawkat Kabir, officer-in-charge of Batiaghata Police Station, said, "The prime accused (Nur Alam) has already been arrested. We are trying to arrest the other accused."

He also said police are providing necessary security to the victims and their family members.

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GRAFT CHARGES ACC seeks 22 years jail for PK Halder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday pleaded for 22 years of imprisonment for 14 persons, including former managing director of NRB Global Bank Proshanta Kumar (PK) Halder, in a case lodged for allegedly amassing illegal wealth and laundering money abroad.

Judge Mohammad Nazrul Islam of Dhaka Special Judge Court-10 fixed August 9 for the next hearing.

"The ACC has been able to prove the graft charges made against 14 persons, including PK Halder. We expect them to be sentenced to 10 years under Section 27(l) of the Anti-corruption Commission Act, 2004 and 12 years under the provisions of the Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2012," ACC Public Prosecutor Mir Ahmmed Salam told BSS.

Halder, along with five others, were detained in Ashoknagar of the Indian state of West Bengal on May 14 last year.

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Want experienced int'l observers for national polls

EC Alamgir tells media

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission has expressed its willingness to welcome experienced international observers to monitor the upcoming national election.

Election Commissioner Md Alamgir stated that the involvement of observers with a track record of monitoring polls in various countries would be widely accepted.

"Experienced individuals or organisations will be able to monitor and analyse the election properly," Alamgir told reporters at his EC office yesterday.

However, the commission clarified that it does not have the mechanism to verify the experience of international observers, and this responsibility would lie with the foreign ministry.

With the country's next general polls garnering attention from the international community, EC Alamgir responded to queries about foreign observers' participation.

The United States announced a pre-election monitoring team would visit Bangladesh in early October to assess the pre-polls situation. Similarly, an European election exploratory mission visited Bangladesh from July 9-23 to determine the EU's potential deployment of a monitoring team for the upcoming parliamentary polls.

Addressing the low turnout of international observers in the previous election, Alamgir expressed optimism about a higher number of foreign observers this time.

Regarding visa arrangements, Alamgir mentioned

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'BNP wants to foil polls in the name of protest'

14-party alliance tells rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the Awami League-led 14-party grand alliance yesterday reiterated that the upcoming national election will be held in accordance with the constitution.

They made the statement while speaking at a rally organised protesting the "terror and anarchy of BNP-Jamaat" in front of the National Museum at the capital's Shahbagh.

"They [BNP] are trying to foil the next election in the name of protests. We have to be vocal against such conspiracies," said AL Advisory Council member Amir Hossain Amu, also coordinator and spokesperson of the alliance.

He called upon the activists to remain united to get Sheikh Hasina elected for the fourth time in a row.

Addressing the event, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal General Secretary Shirin Akhtar said the election will be held according to the rules of the constitution.

"There will be an interim government under the leadership of the prime minister. Simultaneously, the election will be held under the Election Commission. To ensure the election goes smoothly, we will have to resist the conspiracy of BNP-Jamaat unitedly," she added.

Rashed Khan Menon, president of the Workers Party, claimed that BNP intended to take power by holding people hostage rather than by popular vote.

"So they are not relying on countrymen, but on the US and the European Union," he said.

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