

Prevent misuse of power

President tells judges

UNB, Dhaka

President Mohammed Shahabuddin yesterday urged all judges to closely monitor and prevent any misuse of power.

"Power and responsibility are coined together. Power must be exercised to perform duties. Again, showing responsibility is a must in exercising power," he said.

He was addressing the inaugural session of the International Conference on South Asian Constitutional Courts in the Twenty-First Century: Lessons from Bangladesh and India at the inner courtyard of Supreme Court in Dhaka.

Chief justice of India Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud spoke at the session as the guest of honour, while Chief Justice of Bangladesh Obaidul Hasan presided over the programme.

Law Minister Anisul Huq, Attorney General Abu Mohammed Amin Uddin, President of Momtaj Uddin Fakir also spoke at the event.

3 teens die in motorbike accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three teenagers were killed in a motorcycle accident in Dhaka's Ashkona area last night.

The deceased are Robiul Islam, 15, and Omor Faruk, 18, and Junaid, 17, of Rupshi area in Narayanganj's Rupganj upazila, said Siddikur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Dakkhinkhan Police Station.

Police said around 7:30pm, the three were returning home on the motorcycle after attending an event. Omor was driving the bike. He suddenly lost control of the vehicle in the Ashiyon City area. The bike then overturned and skidded off the road.

Robiul died on the spot. Only Omor was wearing helmet, the OC said.

Omor and Junaid were declared dead at Dhaka Medical College Hospital and Kurmitola General Hospital respectively.

Omor's uncle Md Hossain said Omor was a student of a madrasa in Rupganj. He came to Dhaka's Kawla area to attend a programme of the madrasa. After the programme ended, he took his father's motorcycle and along with his two friends headed home, he added.



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Will Satrasta ever be freed?

DNCC receives approval for land to construct a multi-storey truck terminal, says mayor

HELEMUL ALAM

Honking horns blend with frustrated shouts of office goers, students and patients stuck at gridlocks – this is the daily reality of the Mayor Anisul Huq Road (Tejgaon-Satrasta).

money, as rickshaws barely move through that. Besides, the lanes have narrowed down the road further, increasing traffic jams rather than solving it.

Also, trucks and pick-ups parked on the road have extensively damaged the dividers set up to

hand of the truck terminal, said truckers start parking on the main road at 7:00pm and usually keep them till 8:00am.

Tofazzal Hossain Mazumdar, president of Bangladesh Truck Covered-Van Owners Association, said every day around 5,000

Mayor Atiqul Islam announced plans to construct a multi-storey truck terminal and held a meeting with the leaders of truck owners' association to solve the problem.

However, the work has not started yet due to land crisis. Atiqul on February 5 told



It has been eight years since the late mayor made efforts to clear the road of illegally parked trucks, but the owners and workers remain undeterred.

Trucks of all sizes, from lumbering giants to nimble pickups, line both sides of the road throughout the day, contributing to congestion. The status quo only worsens after dusk.

A separate rickshaw lane, supposedly constructed to reduce traffic on the road, has only turned out to be a waste of

create the lanes, leaving them essentially non-functional.

Trucks are parked on the road, due to lack of space at the truck stand near it. When Dhaka North City Corporation conducts drives against illegal parking, truckers clear the road but return soon after, said Md Helal Uddin, owner of six trucks.

Mohammad Kasem, a helping

trucks come to the terminal, but they can accommodate only 3,000 of them, and the rest remain on roads adjoining the terminal.

He said if the government provides them land to keep trucks, they will not keep them on the roads.

PROMISE OF PERMANENT SOLUTION

On December 30, 2020, DNCC

The Daily Star that it will not be possible to keep the road clear until DNCC cannot provide a permanent solution.

"I informed the prime minister that without obtaining land for a truck terminal, a permanent solution cannot be achieved," said the mayor.

"Around 3.5 acres of BTRC land and 1.5 acres of National Housing Authority land are currently available. The premier has approved us to use those

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DNCC demolishes 10-storey building

It occupied 70pc of Lautola canal land

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka North City Corporation yesterday demolished illegal structures including a 10-storey under-construction building on the bank of Lautola canal at Mohammadpur's Basila in Dhaka.

The under-construction building occupied 70 percent of the canal, said DNCC officials.

DNCC zone-5 regional executive officer Motakabbir Ahmed led the eviction drive in presence of Mayor Atiqul Islam.

Besides, 1,500 volunteers of BD Clean, a voluntary organisation, assisted DNCC in cleaning the canal at the same time.

Regarding encroachment, the mayor said anything constructed within 100 feet of the canal will be demolished. "The canals will be restored to their previous form by freeing them from pollution and encroachment," he said.

Apart from the under-construction building, two other one-storey buildings were also demolished. Mohammad Mahe Alam, chief property officer of DNCC, said the eviction drive will continue.

PHOTO ON PAGE 4

144 irregular migrants return home from Libya

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday brought back 144 irregular Bangladeshi migrants from north African country Libya.

A chartered flight of Buraq Air carrying the migrants landed at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital around 4:00am, the foreign ministry said in a press release.

With them, a total of 1,390 Bangladeshis has been brought back home from Libya since July last year, it added.

These migrants had been "detained" at various locations, including "detention centres" in Tripoli and Benghazi, the release adds.

They were brought back home with the support of International Organisation for Migration (IOM). Upon their arrival, officials from the foreign ministry and IOM greeted them at the airport.

Besides, IOM provided Tk 6,000 each and some food to the returnees.

Attending the repatriated migrants at the airport, Mostofa Jamil Khan, director (welfare) of the foreign ministry, stressed generating awareness among people to avoid irregular paths of migration.

US keen to deepen ties with Bangladesh

Says its acting deputy assistant secretary

UNB, Dhaka

US Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary at Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs Scott Urbom said Bangladesh has been an important partner of his country for over 50 years and that the US has been investing billions of dollars in Bangladesh's health, education, and other sectors.

"We look forward to deepening the partnership with Bangladesh in the next 50 years and beyond," he said while speaking at a programme organised by the Bangladesh Embassy in Washington.

Scott Urbom also said Mother Language Day holds a special place in the hearts of not only the people of Bangladesh, but also people all over the world.

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India a crucial 'actor' in Bangladesh politics

Speakers tell webinar on bilateral relationship between two countries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As a neighbouring country, India needs to come forward and take steps to overcome challenges to continue a "just" relationship with Bangladesh, said speakers at a webinar on Bangladesh-India relationship yesterday.

Forum for Bangladesh Studies, a platform for academics and analysts working on the country's contemporary issues, organised the webinar on "Bangladesh and Its Neighbours: India's Influence in Bangladesh's Politics".

The speakers said there has been a widespread perception that, to materialise its own interests, India has developed an "unjust situation" in the region.

Presenting a keynote during the webinar, Prof Ali Riaz, a distinguished professor of political science at Illinois State University, said India wants to spread

its wings and become a global actor.

Besides, it has trade interests while also wanting to "limit the US's influence" in the region, he said.

All these factors have made India a crucial "actor" in Bangladesh's politics, he added.

India wants to remain a "key player" in the region, although it is not very attentive when it comes to people-to-people connectivity in the case of a bilateral relationship with Bangladesh.

M TOUHID HOSSAIN
Former foreign secretary

He said prior to the January 7 parliamentary elections in Bangladesh, Indian analysts voiced for the continuation of the Awami League government, as their understanding was that there could be "instability" without Sheikh Hasina at the helm.

Prof Riaz said, "Indian analysts also voiced concern that a political changeover in Bangladesh might inflame instability in India's northeastern region.

Besides, they thought India's support was crucial to tackling China's influence in Bangladesh."

However, none of these concerns were legit, he added.

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These young ones are engrossed in painting the Shaheed Minar and other patriotic motifs. They partook in the children's art competition portion of the "Open Air Photo Exhibition" organised by Nymphaea Publication, in collaboration with Unesco Bangladesh and the Bangladesh Foreign Service Association yesterday. The event, held at Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed Park in Gulshan 2, Dhaka, aimed to commemorate the language martyrs on the occasion of International Mother Language Day.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON