

Rickshaws rule Dhaka

FROM PAGE 3 Institute of Labour Studies (BILS) in 2019 said Dhaka had over 11 lakh pedal rickshaws. Also, there were more than 2 lakh battery-run rickshaws in the city. Pedal rickshaws are allowed only on designated roads while battery-run rickshaws usually operate on feeder roads.

In the past few days, this correspondent observed various major roads in Ramna, Tejgaon, Mirpur, Uttara, Airport, and Motijheel, where rickshaws were frequently seen on the streets. In the past, police constables and ansar members used to guard the exits of feeder roads to prevent rickshaws from entering the thoroughfares and major roads. But they were not seen during recent visits.

Rickshaw puller Maznu Mia along with others were seen waiting for passengers in front of the Apex Footwear outlet in Farmgate, adjacent to the busy Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue. Asked how they managed to get to the major road, Maznu smiled and said nobody stops them now.

"In the past, police and ansar members used to puncture rickshaw tires, take away seats or sometimes even seize rickshaws if we operated on VIP roads," he said. The rickshaw operations on major roads cause problems for drivers of private cars, buses and CNG-run auto-rickshaws as the slow-moving three-wheelers often go to the right lanes which are supposed to be fast lanes, the drivers said.

"This situation cannot go on. The rickshaw pullers do not obey any street law. We are always in fear of

accident now," said Sujan Mia, a driver of Bihanga Paribahan.

Other motorists said the presence of both pedal and battery-run rickshaws was a problem as the two types move at different speeds, so deciding when to change lanes and overtake has become harder.

This correspondent spoke with several traffic constables who, on condition of anonymity, said they no longer stop anyone because they want to avoid the hassles they faced before and after August 5.

"Look, there are only a few traffic police on the streets, and our supervisors often stay on the side of the road," said a constable on duty at a major intersection on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue. Khondaker Nazmul Hassan, additional commissioner (traffic) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said, "We are taking steps [against rickshaws] and are hopeful that we will be able to bring a visible change in the city traffic system within two weeks."

During the student-led protests that culminated in the toppling of the AL government, many law enforcers were seen opening fire on protesters as hundreds died over just over three weeks of violence. Many police personnel were also killed, and the force is still recovering from a crisis of credibility.

Drawing from past experience, the Buet professor said, "When the Rangs Building was demolished, our Buet team was also involved. The situation here is even more hazardous than it was there. Demolishing this building must be done with meticulous planning to avert any accidents."

PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 30. Table with columns for Azan, Juma, Asr, Maghrib, Esha and times for Jumaat (5:05-8:30).

DMCH plans

FROM PAGE 5 set up specialised wards on an emergency basis for the treatment of those injured in the anti-discrimination student movement recently, said the hospital director.

Md Asaduzzaman said in addition, initiatives have been taken to renovate the cabins, increase the number of beds in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), ensure timely attendance and strengthen cleanliness activities for all officers, employees and staff.

He said hospital authorities will not allow representatives of pharmaceutical companies and external brokers at the hospital.

More than 5,000 patients are treated at the outdoor and emergency departments of the hospital every day, he said. More than 4,000 patients take in-house treatment in the 2,600-bed hospital every day.

No victims

FROM PAGE 5 reviewed videos and images captured by drones. The fire burned for a long time — almost three days — due to different chemicals stored inside, which intensified in the heat. The building's condition clearly reflects this. It not only just burned but also underwent extensive damage," he also said.

Prof Raquib explained that the fourth and fifth floors of the six-story building collapsed onto the third floor, causing the third floor to buckle under the weight.

Drawing from past experience, the Buet professor said, "When the Rangs Building was demolished, our Buet team was also involved. The situation here is even more hazardous than it was there. Demolishing this building must be done with meticulous planning to avert any accidents."

Over 1,000 killed

FROM PAGE 5 head injuries, but they are recovering well. An injured student coordinator is among those receiving care at the hospital," she said.

During her visit, Nurjahan spoke with injured police officers in the hospital's surgery department to enquire about their conditions.

The health adviser also highlighted the government's efforts to provide specialised care for those blinded in the unrest.

"We have contacted Sheba, a US based organisation, and sent them a list of individuals with eye complications.

Withdraw all CSA

FROM PAGE 3 vagueness and inadequacy," he said.

"In a completely undemocratic process, the previous authoritarian government took initiatives to draft new laws and policies, while amending old laws, to take away people's rights and increase and control state power. Citizen's participation and accountability in the formulation and implementation of these laws was nil," he added.

Sallem Samad, general secretary of FExB, said laws made in public interest should be formulated and amended, in consultation with the public and higher stakeholders.

Khairuzzaman Kamal,

Sheba Foundation will send doctors to Bangladesh as soon as possible," she said.

Victims will be treated at facilities including the Ispahani Islamia Eye Institute and Hospital, National Institute of Ophthalmology & Hospital (NOH), and Chittagong Eye Infirmary and Training Complex, she added.

The adviser further said many people sustained severe leg injuries, with some requiring amputations.

"We are in talks with various donor agencies, including the World Bank, to bring in a team of doctors from abroad for advanced treatment," she said.

all CSA

treasurer of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ), said cyber security laws are essential when they deal with people's interests and women's security, and to prevent all kinds of bullying.

Dr Syeda Aireen Jaman, secretary general of PEN International, Bangladesh, said during this interim period, it will be good to have a new ordinance in place that is in line with the "UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity," alongside the protection of human rights.

Rezwan Islam of Global Voices and human rights advocate Sharmin Khan also spoke at the event.

Overhaul election

FROM PAGE 3 primary elections in each constituency to select their candidates.

Shujan Secretary Badiul Alam Majumdar mentioned that one of the advisers of the interim government has requested a draft proposal for a law to appoint the CEC and other ECs. They plan to submit the finalised proposal to the government.

He also emphasised that student politics on campuses should be free from sycophancy.

Rights activist Faiz Ahmad Taiyeb emphasised the need for mechanisms that would allow expatriate Bangladeshis to cast their votes. He also called for efforts to curb the spread of misinformation and disinformation.

DU Professor Robaet Ferdous stated that all institutions, including the Election Commission, the Human Rights Commission, the Public Service Commission, and others, have utterly failed.

"Caretaker government should be incorporated in the constitution permanently," he proposed.

Prothom Alo Joint Editor Sohrab Hassan said if political parties do not practice internal democracy, all proposals and discussions

will be in vain. Dilip Kumar Sarker, central coordinator of Shujan, presented a set of reform proposals that includes reintroducing the "no vote" option on ballot papers, having the Election Commission publish posters on behalf of candidates, organising a projection meeting for all candidates in a constituency, requiring candidates to disclose their foreign assets in their affidavits, and appointing returning officers from among EC officials.

Samakal Advisory Editor Abu Sayeed Khan, former election commission secretary Jesmin Tuli, Fair Election Monitoring Committee chair Munira Khan, a key organiser of the anti-discrimination student protest Ariful Islam and others addressed the programme.

Advocate Akhtar Kabir Chowdhury, president of the Sanak-TIB Chattogram chapter, advised the families to seek legal recourse and appeal to the interim government.

"The issue of missing persons must be taken seriously. Legal avenues and appeals could provide some resolution," he said.

No alternative

FROM PAGE 3 eight key topics — the constitution, ensuring justice for victims of human rights violations and serious legal breaches, the judiciary, civil administration, constitutional bodies, law enforcement agencies (including intelligence agencies), economic policies (including the banking sector and foreign loans), and the media.

Addressing these topics is essential for rebuilding democracy, said Prof Riaz, adding that a rushed election without tackling these fundamental issues would be ineffective.

In reply to a query, Prof Riaz said there are limitations in amending the constitution. He rather suggested that there might be options to reconstruct it instead.

ZillurRahman, executive director of CGS, said, "We have been working on how the state can reinforce its democratic institutions."

He also expressed hope that these dialogues will play a crucial role in shaping the country's democratic future.

Addressing the media, Zillur Rahman said, "Regardless of what we did in the past, let us be united now and work with due responsibility in this new situation. We should work to take mass media to a respective position so that no one can call it 'puppet media'."

"As journalists, we should act accordingly so that no one can file a case against us or put handcuffs on our hands in any changeover situations," he added.

Gonoforum pledges

FROM PAGE 5 Dr Kamal emphasised that Gonoforum will start its journey anew through the celebration of its founding anniversary.

"It is the moral responsibility of all political parties and the country's people to give proper time and all-out cooperation to the interim government led by Nobel Laureate Dr

Muhammad Yunus to reform the state institutions and create an environment for a fair election."

In his written speech, he said said a new opportunity has been created to establish democracy and justice in the country after the mass movement. People are dreaming of an independent and discrimination-free new Bangladesh.

YUNUS CASE SC adjourns petition hearing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday adjourned until Monday the hearing on a leave to appeal petition challenging a High Court order that upheld the indictment against Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus and six other officials of Grameen Telecom in a graft case.

The case was filed by the ACC on May 30, 2023 against Yunus and 13 others on charge of misappropriating about Tk 25.22 crore of Grameen Telecom Workers' Profit Participation Fund and laundering money.

The six Grameen Telecom officials are Managing Director Nazmul Islam, and Directors Ashraful Hassan, Naznin Sultana, Md Shahjahan, Nurjahan Begum, and SM Huzzatul Islam Latifee.

On July 24 this year, the HC summarily rejected a petition filed by Prof Yunus and six other officials of Grameen Telecom, challenging a Dhaka court's order that framed charges against them.

Sonali Bank PLC Common Services Division, Head Office, Dhaka e-Tender Notice. Table with columns: S/L, Tender ID No. & Ref. No., Contract Package No., Name of items, Tender publishing date & closing date.

বাংলাদেশ টেক্সটাইল মিলস্ করপোরেশন বিটিএমসি ভবন. ৭-৯, কাওরান বাজার বা/এ, ঢাকা-১২১৫. দরপত্র আহ্বান. Table with columns: S/L, মন্ত্রণালয়/ বিভাগ, সফটওয়্যার/ প্রকল্পের নাম, দরপত্রের বিবরণ, দরপত্রের সূত্র ও তারিখ, প্রকল্পের বিবরণ, দরপত্রের সূত্র ও তারিখ, দরপত্রের সূত্র ও তারিখ, দরপত্রের সূত্র ও তারিখ.

বাংলাদেশ সেনাবাহিনী বাদরবান সেনানিবাস, বাদরবান. দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং ০১/২০২৪-০২৫. Table with columns: ক্রমিক, কালের বিবরণ, কালের সময়সীমা.

Invitation to BID (ITB) Walk-in Cold Room for Vaccine Storage. Tender Ref. No: icddr/b/SCM/OTM/24/08/NS-24-3724. Date: August 30, 2024. icddr,b invites renowned equipment manufacturers and authorized agents/distributors to participate in the bid for the Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Validation of Walk-in Cold Room for Vaccine storage.

Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) Office of the Project Director Chattogram and Cox's Bazar District Irrigation Development Project Through Surface Water Utilization. e-Tenders for the procurement of following Works and Goods are invited in e-GP Portal. Table with columns: SI No., Tender ID, Title, Publishing date, closing date.

ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয়. বসুন্ধরা এফ-ব্লক ১৫০০ বর্গফুটের শতভাগ রেডি ফ্ল্যাট। ম্যাজিক প্রিক্স হোমিসেস লিমিটেড। ০১৭০৪-১৭০০৭৭ ০১৭০৪-১৭০০৭৮

TUITION WANTED. 15 years of experience Maths teacher wants to teach O-A Level (Cambridge, Edexcel) O/P solve, mock test. Guarantee A. B.Sc (Hons), M.Sc (Math), DU. DIPAK BARMAN 01777846252, 01712018889

Restaurant setup For Sale. Restaurant with complete setup is for sale at Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani, Dhaka. Interested buyer pls contact: 01719110617/ 01968544305

নালন্দা উচ্চ বিদ্যালয়. ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি - শিক্ষাবর্ষ ২০২৫. নালন্দা প্রাক-প্রাথমিক থেকে নবম শ্রেণি পর্যন্ত ভর্তি চলছে. * প্রাক-প্রাথমিক: অজুর্ (৩-৪ বছর), কিন্দার (৪-৫ বছর), মজরী (৫-৬ বছর) প্রথম শ্রেণি: (৬-৭ বছর), দ্বিতীয় থেকে নবম: শ্রেণি অনুযায়ী বাস. বিজ্ঞপ্তি তথ্য ও ভর্তির আবেদনপত্র: www.nalonda.org

ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয়. বসুন্ধরা ডি-ব্লক সেমি-ফোরব্রেক্স ২০৫০ বর্গফুটের নির্মাণাধীন ফ্ল্যাট। ম্যাজিক প্রিক্স হোমিসেস লিমিটেড। ০১৭০৪-১৭০০৭৮ ০১৭০৪-১৭০০৭৬

ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয়. লালমাসিয়া বি-ব্লক-এ ১৬০০ বর্গফুটের শতভাগ রেডি ফ্ল্যাট নিউ ফ্ল্যাট। ম্যাজিক প্রিক্স হোমিসেস লিমিটেড। ০১৭০৪-১৭০০৭৬ ০১৭০৪-১৭০০৭৮