





Take battery-run rickshaws off city roads in 3 days

HC orders authorities following writ petition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government authorities concerned to take necessary steps to stop the plying of battery-run rickshaws and auto-rickshaws on the capital's streets within three days, aiming to reduce road accidents.

It also issued a rule asking the authorities to explain why their failure to halt the operation of these vehicles should not be declared illegal.

The directive was issued by the bench of Justice Fatema Najib and Justice Sikder Mahmudur Razi, following a writ petition filed by Greater Dhaka City Corporation Rickshaw Owners Unity Alliance.

The petition challenged the authorities' lack of action in preventing unlicensed battery-run rickshaws from operating in the city.

The petitioner's lawyer, Shanjid Siddique, informed the court that these rickshaws and auto-rickshaws were running without valid licences, causing accidents due to their high speeds in various areas of the capital.

He also highlighted that they were straining the national power supply by consuming excessive electricity to charge their batteries.

Shanjid further pointed out that the Dhaka city corporations do not have the authority to issue operating licences for these vehicles.

He informed the court that in July 2014, the HC banned the operation of unlicensed mechanised and battery-run rickshaws

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Auto-rickshaws parked on Beribandh road in the capital's Mohammadpur obstruct traffic. Hawkers have also set up makeshift shops along the footpath, limiting space for pedestrians. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Hit by battery-run rickshaw on campus, JU student dies

JU CORRESPONDENT

A first-year student of Jahangirnagar University died after she was hit by a battery-powered rickshaw on campus yesterday evening.

Afsana Karim was a student of marketing and a resident of Begum Khaleda Zia Hall. Her parents live in Sherpur.

In security camera footage, Afsana was seen walking near the arts building when the rickshaw hit her.

Students said she suffered serious injuries to her head and face.

She was first taken to the university's medical centre and then to Enam Medical College and Hospital in Savar where doctors

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Afsana Karim

Economy now stabilised

Says finance adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Following short-term reforms measures, the economy has stabilised over the first 100 days of the interim government, said Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed.

He said mid- and long-term measures would be done by the next government and the current government would hand over a roadmap for those reforms so that the elected government cannot avoid them.

"If the next government doesn't follow the roadmap, the people will force it to do so," he said at a press conference at the Secretariat marking 100 days of the interim government.

While talking about the successes of the interim government, he said, "I think the dawn shows the day. The sun has already risen ... Yes, it's true that expectations are there, but we didn't make a bad start... We will leave a footprint."

The state of the financial sector was unimaginable

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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

It's now mandatory for all RHD projects

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The Roads and Highways Department must carry out the Environmental Impact Assessment for all its future projects to avoid possible negative impact on the environment.

It must take the Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) from the authority concerned before undertaking any infrastructure project, according to a recent decision of the Road Transport and Highways Division under the Road Transport and Bridges Ministry.

The RHD usually carries out EIA and takes ECC only for foreign-funded projects and does not do so for the government-funded ones.

The decision made by the Road Transport and Highways Division in September left the RHD in trouble as many of its project proposals waiting for approval do not have such clearances.


So, the RHD must do assessments and take clearances before moving forward with the projects, which will take time, said RHD officials.

EIA is the systematic study, assessment, and reporting of the impacts of a proposed programme, plan or project, including a management plan for dealing with negative impacts, according to an RHD management plan.


EIA, which is prepared at the feasibility level, includes quantification and valuation of the impacts, it says.

The move comes amid rampant allegations that rivers and other water bodies are dying due to many unplanned infrastructures developed by different government and non-government agencies as well as individuals.


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Unplanned infrastructure major reason for killing rivers, water bodies



RHD's 48 proposed projects waiting for approval



It is implementing 122 projects, of which 17 are foreign-funded

Indo-Bangla high-level meet in Dec

2 foreign secys to lead first talks after Hasina's fall

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and India's first high-level official meeting since the fall of the Awami League government is scheduled for December in Dhaka.

According to a foreign ministry official, Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Jashim Uddin and Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri will lead the Foreign Office Consultation.

The foreign ministry is preparing the necessary agenda for the meeting and will hold an inter-ministerial preparatory meeting regarding this at the foreign ministry today, he told this correspondent.

The meeting will discuss the existing agreements and memoranda of understanding and the developments of the decisions taken in the earlier meetings.

Indo-Bangla relations have been strained following the ouster of the Awami League government

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SUBVERSION CHARGES

Hong Kong jails 45 pro-democracy campaigners

West condemns prosecution

REUTERS, Hong Kong

Hong Kong's High Court yesterday jailed 45 pro-democracy activists for up to 10 years following a landmark national security trial that has damaged the city's once feisty democracy movement and drawn criticism from the US and other countries.

A total of 47 pro-democracy activists were arrested and charged in 2021 with conspiracy to commit subversion under a Beijing imposed national security law which carried sentences of up to life in prison.

Joshua Wong and Benny Tai, a former legal scholar identified in the judgement as a "mastermind" of the activists' plans, were among those jailed for subversion.

The charges related to the organising of an unofficial "primary election" in 2020 to select the best candidates for an upcoming legislative election. The activists were accused by prosecutors of plotting to paralyse the government by engaging in potentially disruptive acts had they been elected.

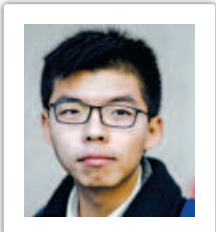
Some Western governments have criticised the trial, with the US describing it as "politically motivated" and saying the democrats should be released as they had been legally and peacefully participating in political activities.

The Chinese and Hong Kong governments say the national security laws were necessary to restore order after mass pro-

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Benny Tai



Joshua Wong

HC orders inquiry into Adani deal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered the energy ministry to conduct a high-level inquiry into the government's electricity purchase deal with India's Adani Power Limited in 2017.

In response to a writ petition, the HC asked the government to investigate whether there were any irregularities involved in the process of making the agreement with Adani Power and submit a report in three months.

As such, the secretary to the energy and mineral resources ministry has been instructed to form a high-powered committee with international energy and legal experts within a month. The committee will then be required to submit a detailed report in the following two months.

The court also asked the relevant government

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Palestinians gather to receive food cooked by a charity kitchen, amid a hunger crisis, in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Ukraine fires first long-range US missiles into Russia

Says Moscow; Putin issues nuclear threat

REUTERS, Kyiv

Ukraine used US ATACMS missiles to strike Russian territory for the first time yesterday, Moscow said, in an attack regarded by Russia as a major escalation on the war's 1,000th day.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said attacks on Bryansk region by Ukraine with US missiles was a clear signal that the West wanted to escalate the conflict.

Lavrov hoped that Moscow's new nuclear doctrine, in which President Vladimir Putin lowered the threshold for a nuclear strike, would be attentively read.

Russia said its forces shot down five of six missiles fired at a military facility in the Bryansk region, while debris of one hit the facility, causing no casualties or damage.

Ukraine said it had struck a Russian arms depot around 110 km (70 miles) inside Russia and caused secondary explosions. It did not specify what weapons it had used.

Putin yesterday signed a decree broadening the scope for when Moscow will consider using nuclear weapons in a clear warning to the West and Ukraine.

The Kremlin said the move, which enables Russia to use nuclear weapons against a non-nuclear state if they are supported by nuclear powers, was "necessary to bring our principles in line with the current situation."

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