



PHOTO: STAR

Thousands of rickshaws create a gridlock in Chittagong city during six-hour transport strike yesterday.

Unusual rickshaw jam in Chittagong city

BDNEWS, Chittagong

The port city yesterday experienced an unusual rickshaw jam for six hours during transport strike.

Innumerable rickshaws plied the entire city when all modes of transports stayed off the road. Commuters at different stoppages could not reach their desti-

nations in time due to heavy rickshaw jam.

Rickshaws were also seen plying freely in the roads off-limits to them stretching from Dewanhat crossing to Agrabad Barik Building Square.

Private cars had to face immense difficulties due to severe congestions.

Taking advantage of the transport strike, rickshaw-pullers charged exorbitant prices from the city dwellers.

Over one lakh rickshaws ply the city.

Chittagong regional unit of Bangladesh Road Transport Workers Federation called a 48-hour strike in greater Chittagong but withdrew it after six hours.

Dr Kamal demands power for farmers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Eminent lawyer Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday expressed solidarity with the agitating farmers at Godagari in Rajshahi and demanded sufficient supply of power and diesel in North Bengal region for saving crops.

Hundreds of farmers lay down on a road at Godagari while Dr Kamal Hossain was going to Kansat in Chapainawabganj.

They urged Dr Kamal to press for their demand for uninterrupted power supply.

Dr Kamal expressing solidarity with them said the government must pay heed to the growers. "The government killed people for demanding power but did not help growers who arrange food."

They submitted a memorandum to Dr Kamal.

Ctg JMB chief confesses to causing serial blasts

UNB, Ctg

JMB Chittagong divisional commander Javed Iqbal (Mohammad) yesterday gave a confessional statement on his involvement in the August 17 bombings, admitting he was responsible for detonating bombs at five points in the port city.

The JMB kingpin gave the statement to Metropolitan Magistrate's Court under section 164.

Magistrate Moksedur Rahman recorded a five-page statement of Mohammad.

Mohammad said he had conducted the serial bombings in Chittagong as per directives from JMB chief Shaikh Abdur Rahman to establish Islamic rule in the country.

RAB arrested Mohammad from Kathtuli area under Pahartali thana in the port city on December 13 and recovered huge amount of explosive.

Mystery shrouds death of ansar at Adamjee EPZ

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

An ansar member died under mysterious circumstances at Adamjee Export Processing Zone (EPZ) in Narayanganj yesterday morning.

Police recovered the body of Montu Mia, 33, at about 7:00am from near the No 3 jetty inside Adamjee EPZ. The body had an iron rod pierced through its throat.

According to a source, Montu incidentally saw a gang stealing valuable machinery from the closed down Adamjee Jute Mill while on his guard duty on Saturday night. The gang killed him apparently to hide the misdeed.

An influential group has been engaged in looting the machinery of the mill worth crores of taka since the process of turning the mill into Adamjee EPZ started, the source added.

The platoon commander of Ansar refused to talk to the journalists about the incident.

A case has been filed with Shiddhirganj Police Station.

Govt acts as a switch operator of militants

B Chy tells party meet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday said the four-party alliance government is playing the role of a switch operator of the militants.

"The militant attack starts when the government switches on and stops when it switches off," he said while speaking at a meeting at the National Press Club in the city.

The meeting was organised by the city unit of BDB on the occa-

sion of introducing its thana committee members.

B Chowdhury said the government will have to give accounts of its every failure to people in running the country.

"This government has no moral rights to remain in power for its failure to provide the farmers with sufficient electricity and diesel in time," he said.

The BDB chief said the alliance government could generate only 100 MW electricity in its four and a half years rule while it promised in

its election manifesto to ensure sufficient electricity for all.

He demanded of the government to allow BDB's parliament member to table its reform proposals on caretaker government and electoral system in parliament for detailed discussion.

"People will never bring back this government to power as it failed miserably in running the state affairs," said BDB Secretary General Major (Retd) Abdul Mannan.

He claimed the BDB would soon emerge as the number one political party in the country.

BDB leader Mahi B Chowdhury MP and Major (Retd) MA Halim also spoke on the occasion.

Earlier, BDB senior leaders introduced the party's newly selected 16 thana committee members at the meeting.

CULTURAL EXHIBITION 'Discover Japan' begins in city tomorrow

BSS, Dhaka

A two-day Japanese Cultural Exhibition titled 'Discover Japan' begins at the National Museum in the city tomorrow.

The exhibition has been organised by Japanese Language Institute Alumni Association, Bangladesh-Japan Youth Friendship Association and the Embassy of Japan in Dhaka.

Vice-chancellor of Dhaka University Prof SMA Faiz will inaugurate the exhibition at 10.30am.

Managing Director and Chief Editor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha Gaziul Hasan Khan will attend the function as special guest.

'Discover Japan' is a composite programme featuring a wide range of Japanese culture including Ikebana, Bonsai, origami, food, toy, doll and books written by Bangladeshi nationals on Japan, magazines, posters, photos, newspapers and the information materials on Japan.

Other programmes include playing Japanese musical instrument and screening of Japanese documentary film.



PHOTO: STAR

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) recovers four live grenades of Arges model, which were abandoned -- one in a dustbin and three near a drain -- at Moghbazar in the city yesterday.