

Indian transport workers, owners stop carrying goods to Benapole

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Bongaon Transport Union and Shimanta paribahan Malik Samity of West Bengal stopped carrying goods from India to Benapole land port for an indefinite period since Thursday morning.

The two Indian organisations took the decision following seizure of four Indian trucks by the Benapole Customs authority.

Sources said the joint commissioner of Customs, Benapole, seized the Indian trucks recently and lodged a case against them.

Meanwhile, President of Bongaon Clearing and Forwarding Agents Association Khokon Pal, Secretary Dilip Biswas, vice-president Probash Pal, Joint Secretary Ramesh held a meeting with the customs commissioner of Benapole on Wednesday. But they went back, as the meeting yielded no positive results.



PHOTO: STAR
Residents of Sunamganj residing in Dhaka form a human chain at Muktangan in the city yesterday demanding compensation for the victims for Tengratila blowout.

Rab releases accused hours after his arrest in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday released an accused in a government official assault case hours after he was nabbed with banned drug Phensidyl, said sources.

Abdul Hamid, a BNP adherent union council member in Charghat upazila, was caught from his house in the early hours when he returned home after several weeks of hiding.

Rab denied that Hamid was carrying Phensidyl at the time of arrest and said, "We let him go as he possessed a bail from the High Court."

Rab also staged a drama arranging face to face talk between Golam Rabbani, a project implementation officer, and Hamid at their office before the release.

Talking to this correspondent, Major Salauddin, the 2nd in command of local Rab, said the talk was arranged for arbitration so that no further untoward incident occurs.

"Hamid is not so bad as people think," he added.

But sources said Hamid went into hiding after he along with his accomplices fatally injured Rabbani beating him up with hammers on June 18 for his refusal to sanction some 1800 kg government wheat for the work that was never done.

Rabbani has not been attending his office since then following threats on his life by Hamid.

Police have pressed charges against Hamid and his men in a case filed by Rabbani.

The case is now under trial at the district speedy trial court.

Tk 329 cr BCC budget announced

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The Barisal City Corporation (BCC) has announced a highly ambitious budget of Tk 329.56 crore for 2005-06

DISABLED WOMAN'S DEATH Proper probe demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Action on Disability and Development (ADD), a UK-based organisation, yesterday demanded proper investigation of the death of a disabled woman who was allegedly killed after gangrape.

Fatema, a 26-year-old woman of Kapasia in Gazipur, was allegedly raped and killed by local Farid and his fellows on July 6.

The ADD, at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city, also demanded immediate arrest of the rapists to bring them to justice.

Speaking at the press conference, Fatema's brother Rafiqul alleged that some influential people are trying to influence the post-mortem report by engaging the police.

Habib, another brother of Fatema, said he stated the circumstances of her rape to the police, but they filed the case as unnatural death and took his signature on the report forcibly.

He alleged that the police also demanded bribe from them for investigating the case.

Habib demanded security of their family and immediate punishment to the culprits.

Fatemas' mother Madina, ADD Country Representative Mosharraf Hossain and Barrister Sadia Rahman also spoke

fiscal without imposing any new tax.

The revised budget of the previous fiscal was Tk 37.57 crore.

Mayor Majibur Rahman Sarwar MP announced the budget on Wednesday.

Of the total budget, over Tk 287 crore has been allocated for development sectors while Tk 31.75 crore will come from revenue sectors such as holding taxes, land and contractors' registration, water supply, bus terminal and stall rents.

Major expenditures in development sectors include Tk 64 crore for

development and management of city roads, Tk 42 crore for water treatment plant, Tk 26 crore for development of the extended areas of city corporation, and Tk15 crore for construction of markets.

Mintu Bose, secretary of the Barisal Nagorik Parishad, said such highly ambitious budgets are announced every year but most commitments remain unfulfilled.

Besides, irregularities and corruption by the city corporation are causing immense suffering to the city dwellers, he alleged.



Abdullah Al Mamunur Rashid and Abdullah Al Mamun, two final year undergraduate students of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering of the University of Asia Pacific (UAP) will participate in a training programme at the Port and Airport Research Institute in Japan as part of their course under a research collaboration with the Japanese institution. The two students pose for photograph with Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Abdul Matin Patwari at his office in the city recently.