

Road links with Rajshahi cut off for 11 hours

Private transport operators stage strike, damage vehicles to press for stopping BRTC service

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,
Rajshahi

Road communications between Rajshahi and rest of the country remained suspended for 11 hours from 6:00am yesterday as transport owners and workers enforced strike demanding withdrawal of the state-run BRTC (Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation) buses from a Rajshahi route.

Rajshahi Sarak Paribahan Samity and Motor Srak Union jointly called the indefinite transport strike in the district on Tuesday night to press their demand for stopping BRTC bus service on Rajshahi-Bagha-Charghat route.

The strike, however, was withdrawn at 5:00pm following a meeting between the transport owners and workers and the district administration with Deputy Commissioner Shefaul Karim in the chair.

In the meeting, the deputy commissioner assured the transport owners and workers of withdrawing double-decker BRTC buses from Rajshahi-Bagha-Charghat route.

Earlier in the morning, the transport owners and workers put up barricades on the city streets and damaged several vehicles for defying the strike.

They also clashed with

police escorting a BRTC bus on Rajshahi-Bagha-Charghat route at Talaibari intersection at around 7:00am. Police charged batons on the transport workers, injuring seven of them. After the clash, the authorities suspended BRTC bus services on all Rajshahi routes.

The government recently decided to increase the number of BRTC buses on local routes ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr

that angered the private transport owners.

The strike caused immense sufferings to the commuters. They said BRTC services are cheaper and more convenient to people than private buses.

Many people who were travelling in human haulers on different routes said the strike was 'illogical'. Private bus workers usually harass commuters, they alleged.

"BRTC buses maintain time and don't harass passengers over fares", said schoolteacher Tuhin Sheikh.

The DC yesterday said the private bus operators in the meeting agreed to take Tk 10 only as fare from the students.

In April, citizens of Rajshahi held a protest rally in the city against the private bus workers' demand for halting BRTC bus services.



PHOTO: STAR
Transport workers damage a three-wheeler in Rajshahi city during yesterday's strike called by transport owners and workers to press for stopping BRTC bus service on Rajshahi-Bagha-Charghat route.

SNIPPETS

6 hurt in Rangamati clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

At least six people were injured in a clash between Chhatra League (BCL) activists and indigenous boys at Travel Adam in the town yesterday. The injured are Bodhi Chama, Kajol Dev, Mizan, Sohel, Sohag and Maruf. Bodhi Chakma is undergoing treatment at Rangamati General Hospital with serious injuries. The brawl followed teasing of indigenous boy Bodhi Chakma by Mizan, an activist of BCL, witnesses said. Bodhi attacked Mizan yesterday as he teased him during a soccer match recently at Rajbali Stadium leading to a severe clash between BCL men and indigenous youngsters of Travel Adam. Later, an emergency meeting was held at the deputy commissioner's office to take steps to restore law and order in the area. An all-party committee was formed to probe the incident.

'Toxic' banana destroyed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A mobile court on Tuesday seized banana worth Tk 3 lakh for using toxic chemicals. Led by Additional District Magistrate Imam Uddin Kabir, a team raided five stores at Library Bazar. Official sources said the five stores belonged to Rabiu Islam, Agzal Hossain, Farid Hossain, Azat Biswas and Altaf Hossain. The mobile court found that the traders sprayed harmful chemicals to ripen the fruit. The official brought 3-truck full of seized banana to Pabna Abdul Hamid Road in the evening and destroyed them there.

Vet institute closed sine die

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Barisal Veterinary Institute (BVI) under Patuakhali University of Science and Technology (PSTU) was closed sine die yesterday. The decision followed weeklong movement by students demanding reintroduction of their one-year internship and scrapping of changes in curriculum. The students were forced to leave their hostel within 4:00 pm yesterday afternoon, some students said. A contingent of police was deployed on the BVI campus to prevent any untoward incident.

BNP cadres assault journalist

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

BNP cadres assaulted a Prothom Alo correspondent of Hakimpur upazila confining him to a hotel room for about an hour. Police rescued him and a general diary (GD) was filed. Sources said, 15 to 20 BNP cadres of the upazila waylaid Zahidul Islam who is also general secretary of Hakimpur Press Club in front of Northern Hotel while he was returning from an iftar party along with other reporters on Tuesday. BNP activists took Zahid to a hotel room of the hotel and assaulted him in presence of other reporters and hurled abusive words for filing a report on August 31 on the groupings in Hakimpur BNP. Hakimpur police station OC Hamidul Alam along with a police contingent and local elite rushed to the spot and rescued him from the hotel room.

Tiger kills woman

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A woman was killed by tiger yesterday in Mirganj river near Mirganj village in the Sundarbans. Victim Binodini Bhangi, 30, was wife of Mongal Bhangi of the village in Shyamnagar upazila. Quoting locals police said Binodini and her husband Mongal Bhangi were catching shrimp fry in the Mirganj River. All on a sudden a tiger swooped on her and dragged her into the deep forest at about 2 pm yesterday. Forest guards and locals later recovered the body.

57 BDR men sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Khagrachhari District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Jokhter Ahmed yesterday rejected bail prayers of 57 BDR jawans and sent them to district jail. Court sources said, the BDR members from 11 Ramgar BDR Battalion were produced in the court at noon seeking bail but the court turned down the prayer and fixed October 19 for next hearing. Lawyers led by Senior Advocate Nasir Uddin Ahmed stood on behalf of the BDR members while Public Prosecutor (PP) Bidan Kanungo conducted the case on behalf of the government.

Police arrest outlaw, JSD claims him its activist

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Kushtia

Police arrested a leader of local 'community policing forum' for his alleged connection with outlawed Gono Bahini in Mirpur upazila of the district yesterday.

Claiming the arrested, Ismail Hossain alias Panger of Ahmedpur village in Mirpur upazila, as an activist of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), a group of people led by JSD leaders tried to besiege Kushtia deputy commissioner's (DC) office to press for his release.

Two people were injured as police dispersed them by charging baton.

A team of Detective Branch arrested Panger, his sons Tutul, 18, and Mitul, 15, and servant Alim, from their Ahmedpur village home at about 4:30am.

Panger, general secretary of Ahmedpur union community policing forum, was a cadre of outlawed Gono Bahini, police said.

Gono Bahini men earlier beheaded quite a few people in the district, sources said.

Following Panger's arrest, agitators led by JSD leaders and activists went to the Kushtia DC office premises and arranged a rally there.

As they tried to submit memorandum to the DC, police interfered and dispersed them.

"Panger is an activist of Jashod (JSD) that has no relation with Gono Bahini," said JSD district unit Secretary Abdul Alim Swapon.

Irony

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Manikganj

Police arrested a member of local anti-corruption prevention committee in the town on Monday night in a cheating case. He was sent to jail yesterday.

Law enforcers from Sadar Police Station arrested Nurul Islam Sattar, also the executive director of Voluntary Organisation for the Needy (VON), an NGO in Manikganj, at around 11:30pm following a cheating case filed against him by Siddiquur Raham of Jabra village under Ghor upazila on the day.

In the case statement, the complainant said Sattar took Tk 2.42 lakh from him in March this year for sending him to the USA within two months. "As Sattar could not send me abroad within the time, I asked him to return the money," Siddique said.

He further stated that Sattar gave him a cheque for Tk 1 lakh of Dutch Bangla Bank Manikganj branch, which was dishonoured by the bank.

Attack on KMC principal's house sparks protest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Criminals attacked the official residence of Khulna Medical College (KMC) Principal KP Sarker on Tuesday night.

As they threw stones for several minutes at around 10:30pm, windowpanes and electric bulbs of the house were badly damaged.

The attackers also hurled abuses at the principal, asking him to leave KMC to avoid further attacks.

Informed by the security guards of his residence, police rushed there but the attackers had left the scene by the time.

KMC Secretary Md Wahiduzzaman filed a general diary yesterday morning in connection with attack on principal's residence.

In protest against the attack, teachers and students of the college and interns of the hospital brought out a procession at 11:30am yesterday.

The demanded immediate arrest of the attackers and removal of Dr Tozammel Hossain Joarder, a medical officer of Khulna Medical College Hospital, for his alleged assault on Principal KP Sarker on Monday.

Tozammel is also vice president of Khulna

district unit of Swadhinata Chikitsak Parishad, an organisation backed by the ruling Awami League.

Demanding removal and punishment of Dr Tozammel and his accomplices, students of the medical college on Tuesday began their indefinite class boycott and interns of the hospital started work stoppage from 9:00am to 11:00am everyday.

Members of the KMC Teachers Association yesterday decided to observe two-hour work stoppage daily in support of the programmes of interns and students.

Contacted after the attack on his residence, Principal KP Sarker said, "I will not allow anyone to vitiate academic atmosphere of the medical college. Medical Officer Dr Tozammel is indulged in corruption and vandalism under political cover."

When contacted, Dr Tozammel denied the allegation of attacking the principal on Monday and said, "KP Sarker is trying to fan a simple matter of altercation to make it a political issue."

Police have been deployed on the college and hospital compound to stave off unwanted situation.

BCL leaders beaten up as they try to extort AL man

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Barisal

At least five people were injured as BCL activists clashed with AL supporters at Hizla upazila town yesterday over collection of toll from a contractor cum AL leader.

Of the injured, Solaiman Sardar, upazila BCL secretary and Mohammad Russel, joint secretary of Hizla College BCL unit were admitted to upazila health complex.

Sources said Solaiman and his associates demanded toll from Sekandar Bepari, president of Baro Jalia union AL and

of the work and being refused he and his associates tried to stop the work.

Solaiman denied the allegation of demanding toll saying that he with his associates were crossing the spot on a motorbike.

Misunderstandings arose when a portion of his construction work was damaged, he said.

SI Md Mohsin of Hizla police station said there was an altercation between AL and BCL activists but they reached a compromise following intervention of senior AL leaders.

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2. Qualified candidates are to send hand written applications mentioning the name, father/mother/husband's name, permanent and present address (mailing address), contact number, marital status, age (date of birth), educational qualification, co-curricular activities and teaching experience (if any) by 30 September 2009 to the following address:

Chairman, Governing Bodies of Cadet College

and

Adjutant General, Bangladesh Army

Army Headquarter, Dhaka Cantonment

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For Chairman, Governing Bodies of Cadet College
and
Adjutant General, Bangladesh Army

Army Headquarter, Dhaka Cantonment

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GD-4064