



Children are engrossed in painting pictures at a drawing competition on the Shishu Academy premises in the city yesterday. Ozone Cell of the Directorate of Environment organised the event to mark the International Ozone Day on September 16.

PHOTO: STAR

## Army chief calls on president

UNB, Dhaka

Army Chief General M Abdul Moheen yesterday apprised President Zillur Rahman various activities of his force, particularly the attachment of army officials to paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles (BDR).

Making a courtesy call on the president, General Moheen also briefed the supreme commander of the armed forces about the "readjustment of army camps" in Chittagong Hill Tracts.

The president was also apprised of recent promotions in the army from the rank of lieutenant colonel to above and the filling up of the vacant posts in the service.

General Moheen further informed him about his recent Japan visit from August 24 to 28 when he attended the Pacific Army Chiefs Conference.

During the conference, he held some "bilateral talks with the army chiefs of Japan, the USA, India, Sri Lanka and Nepal", he told the president.

Zillur praised the efforts taken by the army chief of development of the force.

He assured the army chief of his all-out cooperation.

Secretary of the President's Office Mohammad Shafiqul Alam, Military Secretary to the President Maj Gen Md Ehtesham Ul Haque and President's Press Secretary Abdul Awal Howlader were present on the occasion.

## Check transport fare hike during Eid

### Speakers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday urged the government to take necessary steps to stop charging increased fare in different modes of transport from home-bound passengers on the eve of the Eid-ul-Fitr.

"It is the citizens' right to travel at due fare across the country. But the passengers are severely harassed by transport owners on the occasion of Eid. So the government should ensure that the home-bound people can travel without paying any extra fare," they added.

The roundtable titled 'The role of government in controlling extra fare in buses and launches and expectation of passengers from BRTC, BR and BWTA' was organised by the Citizens Rights Movement at the National Press Club in the city.

Addressing the roundtable columnist Syed Abul Maksud said private transport owners are responsible for fare hiking.

So the government must have strict control over the private transports to check fare hiking during the Eid, he added.

Former minister Sheikh Shahidul Islam said only coordinated efforts by the government and the owners of private transports can reduce the sufferings of passengers.

Tushar Rehman, secretary

general of the Citizens Rights Movement, underscored the need for decentralisation of power and creating employment opportunities outside the capital to stop flow of people towards the city.

He also suggested for mobile court to check any disorder in transportation sector, introduction of at least 1000 CNG-run buses by the BRTC and fixing the bus fare at Tk 1.20 per kilometre.

MM Iqbal, chairman of BRTC, Md Shajahan, additional director general of Bangladesh Railway, and Mahubuddin Ahmed Birbikrom and Badiuzzaman Khan Badal, president and acting president of the Launch Owners Association respectively, denied the allegation of charging 'extra fare' and assured of taking stern action if allegations are proved.

Maj (retd) Md Mafizul Haque Sarkar, vice president of the Citizens Rights Movement, presided over the meeting which was also addressed by eminent singer Syed Abdul Hadi, Syed Rezaul Karim, chairman of Trans Silva Group, Engineer Sharda Amin, president of Bangladesh Development Environment Forum, and Aminur Rasul of Unnayandhara Trust.

## BMP concerned over suicide of young girl at Bhaluka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) in a statement yesterday expressed concern over the suicide of a young girl at Bhaluka in Mymensingh.

The 18-year-old girl, who worked in a local mill, took poison after she was raped by local miscreants.

The BMP demanded investigation of the incident and exemplary punishment to the criminals so that this kind of incident does not occur in future.

The statement also called for compensation for the family of the victim and ensuring safety of women in the society.

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