

Buses go off 14 SW routes from today

Fire at long-closed cotton mill raises questions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,
Khulna

Khulna-Barisal Divisional Road Transport Owners' and Workers' Association has called for an indefinite bus strike on 14 routes of south-western region from today to press home their four-point demand.

The demands are withdrawal of state-owned BRTC buses from all the 14 routes, withdrawal of all cases filed by BRTC against owners and workers of private buses plying the routes of Bagerhat, Jhalakathi and Barisal, stoppage of long route (inter-district) buses at the main terminal of the respective district as per terms and conditions of route permit issued by Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) and withdrawal of human haulers (Nasimon and Karimon) from these routes.

Meanwhile, Manager (Operation) of BRTC Khulna bus depot Nihar Ranjan Majumder sent letters yesterday to the deputy commissioners of Khulna, Bagerhat, Satkhira, Barisal, Pirojpur and Jhalakati, seeking their cooperation for ensuring security

of passengers and protection of the state-owned buses during the strike.

When contacted, Nihar Ranjan said private bus owners are conspiring to stop BRTC bus services in the south-western region with a motive to fleece the passengers.

Denying the allegation, President of Rupsha-Bagerhat Bus and Minibus Owners' Association Molla Anwarul Islam said they will enforce the strike on 14 routes of the south-western region to realise their four-point demand "BRTC authorities have no right to hamper our business," he said.

Our Barisal correspondent adds: Bus owners and workers from Pirojpur, Jhalakathi, Bhola, Patuakhali, Barguna and Barisal have extended their support to the strike call given by Khulna-Barisal Divisional Road Transport Owners' and Workers' Association on 14 routes from today.

Azizur Rahman Shahin, president of Barisal Mini-bus Owners Association, said they have been incurring huge losses due to plying of BRTC buses and human haulers on 14 routes in Khulna and Barisal divisions.

Expatriate killed in Sylhet

UNB, Sylhet

An expatriate was killed as he tried to settle a dispute between his nephew and a villager at Habra bazaar in Biswanath upazila on Saturday.

Victim Shahabuddin, 38, son of Azir Uddin of Sattish village recently returned home from his workplace in Dubai.

Quoting villagers police said, Shahabuddin's nephew Manik Mia borrowed Tk 700 from neighbour Shah Alam a few days ago. On the fateful day when Shah Alam demanded the money back Manik asked for more time.

When a brawl ensued

between them over the issue, Shahabuddin tried to settle the matter. At one stage, Shah Alam and his men got furious and beat up Shahabuddin mercilessly leaving him critically injured.

Shahabuddin was rushed to Sylhet Osmani Medical College and Hospital where the attending doctors declared him dead.

Victim's brother Jamal Uddin filed a case against 15 people with the nearby police station.

Later, police arrested Nur Hossain, 40, Abdul Malik, 50, and Hakim Moulana Abdul Mukit, 35, of the village in this connection.

MOULVIBAZAR SADAR HOSPITAL IN SORRY STATE

Ambulance, anaesthesia machine out of order

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Moulvibazar

The lone ambulance and anaesthesia machine of Moulvibazar Sadar hospital have remained out of order for two months, much to the sufferings of patients, especially those with emergency need.

Major surgical operations in the hospital are suspended for want of an anaesthesia machine while patients have to depend on commercial ambulance service to come to the hospital or shift to Sylhet Osmani Medical College Hospital for better treatment, sources said.

A technician from the district Civil Surgeon's Office came to see the anaesthesia machine but he did not repair it, said Dr Kanti Bhushan Bhattacharya, resident medical officer (RMO) of Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital.

A vehicle inspector of the



PHOTO: STAR

The lone ambulance of Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital has remained out of order for the last two months.

health department has inspected the inoperative ambulance and following tender, work order has been issued to repair it, he said.

"We have applied to the authorities concerned to sanction a new anaesthesia machine and a new ambu-

3 get life for rape of speech impaired girl

A CORRESPONDENT, Feni

Judge of the Women and Children Repression Special Tribunal Court-1 AKM Arifur Rahman yesterday sentenced three people to life imprisonment for rape of a physically challenged girl.

The court also fined each Tk one lakh, in default, to suffer six months more in jail.

According to prosecution story, speech impaired young girl, aged about 20, took lunch at the restaurant of Abu Taher at Uttar Bazaar under Parshuram upazila headquarters at about 12 noon on March 19, 2008. As the woman did not have any place to stay at night, the restaurant owner's son Ripon, 22, arranged her lodging at the rented house of Abdul Mannan.

At about 1:30 am, Ripon, Yusuf, 22, and Shambhu Das, 40, entered Mannan's house and forcibly took the woman out of the house and raped her.

Parshuram police station sub-inspector (SI) Md Zahedul Kabir filed a case against Ripon and his two accomplices.

Housewife allegedly forced to swallow poison, dies

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Nilphamari

A housewife, allegedly made to swallow a poisonous pellet by her dowry-greedy husband at Khalisha Chapani village in Dimla upazila on Thursday, died at Dimla Upazila Health Complex the same night.

The victim, Smrity Begum, daughter of late Nazmul Mia of Chhatnai Balapara village of Dimla upazila, was married with stone and sand trader Obaidul Islam of Khalisha Chapani village of the same upazila several years ago and a daughter was born to her, family sources said.

Demanding a motorbike from Smrity's family, Obaidul recently started torturing his wife, making her sick.

On Thursday, he made Smrity swallow a poisonous pellet, saying that it will improve her health.

After taking the pellet, Smrity's condition started deteriorating fast and

Obaidul took her to Dimla Upazila Health Complex in a critical condition in the evening.

Smrity told the matter to her elder brother and other relatives who came to see her in the hospital. She died a few hours later.

On Friday morning, the victim's elder brother went to Dimla Police Station to file a murder case but the officer-in-charge pressed him to file an unnatural death case or suicide case instead.

Hearing the matter, local people became agitated. To control the situation, Assistant Superintendent of Police (Circle) Shahabuddin went to the spot.

In presence of the ASP and Dimla Upazila Nirbahi Officer Mizanur Rahman police prepared inquest report of the victim.

Later police recorded a murder case filed by Smrity's elder brother Rabiul Islam.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS



PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOROKH

Students of Rajshahi New Model Degree College bring out a procession at Laxmipur Chattar in the city yesterday demanding punishment to the killers of fellow student Russel.

Boiler blast kills one

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

A man was killed and two others were injured in boiler explosion at Domdoma Bazaar in Ullapara upazila yesterday morning. The deceased, Modina Pramanik, 40, was son of Mofazzal Hossain Pramanik of Chardomdama village. Police and local sources said, Modina and his two associates Hossain Ali and Monsur Ali received serious burn injuries as the boiler of a rice mill owned by Shahidul Islam exploded with a huge bang at around 6:30 am. The three had been working at the rice mill as labourers for long. The injured were shifted to Sirajganj Sadar Hospital in a critical condition where Modina succumbed to his injuries after a few minutes after admission. Condition of others is stated to be critical.

Two children drown

UNB, Gazipur

Two children drowned in a pond of their house at Dakkhin Shom village in Kaliganj upazila on Saturday. They were Fazle Rabbi, 2, son of Mostafizur Rahman and Punno, 2, son of Parvez Bhuiyan. Family sources said, Rabbi and Punno were playing together near the pond in the afternoon and at one stage they fell into water and drowned. After a hectic search their floating bodies were recovered from the pond in the evening.

Housewife electrocuted

UNB, Sherpur

A housewife was electrocuted at Daripara village in Sadar upazila Saturday morning. Family sources said Sabuja Begum, 40, came in contact of a live wire of an irrigation pump when she was collecting vegetables at a field. She died on the spot. On information, police recovered the body and sent it to hospital morgue for autopsy. An unnatural death (UD) case was filed.

Youth hacked to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Criminals hacked a young man to death at Karimpur village under Sadar upazila Saturday night. Victim Alamgir, 28, was son of Afsar Ali of the village. Police and family sources said, Alamgir went out after dinner on Saturday night but did not return home. The next day locals found his body lying in a field in the afternoon. Contacted, officer in-charge (OC) of Jhenidah Sadar police station said, Alamgir's murder might be linked to killing of Channu of the same village in 2007.

Trawler, boat collide

UNB, Narayanganj

At least 15 people were injured, six seriously as a trawler and a sand laden boat collided in Kheyaghat point of the Sitalakkhya River on Saturday. Witnesses said, the accident occurred at around 6:30 pm when the boat hit the Bandar upazila bound trawler boarded by about 60 passengers. The seriously injured were identified as Rafique, Ansar, Parvez, Alamgir, Sabuj and Rahima. They were rushed to Narayanganj General Hospital where condition of Rahima was stated to be critical. Most of the passengers of the trawler managed to swim ashore while others were rescued by nearby trawlers.

Youth's body recovered

UNB, Gazipur

Police yesterday morning recovered the body of a young man at Maddhya Chuayrkholo village in Kaliganj upazila. Locals found the body of the unidentified man aged about 30, and informed police. Later, police recovered the body at about 10:00am and sent it to Sadar hospital morgue for autopsy. Police suspect the assailants shot the man dead elsewhere and left the body at the village.

Tk 6.5 cr drugs destroyed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) of 39 Battalion destroyed huge addictive substances worth about Tk 6.5 crore at the battalion headquarters yesterday. They destroyed 5.3 kg heroin, 21,960 bottles and 72 litres of phensidyl, 208 bottles and 369 litres liquor, 1,479 ampules injection and 13.75 kg cannabis in presence of deputy commissioner (DC) KM Ali Azam, mayor of Chapainawabganj, police, narcotic and BDR officials. The border guards recovered the drugs and arrested 20 drug peddlers during the drives conducted across the district from August 7 to October 17. Sixteen cases were filed with different police stations in this regard.

GRP, smugglers clash

A CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Five people including a railway security guard were injured in a clash between government railway police (GRP) and smugglers yesterday morning at Natore railway station. Police and witnesses said, police held Badu Miah, son of Taslim Uddin of Chawk Baidyanath area in Natore town while he was carrying smuggled goods by Barendra Express. When the train reached Natore station, an organised gang of armed smugglers attacked the train and started beating railway security guard Sajedur. It sparked a clash between GRP men and smugglers. As GRP police retreated, the smugglers snatched smuggler Badu from them and also took away the goods brought from Hill. Five people including railway security guard Sajedur and smuggler Badu were injured during the incident.

Robbery in Comilla

A CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

A gang of robbers looted cash and valuables valued at Tk. 5 lakh from a house at village Mahini in Nangolkot upazila yesterday. Sources said, about 10 to 12 armed robbers entered the house of Manu Mia at about 4:30 am. The gang first identified themselves as member of detective branch (DB) of police and asked the family members to open the door. As the inmates did not comply, they broke open the door and stormed into the house. The masked robbers beat up inmate Aleya Begum before looting Tk 1 lakh and eight tolas of gold ornaments, TV set, tape recorder, digital camera, mobile phone and other goods.



PHOTO: STAR

WINTER DELIGHTS: Farmers at a cauliflower field in the 'vegetable belt' of Narsingdi district preparing to take the early variety of winter vegetable to market although the prices still remain higher than usual in the area. Right, a field full of young cabbage.