

CNG buses continue to charge higher fare

SHAHNAZ PARVEEN

Most CNG bus operators in the city continue to charge passengers higher fare ignoring the government-approved rate, causing suffering to commuters.

In April 2008, the government fixed the fare after the price hike of compressed natural gas (CNG). For buses, the rate was fixed at Tk 1.20 per kilometre and for minibuses, the rate was Tk 1.10. And the minimum fare was fixed at Tk 5.

But most CNG buses are not following the government-approved fare chart. They are charging a rate much higher than the government-fixed rate, passengers said, adding that the extra amount is as high as Tk 5.

Most buses also charge Tk 8 in minimum fare instead of Tk 5.

Monirul Islam, a resident of Mirpur section 12 who works as a sales person in Farmview Super Market, said, "When I travel from Mirpur 12 to Farmgate, the fare is Tk 10. But if I get off at an earlier bus stop such as Shewrapara, they still charge a flat rate of Tk 10 regardless of the distance. The distance between Mirpur and Shewrapara is half the distance to Farmgate."

The tickets provided by the operators show the distance and the approved rate in a bid to convince the passengers. But the reality is that the fare applies to commuters travelling from the first bus stop to its last stop. Bus operators are charging all, including those getting off at any bus stops in between, a flat rate, ignoring the government-approved rate.

According to the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority, Farmgate is about 9 km away from Mirpur section 12 while Shewrapara is only 4.4km away.

For a distance of 7.5 km from Motijheel Shapla roundabout to Farmgate, the fare is Tk 10 to Tk 12. But the same amount is being collected for a trip to Shahbagh, which is 5.2 km from Motijheel.

From Abdullaahpur to Mohakhal, the distance is 12.5km and the bus fare is Tk



CNG bus staffs sell tickets to passengers at different stoppages in the city. The picture was taken from Motijheel area recently.

Introduce second shift of trial Outgoing CJ requests president

UNB, Dhaka

Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), Justice Amin said, "All the stakeholders -- such as lawyers, investigation officers and officials concerned -- should be properly trained for speedy disposal of cases."

He made the suggestion when outgoing Chief Justice MM Rahim Amin called on him at Bangabhaban.

During the meeting, the outgoing chief justice requested the president to introduce second shift of trial in the administration of justice as he noted that this system has already been adopted by some countries for quick disposal of cases.

Emphasising modernisation and reform in the Civil Procedure Code (CPC) and the

President Zillur Rahman yesterday emphasised quick disposal of the pending cases for minimising sufferings of the people seeking justice.

Besides, the chief justice hoped that the backlog of cases would largely be reduced if the system of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) is made compulsory in the judiciary.

Zillur appreciated the contribution of the outgoing chief justice to "establishment of the rule of law in the country".

Secretaries of the president's office were present at the meeting.

Rampura OC closed on bribery charge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Officer-in-Charge (OC) Ali Ahmed Hasmi of Rampura Police Station was withdrawn yesterday after publishing a report on The Daily Star on Monday on his alleged bribery.

Ali handed over his charge to Detective Branch (DB) Inspector Md Saidur Rahman, who has been posted as the OC in the police station, around 4:30pm as Ali was withdrawn and closed to Rajarbagh Police Lines, said the newly joined OC.

However, both the personnel declined to talk further regarding the findings for the sake of investigation.

Asked, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Moinul Haque of DMP Motijheel Zone said, "As the investigators find something unexpected, OC Ali was withdrawn."

The victim, a resident of Mohanagar residential area in the city's West Rampura, on Thursday alleged that OC Ali took a bribe of Tk 1.70 lakh by the former OC from Altaf Hossain, a resident of West Rampura.

Assistant Inspector General (AIG) of Police Alamgir Alam, also the chief

of Security Cell, told The Daily Star that he assigned an inspector to investigate the matter on Monday.

Assistant Commissioner (AC) of DMP Mohammad Nazrul Islam said, "At the directive of the DMP commissioner, I visited the victim's house on Monday and talked to the victim and I will submit the report on my findings to the commissioner on December 26."

However, both the personnel declined to talk further regarding the findings for the sake of investigation.

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