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**Bus strike in city called off**  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

# City bus operators forced to pay toll

*Road committees realise Tk 2.1 lakh a day 'illegally'*

**MUKHLESUR RAHMAN and SHAHEEN MOLLAH**

Different road committees approved by Dhaka Sarak Paribahan Samity (DSPS) are "illegally" realising around Tk 2.1 lakh toll every day from the city bus services, which are not DSPS members.

Owners of bus services that have ticket counters say they are forced to pay Tk 70 for each bus a day to the cadres of the DSPS-approved committees.

Shahadat Hossain, director of Swakalpa Paribahan, said, "The road committees are collecting toll from the buses illegally. We don't use any terminals or enjoy any facilities offered by DSPS. But the committees are realising the toll for different bus terminals."

Shahadat said over 3,000 buses of around 70 bus companies ply the city streets every day.

He added each of their buses has to pay Tk 70 a day and if they refuse the payment, their buses and staffs come under attack frequently. Cashier Abul Monsur Bulbul of DSPS, however, claimed the collection is not illegal.

"The daily toll of Tk 70 per bus was fixed at a meeting at the Office of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner in presence of police officials and transport leaders. We are collecting the toll lawfully through different committees."

He added the buses that ply the city streets will pay them the toll, as they "control" the city. The toll does not depend on whether the buses use city terminals or not, he said.

General Secretary of Mirpur Bus and Minibus Owners Association (road committee) Moharaj Hossain told The Daily Star they realise Tk 70 from each bus plying the streets in the area.



Police conduct anti-narcotic drive in the capital's Karwan Bazar area yesterday urging people to take laws into their hands. Inset, law enforcers hold a person and examine substance found in his possession. PHOTO: STAR

**Rab man traceless for 10 months**  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

# Junta bars Suu Kyi from elections

*New election law makes her ineligible to become candidate*

**AP, AFP, Yangon/Kuala Lumpur**

Myanmar's military rulers have barred pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi from running in upcoming elections and may force her own political party to expel her under a new election law unveiled yesterday.

The Political Parties Registration Law, published in official newspapers, prohibits anyone convicted by a court of law from joining a political party, making them ineligible to become a candidate.

It also instructs parties to expel members who are "not in conformity with the qualification to be members of a party," a clause that could force Suu Kyi's expulsion. Parties that don't register automatically cease to exist, the laws says.

The Nobel Peace Prize laureate, who has spent 14 of the past 20 years in detention, was convicted last August of violating the terms of her house arrest by briefly sheltering an American who swam uninvited to her lakeside residence. She was sentenced to a new term of

**4 children die in fire**  
STAR REPORT

Four children were killed and at least six people injured in fire incidents across the country yesterday.

Three-year-old Srabonti was burnt to death in a fire that broke out from a socks-manufacturing unit at Rajab Ali Sarker Road at Jurain in the capital Tuesday night.

Safiqul Islam, a neighbour of the victim's family, said it was a two-storey tin-shed house. Srabonti's father Amir Hossain used to live on the ground floor with his wife and three daughters and run the

**ANTI-DRUG DRIVE**  
**Cops ask people to take law into own hands!**

**KAILASH SARKAR**

Police in an unusual announcement over loudspeakers in the capital's Tejgaon and Karwan Bazar yesterday asked people to break limbs of the criminals in the area.

The announcement was made during a special anti-crime drive led by Deputy Commissioner (Tejgaon division) Chowdhury Manjurul Kabir of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Senior police officials, lawyers and civil society members strongly criticised it, saying such announcement would incite people to take the law into their own hands.

DMP Commissioner AKM Shahidul Hoque told The Daily Star, "No policeman has the right to make an announcement

**Diarrhoea cases on rise in city**  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) has reported an increase in the number of patients this week.

Around 520 patients sought treatment at the ICDDR,B on Tuesday.

By 4:00pm yesterday the number of patients admitted was 300.

Doctors at the ICDDR,B were expecting the number of patients to exceed 500 by midnight.

Hospital sources said, "The

HELPLINE

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[dshelpline@thedailystar.net](mailto:dshelpline@thedailystar.net)

**OnlinePoll** ✓

Do you agree with BNP's demand that the government stop the activities of European Union and foreign NGOs in Chittagong Hill Tracts and declare international commission on CHT illegal?

Yes (33.9%)  
 No (64.2%)  
 No Comments (1.9%)

**Total votes: 799**

**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you think it was a good decision to drop Mohammad Ashraful from the England Test series?

Please cast your vote at [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

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**CHT VIOLENCE**  
**Jamaat leader arrested**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Police yesterday arrested a Jamaat leader at Kandirpar in Comilla in connection with the violence at Khagrachhari on February 23 that left one Bangalee settler dead and 50 others injured.

Arrestee Md Eakub Ali Chowdhury is a member of Jamaat-e-Islami Khagrachhari

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**Prayer Timing**

March 11		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-05	5-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-12	6-15
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

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