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TRANSPORT FARE HIKE

# 50 vehicles vandalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The first day of the ticket system for buses in the port city yesterday saw a major setback with angry passengers vandalising around 50 buses protesting high fare and shortage of transport.

The city bus service stopped for nearly three hours following the rampage that began around 9:00am, which made the regular commuters to suffer.

Hundreds of passengers were seen waiting for transport at ticket counters for hours. Many went to their destinations on foot.

Mir Borkat Hossain, a sufferer, said people were very angry with high fares and shortage of buses and pick-ups. Counters were charging Tk 5 for a distance for which people paid Tk 2 to 3 before.

Tarun Gupta Bhanu, secretary of City Bus, Minibus and Human Hauler Owners' Association, said some passengers attacked a ticket counter at Bahaddarhat intersection and vandalised a bus around 9:00am.

The group then moved to Muradpur, Sholoshahar Gate-2 and GEC intersection area. At least 60 vehicles were vandalised, he claimed.

Meanwhile, police and bus owners blamed each other for the shortage of transport.

Md Shahidullah, traffic inspector of Chittagong Metropolitan Police, said some bus owners created an artificial crisis on purpose. A section of owners took their vehicles off the street during rush hour and encouraged

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A mob, angered by high fares and lack of transport, vandalises a bus in Chittagong yesterday. Passengers of the bus bail out through the windows, inset, fearing injuries.

PHOTO:  
ANURUP KANTI DAS



HILLS PEOPLE  
Raja Devasish  
rejects FM's  
statement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chakma Raja Devasish Roy yesterday in a written statement refuted Foreign Minister Dipu Moni's

claim that non-Bangalee hill-people of the Chittagong Hill Tracts are not "indigenous" but "ethnic minorities".

As the minister termed

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# 310 more indicted for BDR carnage

Charge-framing against another  
110 likely on Aug 10

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A trial court yesterday framed charges against 310 more accused in the country's largest ever killing case filed in connection with the carnage at border guards' Pilkhana headquarters in February 2009.

As many as 740 out of 850 accused have so far been charged with the gory mutiny.

Fifty-seven army officers were among the 74 victims killed in the bloody mutiny at the headquarters of then Bangladesh Rifles, which was later renamed as the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB).

The court may indict the remaining 110 accused on August 10, paving the way for the start of trial of the case. In terms of the

## BDR CARNAGE TRIAL

number of accused, this is the largest ever criminal case in the country's history.

Arson, looting, dumping of bodies, burying bodies in mass graves and theft are the other charges brought against the accused.

The judge read out specific charges against the accused and asked them whether they are guilty. All the accused claimed themselves innocent.

Earlier on July 20, Judge Mohammad Zohurul Hoque of the Court of Metropolitan Sessions Judge framed charges against 430 accused.

They include prime accused Towhidul Islam, the then deputy assistant director

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## Mass trial worries HR body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should immediately stop the mass trials of the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) jawans allegedly involved in the February 2009 mutiny to ensure justice, Human Rights Watch (HRW) has said.

The US-based rights body said those responsible for killing 74 people,

57 of them top and mid-

ranking army officers,

during the February 25-26 mutiny should be brought to justice. But it should meet the international standard of fair trial.

The HRW expressed concern about the mass trial completed last

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# Target inflation BB pledges curb on credit growth

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Bank will continue to curb credit growth in the current fiscal year in an effort to control soaring inflation and the depreciation of taka.

The central bank will phase out caps on lending rates in different productive sectors, and signals that the monetary policy will be tightened up in the future.

BB Governor Atiur Rahman announced the half-yearly Monetary Policy Statement at a press conference at his office in the capital yesterday.

It is imperative to rein in runaway credit expansion to limit inflation and preserve external sector viability, said the central bank.

It aims to bring down the private sector credit to 18 percent by next June from present 25.5 percent.

Monetary policies in the current fiscal year need to continue the restraints on credit growth as pursued in the last fiscal year, the bank said.

In the last fiscal year, domestic credit growth that surged far out of line with nominal GDP growth and weak external fund inflows during post global recession recovery resulted in both inflationary and balance of payment pressures.

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RELATED STORY ON PAGE B1

## PM invites Khaleda to iftar party

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday invited Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Khaleda Zia to an iftar party on August 6, a day after the latter invited her to an August 4 iftar party.

Hasina, also president of Awami League, will host the party for leaders of different political parties at the Gono Bhaban

AL deputy office secretary Mrinal Kanti Das

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PRAYER TIMING		July 28
Fajr	4-20	Jamaat
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Magrib	6-50	6-55
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

2 failed HSC  
examinees  
commit suicide

STAR REPORT

Failed in the HSC examinations, a girl shot herself dead in Manikganj while another examinee committed suicide by taking poison at Mohammadpur in the capital yesterday.

In Manikganj town, Adiba Binte Islam Mohua

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