

Bus fare hike in Ctg from tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

District Public Transport Owners Group of the district unit will increase bus fare on 40 routes of the district from tomorrow.

Abul Kalam Azad, adviser of the group said they followed the government's decision and increased the fare. In the new fare chart, Tk 0.15 per kilometre will be added to the previous fare, he said.

He said the previous fare outside the city was Tk 1.20 per kilometre and now it will be Tk 1.35. However, it is not applicable for the port city bus service, he added.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jebunnesa Begum, mother of Mohamamd Jamal Uddin, a senior reporter of the daily Jugantor, passed away at her son's house at Mohammadpur in the city on Saturday night at the age of 102, says a press release.

She left behind three sons and five daughters to mourn her death.

President and general secretary of Dhaka Reporters' Unity condoled her death.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the first death anniversary of Rashed Moudud Khan, former chairman of Bengal Fine Ceramics and former president of Bangladesh Ceramics Industries Association.

On the occasion, a milad and doa mahfil will be held after Maghrib prayers at his residence at 43, Aga Mosi Lane in the city, said a press release.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the programme and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

He was also former member of Dhaka Club and a member of the national committee of Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights.



Simon Dring, former managing director of Ekushey TV, addresses a media session of the South Asian Youth Convention: Lead 2012 at a city hotel yesterday. (Story on Page 20)

PHOTO: STAR

VIQARUNNISA

Teacher's rejoining protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A section of guardians of Basundhara branch of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College yesterday formed a human chain on the campus protesting the rejoining of a teacher who had been suspended on July last year.

Barun Chandara Barman, a teacher of the Commerce department, was suspended on charges of allegation of his "indecent behaviour" with the students.

On the same day, the school authorities fired Porimol Joydhor, a teacher of Bangla department of the branch, for sexually abusing a class-X female student following protests from students and guardians. The authorities also suspended Abul Kalam Azad of the Religion department for his "indecent behaviour" with the students.

Barun rejoined the school's Basundhara campus on January 1 this year.

The rejoining sparked resentment among the guardians who formed the human chain yesterday noon. They alleged that Barun rejoined the school in connivance with the school authorities. They also said their children were not safe at the hands of teachers like Barun.

Manju Ara Begum, principal of the school, told journalists that the probe committee, which was formed to investigate the allegations against them, did not find any proof of the allegation raised against Barun and on that is why he had rejoined.

EC FORMATION

Two more parties for search body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Zaker Party and Tarikat Federation Bangladesh yesterday suggested forming a search committee to appoint new chief election commissioner and election commissioners.

They had separate meetings with President Zillur Rahman at his Bangabhaban residence on the formation of a new Election Commission.

Emerging from the talks, Zaker Party Chairman Mostafa Ameer Faisal said they did not think the caretaker government system was a permanent solution for holding free and fair polls in the country.

"We, therefore, stressed the need for strengthening the Election Commission to hold free and fair elections," he said.

The party also requested the president to invite all political parties to a roundtable discussion in order to form the search panel, said Faisal who led a seven-member delegation of the party.

In its talks with the president, Tarikat Federation suggested an all-party interim government led by the incumbent prime minister for holding the next parliamentary polls.

A 12-member delegation led by its president Nazibul Bashar Maizbhandari also proposed a search committee headed by the chief justice to form the next EC.

On the formation of an interim government, Nazibul said, "The interim government may be comprised of five members from Awami League, three from BNP, two from Jatiya Party and one from each of other political parties representing the present Jatiya Sangsad."

President Zillur Rahman on December 22, last year started holding dialogues with the political parties having their representatives in parliament and other political parties registered with the EC to seek their opinions on the formation of a new EC as the tenure of the incumbent EC is going to expire by mid-February.

1,836 women died in 2011 violence

Says BNWLA report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 1,836 women died last year as a result of violence and various forms of repression, according to a report of Bangladesh National Woman Lawyers' Association (BNWLA).

Among them, 569 died in domestic violence, 281 for dowry and 153 died following rape and sexual abuse. Besides, 101 domestic help were killed by their employers while four died in political violence. Another 2,989 women were victims of repression.

The report, prepared on the basis of news items published in 14 national dailies from January to December 2011, was unveiled yesterday at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club.

The findings of the report showed that violence against women increased sharply in 2011 compared to 2010, when a total of 1,180 women and girls were killed and 1,757 fell victim to repression.

Lack of monitoring by the government and awareness among the people are the main factors behind the increase of violence against women, said BNWLA Executive Director advocate Salma Ali.

She stressed the need for establishing a national commission for women to protect their rights and extend legal support to them.

Termining pornography a severe form of women repression, Salma urged the government to hold discussions on the Pornography Control Act-2011.

Campaigns for ethical education and building awareness are necessary to change the mindset of the male population, she said.

Advocate Towhida Khandaker, director of BNWLA, and advocate Rashida Hussain, deputy director of BNWLA, among others, were present at the function.

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Chefs cook food for activists of the BNP's scheduled road march to Chittagong today. The photo was taken from Kattoli Eagle Textile, owned by Mayor M Manjur Alam, who has been given responsibility as the host. Inset, Packets ready to be filled with food. (Related Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: STAR

LOKMAN MURDER Minister's APS surrenders

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

Masudur Rahman Murad, an accused in Narsingdi municipal mayor Lokman Hossain murder case and an assistant personal secretary (APS) of the telecommunications minister, surrendered before a Narsingdi court yesterday morning.

After his surrender before the court of Narsingdi Chief Judicial Magistrate Nitai Chandra Saha, Murad was placed on a two-day remand.

The court granted the remand after Mamunur Rashid Mandal, investigation officer of Lokman murder case, prayed for a 10-day remand to interrogate Murad for his alleged involvement in the murder.

Salauddin Ahmed Bachchu, brother of Posts and Telecommunications Minister Rajuiddin Ahmed Raju, is the prime accused in the case.

Lokman, a two time gold medallist for best mayor, was shot on November 1 last year. Hours later he succumbed to his injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

HC stays admission of Barisal girls school

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday stayed the process for admission test in class three of Barisal Government Girls School till January 23.

In response to a writ petition, the court also issued a rule upon the authorities concerned of local administration and school to explain by January 23 why the modifying list of candidates for admission should not be declared illegal.

The HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik and Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim came up with the order and rule after hearing the writ petition jointly filed by Nurul Huq and Akhtaruzzaman, two guardians of students.

Petitioners' counsel SM Rezaul Karim told The Daily Star that the writ petition was filed challenging the list of admission seekers made by the deputy commissioner (DC) of Barisal.

He said that the school authorities on December 28 last year published a list of 120 students who qualified the admission test. But, the DC modified the list, and hanged a new list of admission seekers on January 1 this year, which is illegal.

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