Launch fares rise

FROM PAGE 20 route pay only Tk 565 for first class cabin, Tk 355 for second class cabin and Tk 95 for a spot on the decks.

Riaj Hossain, a launch owner, blamed high fuel price, hike in maintenance cost, increased staff salary and other operating cost for the fare hike.

However, Mizanur Rahman, member secretary of Barisal Nagorik Samaj, termed the claim of launch owners as lame excuses. He said neither the fuel price nor staff salary increased significantly in the last three years. Every year new vessels are floated on this route which proves that owners fear little of incurring loss. Greed for profit dominate the private water transport owners keeping passengers hostage, he claimed.

Enayet Hossain Chowdhury, former secretary of Nagorik Parishad, said, "It may be part of a conspiracy to increase fare by showing fewer passengers on vessels that make a reduced number of trips."

Launch Owners Association Vice-President Saidur Rahman Rintu, also president of the Barisal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said they launched five triple-decker vessels on Tuesday on Dhaka-Barisal route and announced the new fare chart.

Meanwhile, an 11member review committee headed by Md Alauddin, joint secretary to the shipping ministry and comprising administrative officials and representatives of launch owners' association and citizens has been formed to figure out the number of passengers on this route and determine losses claimed by the vessel owners. The committee is expected to submit its report within one month.

Okej Hossain, manager of Sundarbans Navigation Company, said most of the times launch owners raise fare without prior notice which creates problems for the passengers.

Khaleda for unity

FROM PAGE 20 of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) in the city.

Shikshak Karmachari Oikya Jote (SKOJ), a pro-BNP teachers' organisation, hosted the event to mark "National Teachers' Day" as observed by the pro-BNP teachers on the birthday of BNP's founder late president Ziaur Rahman.

The country is now in deep crisis and the education sector is no exception, mentioned Khaleda. "The whole education sector is in trouble. A huge number of qualified teachers are losing their jobs due to politicisation. Even teachers are being assaulted."

Incompetent party leaders are running the governing bodies of private educational institutions, complained the leader of the opposition adding, discrimination between rural and urban areas is growing as regards the scope and quality of education.

Prices of educational items have increased a lot and the students are staging

a movement demanding cut in additional fees, but the government is repressing them, she maintained.

Describing the steps taken during her government's time, Khaleda said, "I always stood beside you [teachers] to support your struggle and demands and this will continue in future. I hope you will also come forward to join the movement to end the national crisis."

The former prime minister pledged to nationalise the jobs of the teachers and employees of the nongovernment schools if her party is voted to power.

She also urged all to join the March 12 grand rally in the city. BNP acting secretary

general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, former education minister Dr Osman Farruk, Amar Desh acting editor Mahmudur Rahman, Dhaka University teacher Prof Sadrul Amin, among others, addressed the meeting, with SKOJ president Selim Bhuiyan in the chair.

Kadar cleared

with robbery and carjacking after Kadar was picked up by Khilgaon police from Segun Bagicha in the capital around 1:30am on July 16 last year.

The carjacking case in which Kadar was implicated was filed with Mohammadpur police on July 14, two days before his arrest. The other one was filed for robbery with Khilgaon police.

The detectives have pressed charges against three -- Mamun Hossain, Babu and Zafar -- as the charges brought against them were primarily proved, the sources added.

Kadar, a student of biochemistry and molecular biology, said he was walking to his DU dormitory when the police detained him.

He said police made the arrest and tortured him in custody even after he had shown them his identity card. Helal Uddin, officerin-charge of Khilgaon calf muscle of his left leg with a cleaver, Kadar told a court

Police also tried to implicate him as a robber although a departmental probe later found him innocent. The probe also found that police had tortured Kadar, falsely charging him with robbery and carjacking.

Following a media outcry, the High Court on July 28 ordered the inspector general of police to probe the incident.

Kadar was released on bail on August 3.

An HC bench led by Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Gobinda Chandra Tagore also ordered the IGP to suspend three officials of Khilgaon police including Helal for torturing Kadar in custody.

OC Helal, Sub-inspector Alam Badsha and Assistant Sub-inspector Shahidur Rahman were closed on July

The bench also directed the government to give all police, even chopped the legal assistance to Kadar so that he can move petitions for his bail.

Robbers loot

FROM PAGE 20

took away their firearms and tied them to roadside trees.

The robbers then stopped vehicles by blocking the highway at Bhaduria village with logs and robbed their passengers of valuables and cash at gunpoint. The looting continued until 5:00am yesterday.

The gang also stabbed at least three people including a bus driver. Of them, Nitai Chandra Roy, 45, of Rajbari in Dinajpur municipality, was admitted to Dinajpur Medical College and Hospital in a critical condition, hospital sources said.

Nitai said he was going to Dhaka in a passenger bus when the incident took place.

The district police department would not give details of the robbery but said they had recovered all the looted firearms.

However, passengers of vehicles stuck in traffic jam on the highway following the incident said policemen had been conducting a massive search for the missing firearms.

One of the firearms was later found about 50 metres from the scene, locals said.

Babul Ahsanul Kabir, chairman of Bhaduria Union Parishad, said quoting village

policemen that the robbers had looted cash and goods worth Tk 4 lakh, assaulted at least 15 people and stabbed at least three others.

Biman Karmaker, assistant superintendent of police of Phulbari circle, Dinajpur, confirmed that the highway policemen including SI Golam Mowla had been on duty during the robbery.

On information, a police team rushed to the spot and helped resume the road communication around 5:40am, villagers said.

Meanwhile, some high officials of Dinajpur police department visited Dinajpur Medical College and Hospital in the morning to inquire about injured Nitai Chandra Roy.

They asked Nitai to tell journalists that the missing firearms had been recovered. Imrul Kayes, officer-in-

charge of Dinajpur Nawabganj Police Station, said three to four passenger buses were looted yesterday, which contradicted the statements of locals and the victims.

The OC added Dinajpur police were interrogating the policemen on duty, who had been rescued by some passengers and locals after the incident.

Gilani stands firm

FROM PAGE 20

overshadowed a drastic deterioration in relations with the United States that plummeted disastrously in 2011 over a series of crises, largely America's covert killing of Osama bin Laden on May 2.

The court summoned Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani to explain his refusal to ask Switzerland to reopen graft cases against the president, then adjourned until February 1 and conceded that premier would not have to appear next

Gilani spoke of his respect for the judiciary but did not apologise or deviate from his long-standing position that Asif Ali Zardari enjoys immunity from prosecution as head of state. "I have come today to

show my respect to this court," Gilani told the seven judges in the packed court room. "It will not give a good message to proceed against a president who is elected by a two-thirds majority."

"There is complete immunity for heads of state everywhere," Gilani stressed.

Outside, he smiled and

waved at the phalanx of television cameras as police and paramilitary troops put on a rigorous show of security.

But unless the prime minister finds a way of satisfying the court, he could be convicted, jailed for up to six months and disqualified from public office.

His lawyer, Aitzaz Ahsan, has argued that the government should write to the Swiss authorities, but yesterday appeared to harden his stance. "Bowing before them, I

will God willing try to satisfy the court that there is complete immunity in this matter," Ahsan told reporters. In court, he told the judges he needed time to

prepare and the hearing was adjourned until February 1. Ahsan is hugely respected for his role in forcing the government to reinstate independent judges in March 2009 and as such his

conciliatory gesture from the prime minister's camp. The Supreme Court judges have listed six options, which include

disqualifying the prime

appointment was seen as a

minister and president "for violating oaths", contempt proceedings against Gilani or the president raising "constitutional immunity".

> Political analyst Imtiaz Gul said the government was locked into a potentially damaging stand off on immunity when the court resumes.

> > "The court seems fixated

on the cases being reopened, so you get the sense they're not going to accept the government's arguments on immunity for the president and that's why they're showing restraint (now)," he told AFP.

"If the courts refuse to give him immunity, that means aggravating a political crisis," he added.

Outside court, dozens of lawyers protested against the president and prime minister, accusing them of bypassing the law. Gilani was accompanied by senior cabinet ministers and political allies in a show of sup-

The allegations against Zardari were frozen by a political amnesty imposed in 2007, which the courts overturned in late 2009.

Tainted by corruption allegations, Zardari is nicknamed "Mr 10 Percent" and spent 11 years in jail on charges ranging from corruption to murder, although his supporters point out that he was never convicted. MONEYLAUNDERING

Zardari and his late wife, former premier Benazir Bhutto, were found guilty in absentia by a Swiss court in 2003 of laundering millions of dollars in kickbacks from Swiss firms while they were in government.

They appealed and Swiss officials dropped the case in 2008 at the request of the Pakistani government.

The case was one of thousands dropped as a result of an amnesty that allowed Ms Bhutto to return from selfimposed exile and run for election in 2008. She was assassinated shortly after returning.

However, in 2009 Pakistan's Supreme Court declared the amnesty unconstitutional, leaving those covered by it open to prosecution, BBC adds.

Martyr Asad: our timeless hero and for all the accused to be

FROM PAGE 20

demand for a restoration of political liberties in a country long dominated by the military under dictator Mohammad Ayub Khan. And the march of which Asad was a part was one of the earliest signs of what was about to come to pass in East Pakistan, then a province of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, today the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

The year 1969 would turn out to be one of intense drama and unimaginable change. And it would be because of what the Ayub regime would or would not do in terms of a need for Pakistan to return to democratic governance. The regime had just celebrated what it called a so-called decade of development, which basically was a euphemism for an observance of the tenth anniversary of the Ayub dictatorship. But the celebrations were getting marred by the

সেটার কারণ

growing chaos around the trial of thirty five Bengalis in what had notoriously been given out as the Agartala conspiracy case. Of the thirty five, thirty four were in the Pakistan armed forces. The thirty-fifth, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was accused number one. The charge against them was simple: they had, with foreign assistance, conspired to mount an armed revolt in East Pakistan with the intention of having it break away from the rest of Pakistan and becoming an independent state. The trial of all the accused began in June 1968, but as the weeks and months wore on, it became obvious that the

special tribunal set up by

the regime to try the

accused was but a blatant

attempt to suppress all

tion of democratic freedom.

By late 1968, demands were

beginning to be made for

the case to be withdrawn

freed. In West Pakistan, former

foreign minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, once an Ayub protégé, was placed under arrest along with Khan Abdul Wali Khan in November 1968, only days after a young man took potshots at President Ayub Khan at a public rally in Peshawar. The first stirrings of more trouble were noticed in the western part of Pakistan when retired Air Marshal Asghar Khan, a former chief of the Pakistan air force, entered politics and made it known that he had thrown in his lot with those calling for democracy in the country. In East Pakistan, Justice S.M. Murshed, former chief justice of the East Pakistan High Court, followed suit and moves at a Bengali reasserjoined the ranks of the opposition. It was a combination of these factors that was causing a rumbling all over Pakistan.

In early 1969, all the portents of doom were there for Field Marshal Ayub Khan. The murder of Asad would open the floodgates to disaster for the regime. The gathering revolt of the populace would take increasingly darker shades for the regime. Asad's death would be a sign of the desperation with which it responded to popular fury. Asaduzzaman remains a

martyr for his compatriots in Bangladesh. He has become the stuff of legend. His ultimate honour? Shamsur Rahman's timeless tribute to him in the poem Asad-er Shortly after Asad fell,

indignant Bengalis renamed Ayub Gate in Dhaka's Mohammadpur as Asad Gate. It remains Asad Gate, testimony to the long struggle of Bengalis for democracy and freedom. And Asad will forever be our lost voice of resistance to illegitimate, undemocratic rule.

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সাভার, ঢাকা

তদন্ত কমিটির চডান্ত সমন

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Tender package no.	BEP(DC)-EM/ 01-12
Reference no. and date	IFT/BRAC/BPD-BEP(DC)/ 12-01 January 18,2012
Tender name	Education Materials
Time of delivery	As per Tender Documents.
Price of the tender documents	Tk.1000.00 (One thousand) only.
Tender security	2.0% of Total tender value.
Tender documents available	Accounts Department (8th floor), BRAC Center, 75 Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212.
Date & time of Selling Documents	January 23 to February 06, 2012 Between 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.
Tender dropping place, date & time	Procurement Department (Gr. floor), BRAC Center, 75 Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212.

February 07,2012 at 2:00 pm. BRAC, BRAC Centre, 75, Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212 Phone: 9881265 ext 3082

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