

Journalists continue agitation as killers of Sagor, Runi still at large

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Journalists of Barisal division and Moulvibazar district yesterday held rallies and observed token hunger strike, demanding punishment to the killers of journo couple in Dhaka.

Newsman of Barisal division observed a token hunger strike and held a rally in Barisal town.

They demanded resignation of the home minister and trial of all journalist murder cases, reports our Barisal correspondent.

The programme was organised under the banner of 'Sammilito Sangbadik Samaj' in front of Barisal Ashwini Kumar Hall from 11:00am to 1:00pm.

Presided by Mir Maniruzzaman, editor of daily Satya Sangbad and former president of Barisal Reporters Unity, it was attended by more than two hundred journalists from different districts of Barisal division.

Besides, leaders of different socio-cultural-political-professional bodies of the city expressed their solidarity with the demands of the journalists.

Demanding arrest and trial of the killers of the journalist couple Sagor Sarwar and Meherun Runi, the speakers called for removal of home minister Sahara Khatun as she failed to make any headway even in 31 days into the murder.

More journalists in different areas of the country may have to die if the killers are not brought to book, they said.

The speakers at the rally



PHOTO: STAR

Journalists observe a token hunger strike in Barisal city, and below, hold a meeting in Moulvibazar town yesterday during the ongoing countrywide programmes demanding arrest and punishment of the criminals who killed Sagor Sarwar, news editor of Maasranga TV, and his wife Meherun Runi, senior reporter of ATN Bangla, at the couple's rented house at West Rajabazar in the capital on February 11.

expressed their concern at failure of the government to bring the killers of any journalist to book.

The journalists also threatened to launch a greater movement under a new platform comprising journalists of six districts of Barisal division if the killers are not arrested by March 18.

At least 26 journalists were killed in the country since independence includ-

ing 14 in last three years.

Our movement will continue till killers of the journalists are arrested, they said.

In Moulvibazar, journalists of seven upazilas demanded the arrest and punishment of the killers of journalist couple Sagor Sarwar and Meherun Runi immediately, reports our correspondent.

They expressed their disappointment over the

delay in investigation in the case. They also demanded freedom of press and security of journalists.

Earlier the journalists gathered at Court Road in front of the local press club at noon.

Organised by Moulvibazar Press Club, members of Srimongal, Kulaura, Baralekha, Rajnagar, Kamalganj and Juri press clubs took part in the programme.

They expressed their disappointment over the

SELF-EMPLOYMENT PROJECTS

Sidr victim Kanon removes her woes

UNB, Bagerhat

Kanon Bala, one of the worst victims of tropical cyclone Sidr, has become self-reliant by cultivating different kinds of vegetables under an alternative employment programme.

Kanon, a resident of Joymonigol village in Mongla upazila, suffered massive losses due to the cyclone, which wrought havoc on the country, especially in coastal districts, on November 15, 2007.

With a hope to recoup the losses, Kanon Bala started farming vegetables after taking financial assistance and training from a project titled 'Improved Food Livelihood and Security (IFLS)'.

"There was no alternative to me after being hit by the Sidr. So, I paid my full attention to cultivation of vegetables. Finally, I got reward and I am now self-dependent and passing happy days with my family," Kanon told.

Her success story is now inspiring her co-villagers.

She is not alone. About 7,500 families were benefited from the project, which was initiated by Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM).

DAM along with Caritas Bangladesh, ADD International and International Training Network (ITN), Buet, is implementing the project in Rampal, Mongla and Sharankhola upazilas of Bagerhat with the financial support of the European Union and CAFORD, UK.

The objectives of the projects are to make people financially self-reliant, raise awareness about the negative impacts of climate change and enable them to

face natural disaster.

The project is aimed at boosting income generating activities, food production and improving nutritional standard by engaging locals in agriculture and fish cultivation.

The three-year long project, which started in March, 2011, is being executed among 7,500 families. The beneficiaries are mostly poor and physically challenged.

Project coordinator of DAM Moklesur Rahman said people were given training on how to become self-reliant. Meeting on court-yards and 'jarigaan' (a kind of chorus) took place to raise awareness on facing losses and risk during a disaster.

As part of preparation during disaster, they were asked to store foods, save money, make moveable oven and house on high land. They were also given first aid instrument and medicine.

Disaster management committee members at union and upazila levels were trained and disaster drill performed by them and essay writing, drawing and debate competition held among school students.

To solve water and power problems, ITN, Buet introduced solar power and solar based water purification system at cheap rate.

Mongla Upazila Nirbahi Officer Dr Mizanur Rahman said the project of DAM motivated shrimp farming, salt-tolerant cultivation and alternative employment in a planned way.

Cultivation of salt-tolerant paddy, vegetables and planting trees are on rise due to awareness and training, which made people interested in alternative employment, he said.

SNIPPETS

56 shops gutted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Fairapur

A devastating fire gutted at least 56 shops at Bhanga Bazar in Bhanga upazila on Wednesday night. Shahidul Haque Miru Munshi, president of Bhanga Bazar Committee, said the fire broke out at a shop at around 11:00pm and soon engulfed the adjacent shops. On information, four fire fighting units from Fairapur, Madaripur, Razvor and Gopalgonji rushed in and doused the blaze after four hours of frantic efforts. The loss caused by the flame could go up to Tk 5 crore, said a fire official.

10 injured in clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

At least 10 people were injured as the two rival groups clashed over holding a cricket match at Tikori village in Sadar upazila on Wednesday night. Locals said a cricket match between Shahid Liakot Ali Smrity Shangha and PSC club was held on Nazirpur High school premise in the afternoon. The clash occurred between the two clubs over the result of the match at about 9:30pm. The followers of the clubs locked in fierce fight with lethal weapons, leaving over 10 from both sides injured. Of the injured, one Chandu Pramanik, 50, Rumon, 26, Russel, 18, Mannan, 20, Polash, 18, were admitted to Pabna Medical College and Hospital in critical condition while the rest were given first aid.

Guard beaten to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A night guard of a bank was beaten to death by criminals in Kotchandpur upazila on early yesterday. The victim is Kamal Hossain, 50, son of late Tabij Uddin of Sabdalpur village. He had been serving at Rupali Bank at Sabdalpur branch for long. Police said another guard Ismail Hossain went to the generator room of the bank in the morning and found the victim's body lying on the floor. The bank manager said a gang of robbers killed Kamal at dead of night when he tried to resist them. However, no papers and cash were robbed from the bank, he added.

4 sued for killing trader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A case was filed with Khulna Sadar police station against four people on charge of killing a businessman. Gunmen killed Zakir Hossain Sarder at about 8-30pm on Monday at Babu Khan Road in the city. The accused are Iqbal Hossain Sarder and his wife Aklima Begum, Mahub Golder and Abdul Jalil Sheikh. Iqbal is eldest brother of the slain businessman while Mahabub Golder is his nephew, said police. Locals said Zakir survived attempt on his life twice in the last six months. Manzurul Alam, niece of Zakir, of Sharafpur union under Dumuria upazila, filed the case on Wednesday night, said SM Kamruzzaman, officer-in-charge of the PS.



The JICA Project for Fare System Improvement of Mass Transportation In Dhaka City Area through ICT Digital Ticketing System with IC card for BRTC

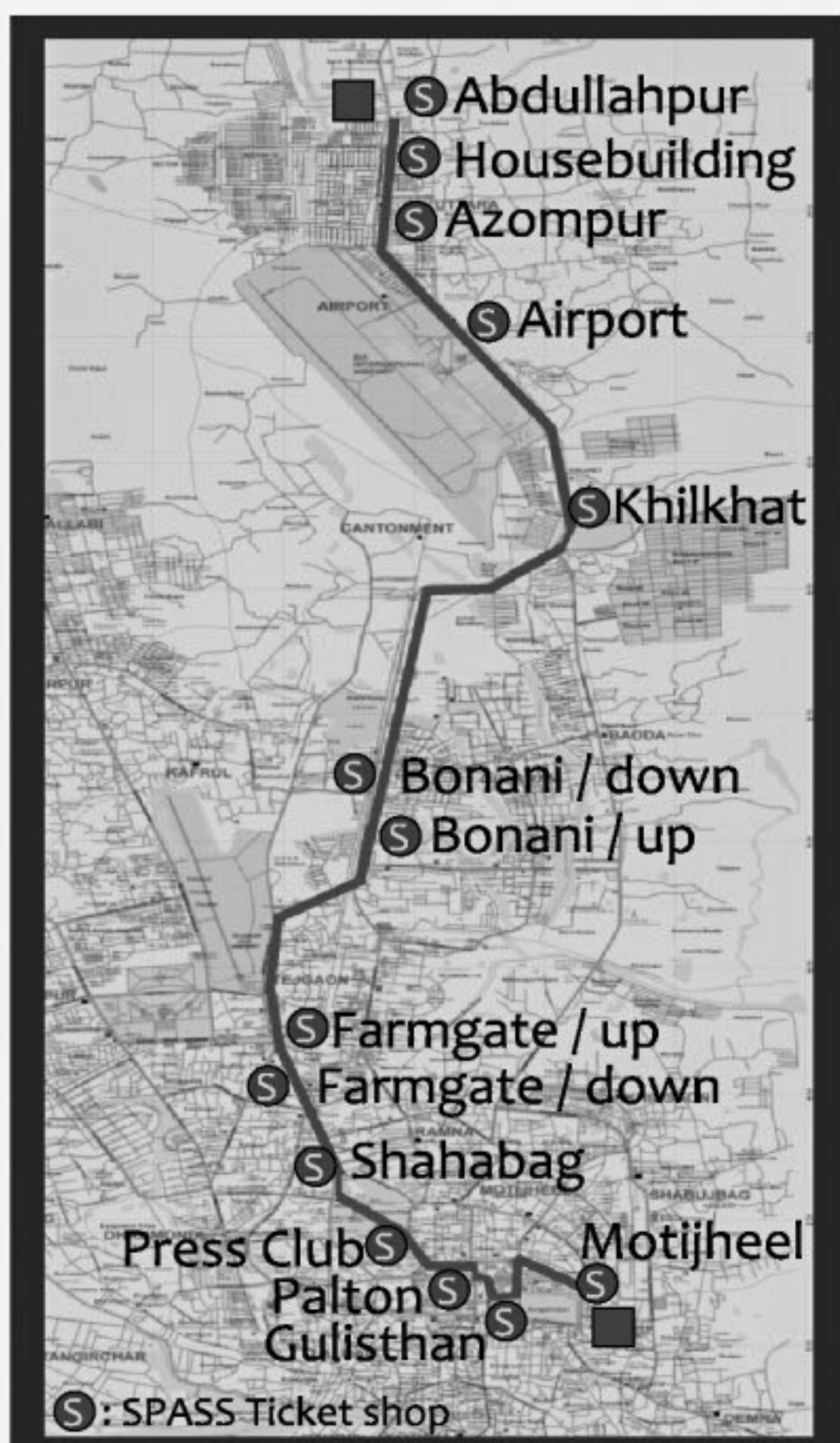
What is ICT Fare system ?

Commuter transport fare collection system using contactless IC (Integrated Circuit) card technology. This is a pre-paid card. Rechargeable and reusable. High communication security. High speed transaction. Purchase SPASS card from your nearest SPASS Ticket shop.

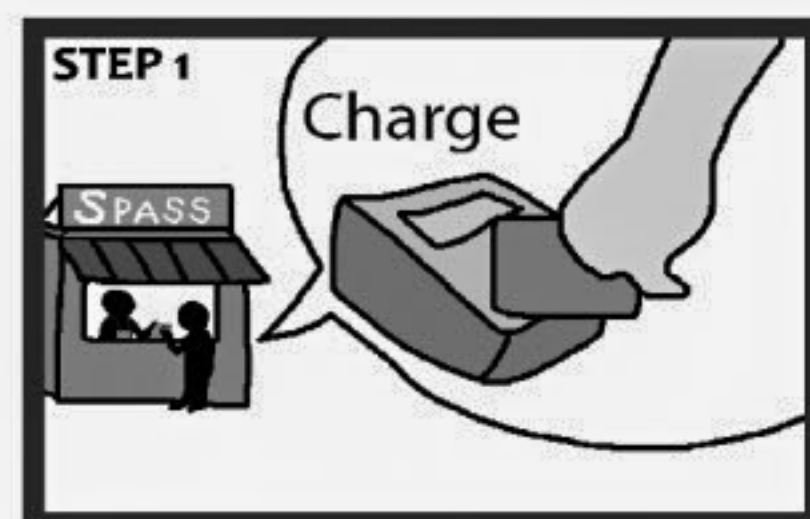


Making Everyday Life Easier & Speedy Smart Pass

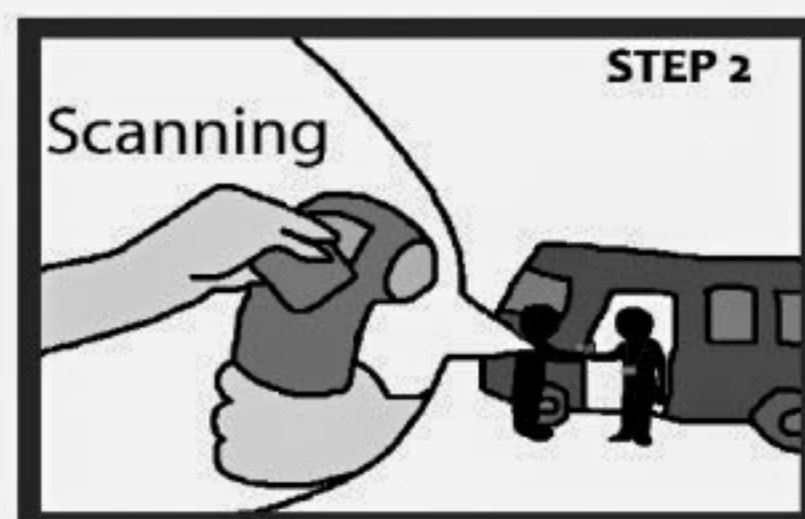
Step by Step Implementation of ICT Fare System Starting with 1 st Pilot route "Abdullahpur to Motijheel"



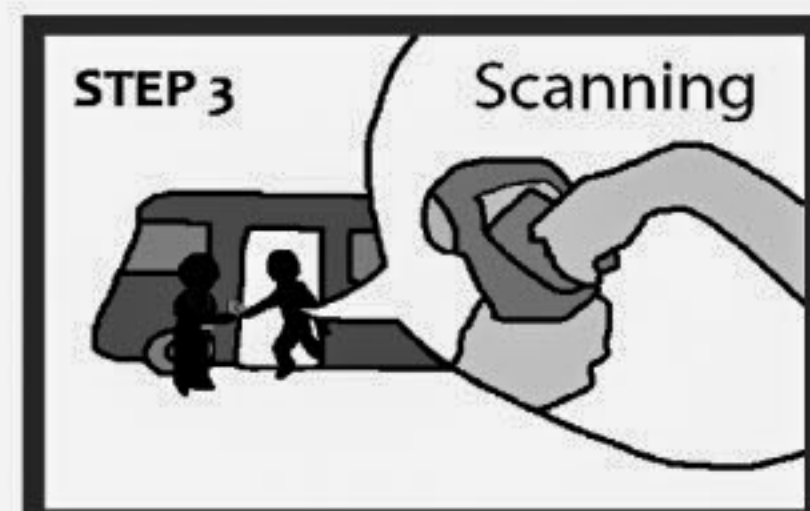
How to Recharge and use ?



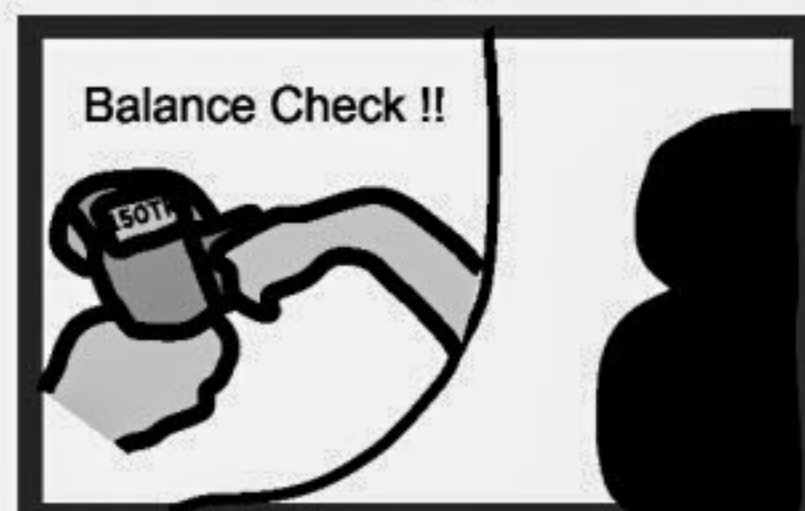
Recharge your Card from SPASS Ticket shop.



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The balance will be shown on the screen.

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