



People jostle to get into train at Rangpur rail station as they failed to avail any bus in the district yesterday, the second day of the 72-hour transport strike called in Rangpur division.

TRANSPORT STRIKE IN RANGPUR DIVISION Woes of passengers mount on day two

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Road communications from Rangpur division with other parts of the country remained suspended for the second day yesterday as the transport workers continued their 72-hour strike.

Buses and trucks stayed off the roads yesterday as on Tuesday, causing immense sufferings to passengers on at least 72 routes from eight districts.

Passengers frantically looked for buses at different terminals in the districts but failed to avail any since start of the strike on Tuesday.

People crowded Rangpur rail station as an alternative means, but many of them failed to collect tickets because of extremely long queue.

A number of passengers

alleged sale at tickets on black market while others said that the authorities shut down ticket counters without any prior notice.

Admitting pressure for tickets from a large number of passengers, the officials said they had to fine 19 on Tuesday on charge of traveling without tickets.

As no truck moved to other parts of the country perishable items remained stuck at wholesale markets causing heavy losses to growers and traders.

The transport workers of Rangpur division went on a 72-hour strike on Tuesday to press for their 10-point demand.

Rangpur divisional unit of Motor Sramik Federation called the strike on May 29 to press home its 10-point demand, including a ban on human haulers like

Nasimon, Karimon and Bhutbhuti and battery-run auto-rickshaw on highways.

The demands of the federation also include withdrawal of 'false' cases filed against Rangpur District Transport Workers Union General Secretary MA Majid and removal of illegal markets from the highways.

They also demanded a hike in wages of transport workers and providing appointment letters and an end to various irregularities, including illegal toll collection by highway police.

The strike began in the morning after the local administration held an inconclusive meeting with the leaders of the transport workers on Monday night.



PICTURE TELLS THE TALE: The road near the newly set up parking yard for vehicles heading to and from Mawa ferry terminal in Louhajang upazila of Munshiganj district lies in an awful condition, much to the sufferings of passengers, especially during the rains.

Three drug peddlers jailed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

A court in Jessore on Tuesday sentenced a woman to two years imprisonment for keeping drugs.

The court also fined Zayed Begum alias Kutu, wife of late Nur Hossain of Kashipur Uttarpara in Sharsha upazila Tk 100, in default, to suffer seven days imprisonment.

Court sources said, on secret information, officials of Narcotics Control Department raided Zayed's house and arrested her along with four bottles of phensidyl syrup on February 24, 2006.

A case was filed and police after investigation submitted charge sheet against her.

In Bogra, a mobile court on Tuesday sentenced three drug peddlers to two years' imprisonment for selling hemp in Sherpur upazila, reports UNB.

The convicts are Tareque Islam, 21, Sheikh Shah Jamal, 52, and Manirul Islam, 25, of Khandakertola in the upazila headquarters.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the area in the early hours of Tuesday and arrested the trio while selling hemp.

Later, they were produced before a mobile court.

The mobile court, led by executive magistrate Manjur Alam Pradhan, jailed them in the morning.

200 roadside trees felled in Thakurgaon

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Unscrupulous people have cut down around 200 roadside trees in Haripur union under Haripur upazila of the district and sold them to locals.

On receiving a complaint from a ward councillor of the union on Saturday, upazila LGED officials led by Engineer Abdus Samad raided at different places of the union on Sunday and Monday and seized only 38 logs of the felled trees.

Locals alleged that Kutub Ali and Mobarak Hossain, close aides to Haripur Union Parishad (UP) Chairman Mominul Islam, felled around 200 trees, including fruit-bearing mango, jackfruit and guava trees, along Bottali-Khathaldangi Road recently, saying that the chairman gave them permission to cut down the trees.

As the duo failed to show the villagers any paper relating to the chairman's order, they informed ward councillor Shahjahan Ali of the matter.

Being informed, Shahjahan Ali went to the area on Saturday and saw Kutub Ali, also a supervisor

of Road Infrastructure Development Project-21, and his associate Mobarak felled the roadside trees and sold many of them.

"When they offered me Tk 20,000, I informed upazila LGED Engineer Abdus Samad of the matter," the ward councillor told this

correspondent

Contacted, UP Chairman Mominul Islam said he did not issue any such order to cut down the trees. "It's a conspiracy to tarnish my image," he added.

"LGED planted the trees on Bottali-Khathaldangi Road in Haripur upazila

under Road Infrastructure Development Project-21 in 2001.

Engineer Abdus Samad said they issued a show cause notice to project supervisor Kutub Ali and filed a General Diary (GD) with Haripur Police Station.



Logs of a few of around 200 roadside trees felled illegally in Haripur upazila of Thakurgaon seen stacked by the road at Moshangaon village. Villagers alleged that a few aides to the local UP chairman cut down the trees in the last one month and sold those secretly.

Erosion by Jamuna renders 350 families homeless

Victims form human chain in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Erosion by the Jamuna River has rendered at least 350 families of Hasil Kandi village under Shaghata upazila homeless in the last one week.

Demanding steps to stop the erosion, a few hundred char people of the village formed a human chain on the bank of the river on Sunday.

The erosion hit people took shelter on nearby embankment amid miseries without any food and drinking water.

Amjad Hossain, a farmer at the village, said the river devoured a large number of

homesteads, croplands and trees.

A bamboo spar constructed by the villagers last year on self-help basis to protect the area from erosion has also been washed away by the river, he added.

Around 500 more families are facing serious threat due to rise of water level in the river, said other villagers.

A number of educational institutes, a mosque and vast croplands in the village may also be engulfed by the river soon, they said.

Besides human chain, the villagers arranged special prayers to get relief from the river erosion.

While visiting the affected areas, this correspondent

found scores of people, fearing further onslaught of the river left there homesteads and took shelter on the embankment.

Victim Saiful Islam said the erosion devoured his cowshed while he was shifting the homestead to a safer place.

Abdur Rouf, former chairman of Shaghata union, said they informed the Water Development Board (WDB) authorities about the matter but to no effect as yet.

Contacted, Gaibandha WDB executive engineer said they have sent a letter to the higher authorities, seeking fund to tackle the situation.



Erosion by Jamuna River devouring homesteads in Hasil Kandi village in Shaghata upazila of Gaibandha. Over 350 families became homeless in the last one week.

UP chairman arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Police arrested an acting upazila parishad chairman on charge of assaulting deputy general manager of Rural Electrification Board (REB) in the district yesterday.

They also seized a licensed pistol and 19 bullets of Sahjahan Ali, acting chairman of Bheramara upazila.

Seikh Lutfur Rahman, officer in-charge of Dalautpur police station, said they made the arrest following a case filed by Mahbulul Haque, DGM (zonal office) of REB.

According to the case, a gang of 8/9 led by the UP chairman swooped into the office of Mahbulul on Tuesday at about 7:30pm and forced him to sign some documents on meter line connections at gunpoint.

Sensing danger, the DGM signed the papers.

Sahjahan was produced before a court that sent him to jail, the OC added.

1st Death Anniversary



Today is the first death anniversary of RTN PDG Engineer Emdad UI Haque. We remember him and pray to the Almighty for eternal peace to his soul. We all miss him.

- Family

'Long march' in Rangpur today demanding city corporation

A CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Rangpur City Corporation Bastabaeon Sangram Parishad will organise a 'long march' today to press its demand for issuing a gazette notification on formation of RCC before the upcoming budget.

Sharfuddin Ahmed Jhontu, convener of the parishad, said this at a press conference at Rangpur Press Club yesterday.

He also demanded special allocation of funds for the development of Rangpur.

The 'long march' would start from Rangpur Zila School ground at about

10:30am and parade the main roads in the town, said Sharfuddin.

Leaders of the organisation hoped that people from all walks of life, besides 75 buses, microbuses and 150 motorbikes, would take part in the long march.

Led by Jhontu, Masud Naby Munna, vice-chairman of Sadar upazila and Nasima Zaman Boby, female vice-chairman of the upazila, would also be present.

Earlier, various programmes, including hunger strike and hartal, were observed calling to upgrade Rangpur municipality to city corporation.

IN MEMORIAM

We deeply mourn the sad demise of our beloved Chowdhury Badaruddin (Jami) who passed away at the age of 84 in Kolkata on Thursday, 31st May 2012 (Innallahi--Rajeun). He left behind his wife, two sons and a host of relatives and well wishers. He was buried at the Banani Graveyard. A successful businessman, Chowdhury Badaruddin, was born in the famous Chowdhury Jamindarbari (Dulai Estate) in Pabna District. He was a man of chequered life. In his early age, he was deeply involved in politics and was a close associate of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Hossain Shahid Suhrawardy, Shahid Captain Monsur Ali, Abdur Rab Baga Miah and many other prominent characters of the social and political arena.

A Duah Mahfil has been arranged at his Banani residence on Friday, 8th June 2012, after Asar prayer.

- Bereaved family members of Chowdhury Badaruddin.

