



PHOTO: STAR

CNG-run auto-rickshaw owners at a rally in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday calling for strikes on July 11 and 12 to realise their 10-point demand.

CNG-RUN AUTO-RICKSHAWS Owners call for strike July 11, 12

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan CNG Auto-Rickshaw Owners' Association yesterday called strikes on July 11 and 12 over a 10-point demand, including withdrawal of a newly imposed annual income tax of around Tk3,500.

Other demands, made at a press conference in the capital's Dhaka Reporters Unity, include, increasing economic lifespan of CNG-run auto-rickshaws from 11 to 15 years, stopping police harassment and declaring the sector an industry.

However, in a press release yesterday, Dhaka Mohanagar CNG Auto-Rickshaw O Mishuk Sramik Union urged all to oppose the strike.

Meanwhile, Dhaka Metropolitan Private CNG Auto-Rickshaw Owners' Welfare Association, at a press conference at Jatiya Press Club, urged the government to let them run the vehicles commercially.

"We demand a conversion of our registration from private to commercial," said the association President Sarwar Hossain.

The HC on June 14, following a news report "Private yet up for hiring" on The Daily Star on May 13, directed the government to deploy mobile courts in the capital from June 21 to stop private CNG-run auto-rickshaws from operating illegally on a commercial basis.

CITIZEN JOURNALISM Mainstream link stressed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Advancement of citizen journalism and new media will play a significant role in curbing corruption from the society, said discussants at a workshop yesterday.

In citizen journalism, mass people have the opportunity of direct participation in collecting, processing and disseminating information. So, people can collectively raise their voices against irregularities and corruption, they said.

A new media platform Write3.com with the support of a development and research organisation D.Net organised the workshop styled "New Media & Citizen Journalism" at IDB Bhaban auditorium in the capital.

Ekatort TV Head of News (output) Shakil Ahmed stressed the need for linkage between citizen journalism and mainstream media houses to enrich professional journalism in Bangladesh.

Write3.com Founder SM Ashraf Abir said the mainstream professional journalism is now becoming dependent on citizen journalism and new media, which refers to interactive media, amidst the massive use of technology.

The organisers awarded twelve citizen journalists yesterday.

Govt losing land

Law minister blames delays in moving case records

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Delays by officials responsible for placing land-related case records before the High Court causes dismissal of government appeals in the cases, resulting in a loss of government possession of huge amounts of land, said Law Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday.

He was addressing as chief guest a views exchange meeting organised by Government Pleaders Association (GPA) on their remuneration and facilities in the capital's Supreme Court Bar Association auditorium.

Officials concerned of the district administrations and land and law ministries are to send the records to the solicitor's office to move appeals before the HC against the district courts' verdicts. The government law officers are responsible for moving the records, he said.

In most occasions, the officers do not discharge their duties for not being paid on time. The government would take steps to

ensure the payments on time, he said.

Delays of up to 2,000 days take place in moving the appeals though the government must give the HC an explanation for the delay, he said.

Though the government, considering the revenue aspect, will not introduce full-fledged attorney service at the moment to permanently recruit law officers, it is planning to introduce the attorney service, on a limited scale, at district level, he added.

Shafique said the government pleaders and additional government pleaders would be recruited through Judicial Service Commission once the district level attorney service was introduced.

State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam, GPA Convener Fakir Delwar Hossain, lawmakers Advocate Fazle Rabbi and Nurul Amir Sujan and senior lawyer Barrister M Amir-Ul Islam also spoke on the occasion.

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Schoolboy drowns in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A schoolboy drowned in the capital's Gulshan Lake yesterday after the boat he was riding with four of his friends sank.

The deceased Mohammad Shihab, 13, son of Abu Yousuf, was a class eight student of a Banani school and a resident of Mohakhali TnT Colony.

The friends were rescued by the locals from near Gulshan-Banani Intersection Bridge, where the boat sank, around 12:30pm. Fire service divers recovered Shihab's body around

Road crashes kill 6, injure 26

METRO DESK

Six people were killed and twenty-six others injured in separate road accidents in Khulna, Chandpur, Lalmonirhat, Noakhali and Madaripur on Friday and yesterday.

A correspondent from Khulna reports, two motorcyclists were killed instantly and at least 20 others injured as a bus hit their motorbike on Daulatpur-Shahpur road at Ghona-Motherdanga intersection in Dumuria upazila yesterday morning.

The deceased are Joyanal Abedin, 50, and his friend Kamrul Islam, 47.

Of the injured, three were admitted to Khulna Medical College Hospital.

In Chandpur, Farid Mizi, 55, of Charpata village in Raipur upazila of Laxmipur district, died instantly and four others were injured as a bus hit an auto-rickshaw on Chandpur-Raipur road at Char Kumira area in Faridganj upazila yesterday.

In Lalmonirhat, schoolboy Prosenjit Roy, 8, son of Gopal Roy, was killed instantly as a passenger bus hit him while he was crossing Lalmonirhat-Burimari highway in Nowdabasha area of Hatibandha upazila around 7:45pm on Friday.

In Noakhali, motorcyclist Saiful Islam, 25, died and two others got injured when a truck hit their motorbike on Noakhali-Feni road in Bhuyian Dighi area yesterday.

Injured Sumon, 24, and Faruq, 24, were rushed to a local private clinic.

UNB from Madaripur adds: A leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), Mehrab Hossain Mithu, 26, was killed when a goods-laden 'trolley' hit his motorbike near Dadabhai Toron in Shibchar upazila town yesterday morning.

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Death anniversary of Rizia Islam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the first death anniversary of Rizia Islam, former chairperson of Bangladesh Survey Organisation Ltd, and the wife of late Anisul Islam, managing director of the same institution, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani and a milad mahfil will be held after Maghrib prayers at her Rayerbazar residence in the capital.

Her relatives, friends, and well wishers are requested to attend the programme.

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