

DHAKA-GAZIPUR

**Rail link snapped for 8 hrs**

STAR REPORT

Several hundred passengers suffered while rail communications over Dhaka-Gazipur route remained suspended for around eight hours yesterday after an intercity train broke down near Matikata railway crossing in Gazipur.

An axle of Dhaka-bound Ekota Express came off with a loud bang around 8:40am, bringing the train to a halt, said Senior Sub-Assistant Engineer (Joydevpur) Ashraf Uddin of Bangladesh Railway.

It was a miracle that the carriage concerned did not derail. No casualties were reported, he said.

Some 300 passengers on the train suffered till 5:00pm, when a relief train from Kamalapur Railway Station from the capital arrived to take away the affected carriage.

During this time, two trains, Kolkata-bound Moitre Express and Khulna-bound Sundarban Express, carrying some 1,500 passengers, were stranded at Joydevpur and Mouchak railway stations respectively, said Station Master Zia Uddin of Joydevpur Railway Station.

Several other trains were also stranded at Mirzapur Railway Station in Tangail. Not able to bear with the delay, many passengers of Ekota Express resorted to walking or took rickshaws to the nearest bus stop, several kilometres from the scene of incidence, to reach the capital.

Travelling alone, Mariam Nesa, 55, said she had boarded the train at midnight on Thursday to reach her son's residence in the capital's Motijheel. Standing at Chandra, around 10km from the spot, at noon, she was still struggling to reach a nearby bus stop.



A carriage of intercity train Ekota Express being hoisted off the tracks near Matikata railway crossing in Gazipur yesterday after it lost an axle. PHOTO: STAR

**Active institutions vital for good governance**

Says Gowher

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Good governance would not be established in the country unless the governance institutions, which hold the government accountable, do their work properly, said Gowher Rizvi, international affairs adviser to the prime minister, yesterday.

He said the civil society, research institutes, think tanks and media have a major role to play to hold these institutions accountable.

The adviser was addressing the inaugural ceremony of an international conference on "Governance and Public Service Transformation in South Asia" at a hotel in the capital.

Affiliated Network for Social Accountability-South Asian Region (ANSA-SAR) and Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) of Brac University organised the two-day long conference.

The conference is being organised in collaboration with United National Millennium Campaign-Asia and Pacific Region, United Nations Development Programme Asia-Pacific Regional Centre, Public Affairs Centre, MPPG Programme of North-South University and Governance Research Unit of Monash University.

Gowher said for effective governance to happen "we need to make sure that the government is accountable".

Simultaneously, the institutions will also have to be held accountable, he added.

Dr Mahabub Hossain, executive director of Brac, and Stefan Priesner, country director of UNDP Bangladesh, also addressed the programme.

**Child labour still alarming**

Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An alarming total of 79 lakh children are now working in the country, with most of them involved in risky jobs, said speakers at a seminar.

Social and Economic Enhancement Programme (SEEP) organised the seminar titled "Mitigation and Deterrence of Child Labour" at IDB Bhaban in the capital on Thursday, says a press release.

Of the total child labour force, 15 lakh children work in the cities. Also, 26.5 percent of the labour force are females while the rest are males.

Children are involved in 36 risky ventures, including breaking bricks and stones; leather processing; spirit and alcohol rectification and blending; working at chemical factories and ship-breaking industry.

Tahmina Jesmin, deputy coordinator of SEEP, Fazlul Haque Chowdhury, general secretary of SEEP, and Israfil Alam, chairman of standing committee on labour and employment ministry, also addressed the programme while Mohsin Uddin, project coordinator of PRDC, SEEP, presented an essay.

**Jamaat a terrorist party: Inu**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Branding Jamaat-e-Islami as a terrorist and militant party, Information Minister Hasanul Haque Inu yesterday said it was the people who would judge whether the party would remain or not in Bangladesh's democracy.

He was addressing as chief guest a meeting of Chittagong city unit Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) at Chittagong Export Processing Zone in the port city.

Inu, the JSD president, said Jamaat, the party of "war criminals", carried out vandalism around the country and injured policemen in a hartal the party recently enforced.

"They (Jamaat) want to provide compensation for the vandalism to an American embassy car. But who will provide compensation for the damaged vehicles of citizens," he said.

Inu affirmed that the caretaker government system would not be restored.

Pointing at BNP Chairperson Khaleida Zia, he said, "If you want elections, sit for dialogues. We still agree to sit for discussion regarding election."

He urged the opposition leader to sever relations with militants and war criminals. There will be no bargaining over the trial of militants and war criminals, he said.

Chittagong city unit JSD President Md Abu Bakkar presided over the meeting where Bangladesh Jatiya Sramik Jote President Shirin Akter, Jatiya Nari Jote President Afroza Huq Rina and Chittagong city unit JSD General Secretary Jashim Uddin Babul also spoke.

**Start new political era**

Say Gono Sanghati Andolon leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gono Sanghati Andolon leaders yesterday urged people to be united and build mass awareness so that the war crimes accused, and the politicians and businessmen, marked as corrupted in different times, cannot escape punishment.

The citizens' platform was celebrating its 10th founding anniversary through a mass rally and later, a procession in front of the capital's Bangladesh National Museum.

Addressing the rally, Prof Anu Mohammad, secretary of oil-gas protection committee, said the ruling Awami League and the opposition BNP act alike when in power. One of the parties uses the Liberation War for their campaign while the other with its alliance uses religion to be in power, he added.

So, the leaders urged the nation to begin a new political era where nobody will politicise any issue of national interest or use religion as a tool to grab power.

Prof Anu said the country has many natural resources along with a huge patriotic population who are able to work.

Junayed Saki, chief coordinator of Gono Sanghati Andolon, and Prof Abdus Sattar of Workers Party of Bangladesh also spoke on the occasion.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Guests release pigeons and balloons at Central Shaheed Minar premises in the capital yesterday marking the launch of weeklong programmes organised by Sammilito Sangskritik Jote commemorating Victory Day.

**College student killed in road crash in capital**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A college student was killed as a bus hit him on Mirpur Road near College Gate area in the capital last night.

The deceased is Almas Kazi, 20. He came to Dhaka from Shibchar of Madaripur to seek admission to a college.

Almas's friend Nur Alam said a bus of Safety Paribahan hit Almas when he was crossing the road around 5:00pm. He died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital around 9:30pm. Police seized the bus.

**RU teachers want elected VC**

RU CORRESPONDENT

Pro-BNP and pro-Jamaat-e-Islami teachers at Rajshahi University (RU) yesterday demanded judicial probe into the alleged irregularities and corruption of the university's vice chancellor.

They also demanded removal of Vice Chancellor Prof Abdus Sobhan and urged for a newly elected VC through the senate.

Stating their demands, the teachers vowed to boycott the university's eighth convocation which is scheduled to be held on December 9.

Addressing a press conference on the campus, the teachers, under the banner of "Bangladesh Nationalist Teachers' Forum", said the VC politicised the upcoming convocation and violated the University Act 1973 as he nominated the education minister to preside over the convocation instead of the chancellor or vice chancellor.

Speakers also alleged that the VC recruited some 301 teachers against the

186 advertised posts in the last four years which caused the university a deficit of Tk 50 crore.

Prof Dr Azhar Ali, convener of the forum, claimed that the VC failed to hold a single senate session since his appointment in 2009.

Prof Rafikul Islam, a leader of the forum, alleged that four students were killed by ruling party-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League activists as the VC had failed to ensure students' security.

They said they would form a human chain today to press home their demands and if those were not met they threatened to hold indefinite protest programmes.

Prof Afrauzzaman, Prof Azhar Uddin and Prof Mamunul Keramat addressed the programme among others.

Contacted, Prof Abdus Sobhan told reporters that protestors were trying to create anarchy to disrupt the war crimes trial. He also urged teachers to stay united and face off the protestors.

**PCJSS Jubo Samity leader shot**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

A leader of Parbatya Chattagram Jubo Samity, a front organisation of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) led by MN Larma, sustained bullet injuries in Lichubang area of Dighinala upazila in Khagrachhari district yesterday.

The injured was Priti Chakma, 42, assistant general secretary of the Samity's Dighinala upazila unit and son of Nalini Chakma of Baghaichhari upazila in Rangamati district.

Quoting locals, Dighinala Police Station Officer-in-Charge Sahadat Hossain Titu said a gang of armed miscreants opened fire on Priti around 11:00am.

Hearing the gunshots, some local people rescued and admitted him to Dighinala Upazila Health Complex and, later, the duty doctor referred him to Chittagong Medical College Hospital, the police added.

The Jubo Samity of the upazila unit blamed the armed cadres of Santu Larma-led PCJSS for the occurrence.

When contacted, Sajib Chakma, assistant press and information secretary of Santu Larma-led PCJSS central committee, denied the allegation.

**Two sisters die after drinking fruit juice in Sirajganj**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Two sisters died allegedly after drinking fruit juice in Shahzadpur of Sirajganj.

They are seven-year-old Asia Khatun and three-year-old Alpina Khatun, daughters of Abdul Alim of Charkojjuri.

Locals said that father of the children purchased two bottles of juice from a shop of Kadda Mor while returning home from Tangail on Thursday.

After drinking the juice the sisters fell sick and died on the way to hospital.

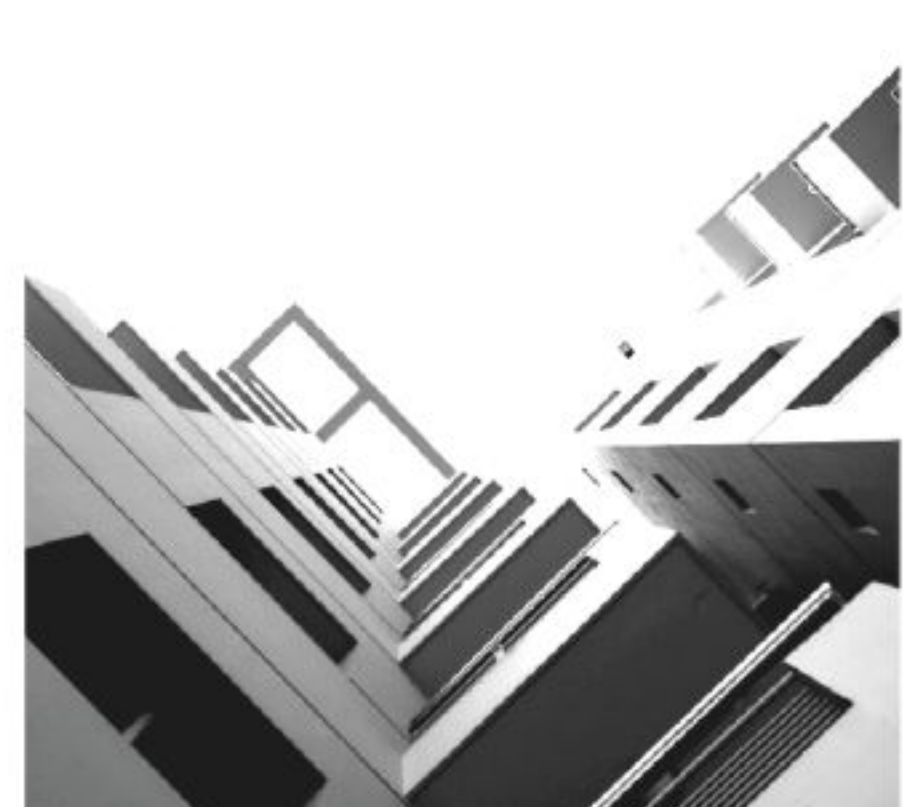
Motiar Rahman, officer-in-charge of Shahzadpur Police Station said he knows nothing about the incident.

**APARTMENTS 1000-3000 sft**

- gulshan dhanmondi
- baridhara banani
- dohs lalmatia
- uttara mirpur
- west dhanmondi
- elephant road
- tejkunipara
- nayapaltan
- rampura eskaton
- shahidbag

Any Prime Location

Creating Inspiration... ..



**DOM-INNO**

House\_36, Road\_13, Banani, Dhaka\_1213  
8829797, 9893827, 9851026, 9857067  
01819-410102, 01819-263044, 01817-143881  
01811-481160, 01817-295665, 01817-044554  
sales@dommino-bd.com

www.dominno-bd.com

living like never before

**Rosa Alba**  
Single Unit 3500 sft (aprx)  
Apartment @ Bashundhara, Block C

**Saleh Uddin**  
Single Unit 2000 sft (aprx)  
Apartment @ Uttara, Sector 10

Feel Free to Call  
Phone: 880-2-9553976, 9553783, 9551549, 9553715  
Cell: 01819132528 Hotline: 0197 22 IVORY

**IVORY BUILDERS LIMITED**

ISO 9001:2008 CERTIFIED