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Dhaka-Ctg highway becomes insecure

Transport strike called over frequent attacks on vehicles in Sitakunda, Mirsarai areas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Transport leaders have called a two-day strike on Dhaka-Chittagong highway from tomorrow, protesting the attacks on vehicles on the highway in Sitakunda and Mirsarai.

The decision was made yesterday at a meeting of eight transport associations in Chittagong following another spell of arson of vehicles in Sitakunda in the morning.

More than 150 buses were vandalised while 30 of them were set ablaze at different places in the upazila in the last four months, said Kafil Uddin Ahmed, general secretary of the Inter-District Bus Owners' Association.

A transport leader, on condition of anonymity, said Jamaat-Shibir men had been carrying out attacks on goods-carrying vehicles on a regular basis since March this year, following a string of war crimes verdicts against the top leaders of the party for committing crimes against humanity in the Liberation War in 1971.

The highway in the upazila has been a nightmare for the transport workers these days.

Two trucks were set alight near a bus counter on bypass road in Sitakunda Sadar around 8:00am yesterday, creating a 50-kilometre tailback on the highway, said Zakir Hossain, officer-in-charge (OC) of Highway Police's Bara Awlia outpost in the upazila.

Vehicular movement from Darogarhat of Mirsarai upazila to City Gate area in Chittagong came to a halt for two hours following the incident. The road communication, however, was restored around 10:00am after police removed the charred vehicles from the highway.

Around 8:00pm Sunday night, three trucks and a covered van were also set on fire at Barabkunda in the upazila, creating traffic congestion on the

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Trucks burn on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway yesterday following an arson attack by Jamaat-Shibir activists protesting the arrest of their Sitakunda unit Jamaat leader Aminul Islam.

PHOTO: STAR

Bangladeshi workers will face no hassles

Malaysian PM assures Hasina of taking care of the expats' wellbeing

UNB, Dhaka

Malaysia yesterday assured that it would look after the Bangladeshi workers so that they would not face any adverse situation there.

The assurance came from visiting Malaysian premier Najib Razak during a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office in the capital.

The two premiers led their respective country's delegation in the meeting.

"Our government will look after the Bangladeshi workers so that they do not have to face any hassle in Malaysia," Razak said.

In this regard, he stressed the need for holding dialogues between the two governments to ensure welfare of Bangladeshi workers in Malaysia.

The Malaysian premier said his country needs more workers and Bangladesh could be a good source for that.

Terming the Dhaka-Kuala Lumpur relations very good, he said the ties will strengthen further in future.

Razak also recalled the historic visit of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to Malaysia.

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Razakars were for peace!

Claims Nizami's counsel in war trial

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Razakar force was only formed to ensure law and order during the war, claimed the defence for war crimes accused Motiur Rahman Nizami yesterday before the International Crimes Tribunal-1.

The defence compared Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's March 7 speech with a speech Nizami delivered in Chittagong during the war where he said, "Pakistan is the

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Yusuf was involved in war-time killings

Witness testifies on killing of 5 freedom fighters in Bagerhat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Another freedom fighter yesterday testified that Jamaat-e-Islami leader AKM Yusuf had been involved in the killing of at least five freedom fighters at Sharankhola upazila in Bagerhat during the Liberation War.

MA Khaleque, who commanded a group of freedom fighters in the area, also told International Crimes Tribunal-2 that Abdus Salam, an informer for freedom fighters, had been killed on the orders of Yusuf near Sharankhola Bazar on July 29, 1971.

Yusuf Ali Sikder, a freedom fighter and a prosecution witness, also testified

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PHOTO: STAR

Garment workers pelting law enforcers with brick chunks at Ashulia the industrial belt as their agitations for pay hike turn violent yesterday.

SAUDI OFFICIAL MURDER HC alters lower court verdict

One of 5 condemned convicts acquitted, 3 get life term

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a major revision to a trial court verdict, the High Court yesterday acquitted one of the five condemned convicts, awarded life term to three others and upheld the death sentence of one in the sensational Saudi embassy official Khalaf Al Ali murder case.

The acquitted, Selim Chowdhury, is on the run while the rest four are behind bars.

The HC upheld the death sentence of Saiful Islam Mamun for killing the 45-year-old Saudi embassy official, who was shot dead near his Gulshan residence in the capital's diplomatic enclave on March 6 last year.

The three convicts, who were sentenced to life term imprisonment by the HC, are Mohammad Al Amin, Rafiqul Islam Khokon and Akbar Ali Lalu.

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Rokia re-elected MCCI president

STAR REPORT

Rokia Afzal Rahman has been re-elected president of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Dhaka, for 2014.

The election took place at the first meeting of the chamber's new committee yesterday, the leading trade body said in a statement.

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5,000-yr-old salt mine

MAIL ONLINE


From the surface there is nothing special about the hilly countryside around the city of Cankiri in Turkey.

However 1,300ft below ground is a stunning salt mine which was first dug by primitive humans around 5,000 years ago.

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The Daily Star



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ONLINE POLL

Do you think the visit of US Assistant Secretary of State Nisha Desai Biswal would help make any progress in holding talks to resolve the political crisis?

Yes

No

TOTAL VOTES: 308

25%

75%

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think it was justified for the Awami League-led grand alliance to form a polls-time cabinet without the participation of the main opposition BNP?

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PRAYER TIMING

November 19

Fajr

5-05

5-40

Zohr

12-45

1-15

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