

# Commuters suffer for drives against unfit vehicles

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To ensure road safety, the government yesterday launched a massive countrywide drive against unfit vehicles and drivers who either do not have licences or carry fake ones.

In the first day of the clampdown, at least 115 cases were filed, fines of Tk 2.30 lakh was imposed, two drivers were jailed and a bus was impounded yesterday.

In the capital, yesterday's drive was carried out at four points -- Gabtoli, Kakoli, Karwan Bazar and Manik Miah Avenue — by Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA).

On the other hand, Dhaka district administration launched the drives at Asadgata, Shahbagh and Babubazar.

Hearing the news, owners of a huge number of public transports refrained from plying their vehicles on the Dhaka streets, creating immense public sufferings.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday visited Manik Miah Avenue when the drive was being carried out there.

The drive has been launched as unfit vehicles and unlicensed drivers remained to be the main reasons behind road accidents, he told reporters. Apart from punishing the offenders, the drive also aims to create public awareness about frequent road crashes, the minister added.

Usually, the BRTA conducts such drives only once or twice in a week in the capital, Quader said, adding that yesterday's one was the first countrywide all-out drive against unfit vehicles and unlicensed drivers. "It is a continuous process," he said, as he was asked when the drive would end.

About the public sufferings following the drive, Quader said: "We cannot get rid of the crisis overnight. If we want to get a long-term benefit, we will have to endure some sufferings."

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**People push and elbow each other in a desperate bid to get a footing on a state-owned bus in the capital's Kalyanpur yesterday amidst a dearth of privately run buses, most of which stayed off the streets and parked by the roads as the inset shows at Gabtoli due to a government clampdown on unfit vehicles and on drivers, who either do not have licenses or carry fake ones, through six mobile teams mainly focusing on the capital. The photos were taken around midday.**

PHOTO: STAR



## Muggers shoot RMG security official, snatch Tk 2.8 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muggers shot a man and took away Tk 2.8 lakh from him in the capital's Rampura area yesterday afternoon.

The victim, Belayet Hossain, 50, a security officer of Bonny Apparels (Pvt) Ltd, received a bullet wound in his left thigh, and is undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Syed Farid Uddin Ahmed, managing director of the garment factory, told The Daily Star that four employees were carrying Tk 15 lakh, withdrawn from Janata Bank's Rampura branch, in cartons and packets from one of its offices to another to pay the salary of around 300 workers.

Belayet said about seven to eight men intercepted him and tried to snatch the carton away. "When I refused to hand the carton over, they shot me and took it away," he said.

## 2 'WAR CRIMINALS' IN CHAPAINAWABGANJ Tribunal directs to bring them Nov 16

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday directed prison authorities to produce two persons before it on November 16, when the prosecution will submit formal charges against them centring crimes committed in Chapainawabganj during the 1971 Liberation War.

Mahidur Rahman, 84, of Dadanchak village, and Afsar Hossain alias Chutu, 65, of Satrosia village under Shibganj in Chapainawabganj are BNP supporters, says the prosecution.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Obaidul Hassan with members Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Md Shahinur Islam passed the order following a prosecution's petition seeking to show them arrested in a war crimes case.

The court, however, said they will decide on keeping them detained after hearing arguments from both sides on November 16.

According to the prosecution, Mahidul and Afsar had links with the Razakar Bahini, an auxiliary force of the Pakistani army, in Chapainawabganj and committed crimes like murders and mass killings during the nine-month-long war.

The duo were arrested in a criminal case on September 16 and the prosecution, through a petition, prayed that the tribunal show them arrested in a war crimes case, reasoning that a war crimes investigation was ongoing against them.

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## JABBAR'S WAR CRIMES TRIAL Witness narrates narrow escape

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A witness yesterday narrated before International Crimes Tribunal-1 his narrow escape when a bullet shot by a Razakar skimmed across his head at Noli village in Pirojpur on May 22, 1971 during the Liberation War.

Keshob Chandra Biswas, the 21st prosecution witness, said villagers had initially tried to resist an attack by war crimes accused and fugitive former Jatiya Party lawmaker Abdul Jabbar along with Razakars, an auxiliary force of the Pakistani occupation army, at about 9:00am.

"At one stage on Jabbar's instruction, Razakars began spraying bullets and the villagers started running away," he said.

Jabbar shot dead one Sokha Nath Khorati. "On accused Jabbar's order, a

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## KAMARUZZAMAN'S EXECUTION It may take a few months Hints attorney general

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Execution of condemned war criminal and Jamaat-e-Islami leader Muhammad Kamaruzzaman might take a few months' time, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam hinted yesterday.

The state's top counsel also opined that the death sentence can be executed on the basis of a short order of the Supreme Court.

However, citing the execution of another Jamaat leader Abdul Quader Mollah, he said the SC verdict in Mollah's case was released after 75 days and he was executed in 82 days after the SC sentenced him to death last year for war crimes.

"I feel that it may not take that many days for the release of the full judgment on Kamaruzzaman's case," he told reporters at a press briefing at his office. But the apex court has not sent any such order to International Crimes Tribunal (ICT)-2 yet. It appears that the SC will send the full verdict to the tribunal for its execution, which may take some time, he said.

Mahbubey Alam said after receiving the SC verdict, the ICT-2 will issue a death warrant against Kamaruzzaman, if nothing otherwise is stated in the full verdict, and then the jail authorities will take steps for his execution.

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## BCL infighting racks CU general students

Hundreds fail to sit for exams, attend classes as shuttle train operation halted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Hundreds of students of Chittagong University could not attend classes and examinations yesterday as a faction of Bangladesh Chhatra League, demanding punishment for their intra-organisation rivals, barricaded Sholohahar Railway Station, the place in the port city where most students board the shuttle train for the campus, in the morning.

The incident came a day after the university opened on Sunday, ending a 42-day vacation on the occasions of Durga Puja, Eid-ul-Fitr, and admission tests. The station had been blocked for three and a half hours till 11:00am, a period when students rush to the campus.

As in the previous time, general students paid for the misdeeds of BCL, the indulgent student body associated with the ruling Awami League, this time again.

On Sunday afternoon, two activists loyal to Amit Kumar Basu and Suman Mamun, vice president and joint general secretary respectively of the recently dissolved CU unit committee of BCL, were beaten up by their rival faction led by Jalal Ahmed and Ariful Islam, office secretary and organising secretary respectively of the same committee.

So, Amit's faction put up the barricade. "We identified the attackers and demanded their arrest and expulsion from the university," he told The Daily Star. "As our demand was not met, the students put the blockade today."

However, Vice Chancellor Prof Anwarul Azim said they already suspended the alleged attackers--Surid Shuvo and Jobaer Hossain, two activists loyal to Jalal. "I don't know why they put up the blockade after that," he said.

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## GCC mayor, 400 other BNP men sued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Some 400 BNP leaders and activists, including Gazipur City Corporation Mayor MA Mannan, have been sued on charges of creating violence and obstructing police from performing their duties on Sunday.

Sub-Inspector Mahmudul Hasan of Joydevpur Police Station filed the case yesterday. Around 12:15pm on Sunday, 47 people, including eight policemen, were injured when law enforcers tried to stop BNP activists from staging a rally as part of their countrywide demonstrations against the government's decision of not allowing the party to hold a rally at the Subrawardy Udyan.

Police fired 20 rounds of rubber bullets and three rounds of tear shells and detained five activists.



**Hermaphrodites from across the country join a colourful procession titled Hizra Pride-2014 before Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday celebrating the first anniversary of achieving government recognition as the third gender. The community also reiterated their demand for an end to discrimination against them and ensuring their rights, including security and employment.**

PHOTO: Anisur Rahman

## ATTACK ON PHOTOGRAPHER Protesters face DU students' resistance Call for freeing the university of misdeeds at Shaheed Minar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A citizens' group yesterday faced resistance from some Dhaka University students, when the former went to the Central Shaheed Minar to protest the recent assault of a photographer and his two nieces by some alleged activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League on the campus.

Brotee, a civil rights group, was to hold a rally under the banner, "Save Dhaka University from Criminals". When people gathered there to join the protest, the students did not let them stand on the stairs of the Shaheed Minar, and also used indecent remarks.

Acting Proctor Amzad Ali arrived at the scene and tried to calm the students but they demanded removal of the banner. "Why would they call us criminals?" they shouted.

On November 5, four BCL activists of Shahidullah Hall allegedly assaulted Imtiaz Alam Beg and his two nieces. The four have been on the run since the day of the attack.

When Brotee tried to hold the rally, about 100 students under the banner, "Dhaka University Students", started

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## HC grants bail to 'ISIS recruit'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted bail to Asif Adnan Shuvo, who was allegedly recruited as an ISIS fighter by a UK citizen of Bangladeshi origin, in a case filed under Anti-terrorism Act 2009 for "conspiring to commit terrorist and militant activities".

The HC bench of Justice Md Nizamul Huq and Justice SH Nurul Huda Jaigirdar granted the bail after hearing a bail petition filed by the 26-year-old son of former HC Judge Abdus Salam Mamun.

The bail will remain in effect till investigators submit the charge sheet at the lower court, Deputy Attorney General Amit Talukder told The Daily Star.

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