



Clockwise from left, new graduates of Chittagong College celebrate success on the campus after publication of the results of this year's Higher Secondary Certificate examinations yesterday. Candidates of Rajshahi Cadet College and Sylhet Cadet College also passed the public examination with flying colours.



PHOTO: STAR

DEMAND FOR SEPARATE PAYSCALE CU, RU teachers abstain from work

CITY DESK

Teachers of Chittagong and Rajshahi universities yesterday observed a daylong work abstention protesting the proposed eighth payscale.

Chittagong University Teachers' Association (Cuta) demonstrated demanding a separate payscale for university teachers, according to our CU correspondent.

However, examinations remained out of purview of the protest programme.

Cuta leaders termed the payscale "discriminatory" and sought intervention of the prime minister for a separate payscale.

Cuta General Secretary Kazi SM Khasrul said all teachers of the university expressed solidarity with their protest programme.

He threatened to go for tougher movement if their demand was not met.

Meanwhile, RU teachers observed work abstention and also organised a sit-in on the campus demanding revision of the eighth payscale, reports our RU correspondent.

They also demanded a separate payscale for university teachers.

Over two hundred teachers under the banner "RU Teachers' Association" observed the sit-in from 10:00am till noon in front of the senate bhavan.

DSCC mayor reprimands engineer for battered road

Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sayeed Khokon yesterday reprimanded the engineer concerned for not repairing the road in Babubazar of Islampur.

He also directed the engineer of the city corporation to start the repair work by Sunday (yesterday) with the contractor.

Khokon further ordered the engineering department of DSCC to cancel the work order of the contractor if they fail to start the work on time, said a press release.

He made the remarks after visiting some wards yesterday to observe development work in those areas.

Half of Ctg dist vehicles unfit

SHAHADAT HOSSAIN, Ctg

Around 44,000 motor vehicles out of the total 82,406 registered ones are plying the roads and highways in Chittagong district without fitness putting the lives of the travellers at danger.

However, the figure excludes the number of motorbikes, said sources of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority, Chittagong.

Commuters said during travelling, many vehicles broke down in the middle of their journeys, and they had to take other vehicles to reach their destinations.

They urged the authorities concerned to take action against such unfit vehicles.

A private firm employee, Mohammad Hossain, who has to commute from Chowdhuryhat in Hathazari upazila to Golpaha in the city, said he faced such troubles.

"The human haulers go out of order very often," he said, adding, "It is very annoying."

Echoing him, Aminul Ahsan, another commuter, said he is always in

fear of accidents while travelling in such vehicles.

Fearing that the vehicles will catch fire, passengers of human haulers sometimes asked the drivers to pull over as they see the vehicles emitting a lot of thick black smoke, said Abul Bashar, a street vendor in the city's Prabartok.

Sima Akter, a master's student of Chittagong College, who travels from Gate No-2 area to Chawkbazar regularly, said all the way she remained tensed whether she could reach her destination safely.

Half of the motor vehicles are plying the streets in Chittagong without fitness certificates defying a ban, BRTA sources said.

Fitness depends on the proper functioning of different parts of the vehicle including brakes, gears, horns and lights, the sources said, adding that those had to be fit externally too.

Md Sirajul Islam, deputy director of BRTA, Chittagong, told The Daily Star that they conducted mobile courts against unfit vehicles regularly.

Now they expedited such drives, he added.

Masud Ul Hasan, deputy commissioner (traffic-north) of Chittagong Metropolitan Police, said they also conducted drives against the vehicles on a regular basis.

The drives will be increased when they will get the official papers of a High Court order, he added.

The HC on August 3 directed the government to immediately stop operation of all unfit motor vehicles across the country.

Issuing a suo moto rule, the court also ordered the authorities concerned to freeze around 19 lakh fake driving licences.

The HC bench of Justice Quazi-Reza-Ul Haque and Justice Abu Taher Md Saifur Rahman asked the authorities to take legal action against the persons who are using fake licences.

Besides, the court also asked the BRTA chairman to submit a report after complying with the order in 30 days.

Meanwhile, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader at a programme in Chittagong city on August 5 said there would be no compromise on the fitness of vehicles.

Rizvi, Mintoo get bail in arson cases

CITY DESK

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld a High Court order that granted bail to BNP leader Rizvi Ahmed in a vandalism and arson case.

The case was filed on February 26 this year.

The SC yesterday dismissed a government petition seeking stay on the July 7 HC order.

Rizvi cannot be released as he is arrested in two other cases, Rizvi's lawyer Sagir Hossain Leon told The Daily Star.

Meanwhile, a Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to senior BNP leader Abdul Awal Mintoo after he surrendered before it in another arson case filed against him and 35 other leaders and activists over torching a vehicle in the capital on January 6 this year.

Why 7.5pc VAT on

FROM PAGE 4

by a teacher and two students of Daffodil University.

They submitted the petition last week challenging the NBR notification saying that the notification is discriminatory and illegal, since such VAT was not imposed of the tuition fees of the students of public universities and institutions.

Every student has equal rights to get education as per the constitution, they said in the petition.

During hearing yesterday, petitioners' lawyer Hassan MS Azim told the court that education is not a commodity and therefore, VAT is not applicable on it. Education is a basic principle of state policy and the government is constitutionally obliged to give opportunity to the nation for higher education, but the government has failed to give sufficient opportunity to all citizens, he said. The lawyer argued that the deprived citizens have been making own arrangements by going to private universities for education, so the government cannot impose any extra tax on them in the name of VAT.

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Greater Chattagram Auto-Tempo Auto-Rickshaw Sramik Samannay Parishad holds a rally at Chittagong Central Shaheed Minar yesterday protesting the nationwide ban on operation of three-wheelers on highways and the recent toll hike at Shah Amanat Bridge.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

3-WHEELERS ON CTG HIGHWAYS Withdrawal of ban demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Transport leaders in Chittagong yesterday urged the government to withdraw the recently imposed ban on plying of engine-run three-wheelers including auto-rickshaws on highways by August 12, otherwise they would observe strike in Chittagong district the following day.

They were speaking at a rally organised by Greater Chattagram Auto-Tempo-Auto-Rickshaw Sramik Samannay Parishad on Chittagong Central Shaheed Minar premises.

Their other demands include withdrawal of recently increased tolls on using bridges including Shah Amanat Bridge. They also placed a memorandum to the road transport and bridges minister through Chittagong deputy commissioner.

Mohiuddin Chy gets bail in graft case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong court yesterday granted bail to former Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury and 15 others in a graft case.

According to the first information report (FIR), Mohiuddin during his second term as CCC mayor in 1997 allocated 23 shops of CCC in the port city's Muradpur violating rules and abusing power.

On October 13, 2002, the then Anti-Corruption Bureau filed the case. The court fixed September 22 for the next hearing.

HSC-2015
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