



YESTERDAY'S UNBOUND SUFFERINGS OF DHAKA COMMUTERS

Clockwise from top left, very few buses at the capital's Sonargaon-Panthapath intersection yesterday after transport workers had suspended operation for hours protesting imprisonment of a bus driver's helper for charging passengers extra, and for not renewing the licences of the members of Dhaka District Road Transport Workers' Union. They put up blockades at two major ends of the city creating a severe dearth of public transports during rush hours. As a result thousands of commuters had to wait for hours to catch a bus, many in vain. While many others tried to catch a ride with opportunist pick-up and truck drivers. The handful of buses that were running got so overloaded, that many rode on roofs, even on the hot hood. For women the situation was extra unsavory.



PHOTO: STAR

JU teachers strike indefinitely today

Their demand for removal of BCL leader from post of administrative officer not met

JU CORRESPONDENT

Jahangirnagar University Teachers' Association goes on an indefinite strike from today as their demand for cancellation of a Bangladesh Chhatra League leader's appointment as an administrative officer of the university was not met by yesterday.

The decision came at a meeting on the campus yesterday. On Saturday, JUTA issued a 24-hour ultimatum to meet the demand.

Prof Khabir Uddin, president of JUTA, said the decision on the admission test, scheduled to be held between October 25 and November 2, would be taken in an emer-

gency meeting today.

Vice Chancellor Prof Farzana Islam recruited Faysal Hossain Dipu, JU unit organising secretary of BCL, as an administrative officer on an ad-hoc basis on July 13.

JUTA alleged that Faysal was among the BCL men who attacked teachers staging a sit-in on the campus on October 9, 2013 demanding the then VC Prof Anwar Hossain's removal.

Faysal, who obtained his master's degree from the statistics department that year, declined to comment. Prof Farzana could not be reached over her cellphone despite repeated attempts.

CPB, BSD to agitate countrywide Nov 26 against Rampal power plant

BNP expresses solidarity, condemns cop assaults on Gonotantrik Bam Morcha road march on same demand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), and Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) yesterday announced a "countrywide agitation" on November 26 demanding cancellation of the coal-based Rampal power plant project to save the Sundarbans, situated 14 kilometres away from the project site.

Meanwhile, BNP expressed solidarity with the demand and condemned the charging of baton by police on a "road march" of Gonotantrik Bam Morcha over the demand in Manikganj and Magura on Friday and Saturday. CPB and BSD also

ROW OVER HIGHWAY BAN ON 3-WHEELERS Inu calls for talks for solution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A national dialogue involving all parties concerned is needed to find out a permanent solution to the conflict over whether three-wheelers should run on highways, said Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu yesterday.

Addressing the national convention of Bangladesh Auto-rickshaw Auto-tempo Malik-Chalok-Beboshayee Sangram Parishad at the capital's Jaitiya Press Club, Inu said a policy should be formulated in line with a modern communication system for motorised and non-motorised three-wheelers.

The road transport and bridges ministry banned three-wheelers like auto-rickshaws and other slow-moving and unfit vehicles on highways from August 1, except for the period of 6:00am to 8:00am when they can fuel up.

The ban was imposed to curb road accidents and control highway traffic and according to a report of Accident Research Institute (ARI) of Buet, road accidents have seen a decline since after the ban. About the ban, Inu said if the

Noakhali war crimes suspect Abdul Kuddus denied bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday rejected a bail petition filed by war crimes accused Md Abdul Kuddus facing three charges for his alleged involvement in crimes against humanity during the 1971 Liberation War.

Kuddus, 84, filed the petition seeking his bail citing old age and poor health condition.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Anwarul Haque said the prison authorities are providing Kuddus treatment at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University.

His treatment will be continued, the tribunal said, adding that they did not find any reason to grant him bail right now.

The tribunal on October 14, accepted three charges against five persons including



From left, Motahar Akand, deputy director of Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK); Sultana Kamal, executive director of ASK; and Prof Serajul Islam Choudhury, president of Bangladesh Deyal Patrika Parishad with a section of the winners of a wall magazine competition at the concluding event of the eighth National Wallpaper Festival and Competition held at Sufia Kamal Central Public Library in the capital yesterday.

Freedom of expression being curtailed

Speakers say at concluding ceremony of nat'l wallpaper festival

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The freedom of expressing free thoughts in the country is being trimmed by showing different excuses, observed speakers at a programme yesterday.

Restrictions are being imposed on promoting and publishing free opinions in the society, they said at the concluding event of the eighth National Wallpaper Festival and Competition held on the Sufia Kamal Central Public Library premises in the capital.

Bangladesh Deyal Patrika Parishad (Bangladesh Wallpaper Forum) in

association with Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) organised the programme from October 15 to 18.

A total of 166 wall magazines from 33 districts of the country were submitted for the competition this year.

ASK Executive Director Advocate Sultana Kamal, speaking as special guest, alleged that the state is restricting people's right to express their free thoughts.

"We want to express ourselves freely. It is our right to enjoy facilities of the expression of free thoughts as these are linked to the basic principles of our Liberation War," she said.

Appreciating students who have written different social, political and cultural issues in the wall magazines, the eminent rights activist said the purpose of these wallpapers is to demolish the walls and express free thoughts.

Prof Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury, who chaired the programme, echoed Kamal.

"If we want to establish a democratic society, we need to connect people. Similarly, the young generations must be connected to different issues through the publication of wallpapers," he said. Choudhury, who is

Olama League no affiliate of Awami League

Say party leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League's (AL) leaders yesterday claimed that the party would not shoulder responsibility of any of Awami Olama League's actions as the latter was not affiliated with it and law enforcement agencies have

been asked to take steps against troublemakers.

Talking to The Daily Star, AL Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif denied that Awami Olama League was using AL's central office in the capital's Bangabandhu Avenue.

AL Deputy Office Secretary Mrinal

Kanti Das too said the party did not recognise any Awami Olama League factions.

At least 25 people were hurt in a clash between two Olama factions in front of Jatiya Press Club on Saturday.

Witnesses said one faction led by

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