

# Move to increase bus fare on Ctg city route causes uproar

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

A section of transport leaders is going to increase public bus fare "arbitrarily" from tomorrow in the name of introducing counter bus service on a route in Chittagong city.

Chattagram Metropolitan Paribahan Malik Group is going to introduce the bus service initially on the road from Patenga Sea Beach to Kaptai Rastar Matha, stretching 22km, said its sources.

The minimum fare for the first three kilometres has been fixed at Tk 10 which is double than the present one.

Forty buses will ply primarily everyday under the name of "Metro Probbhati", they said.

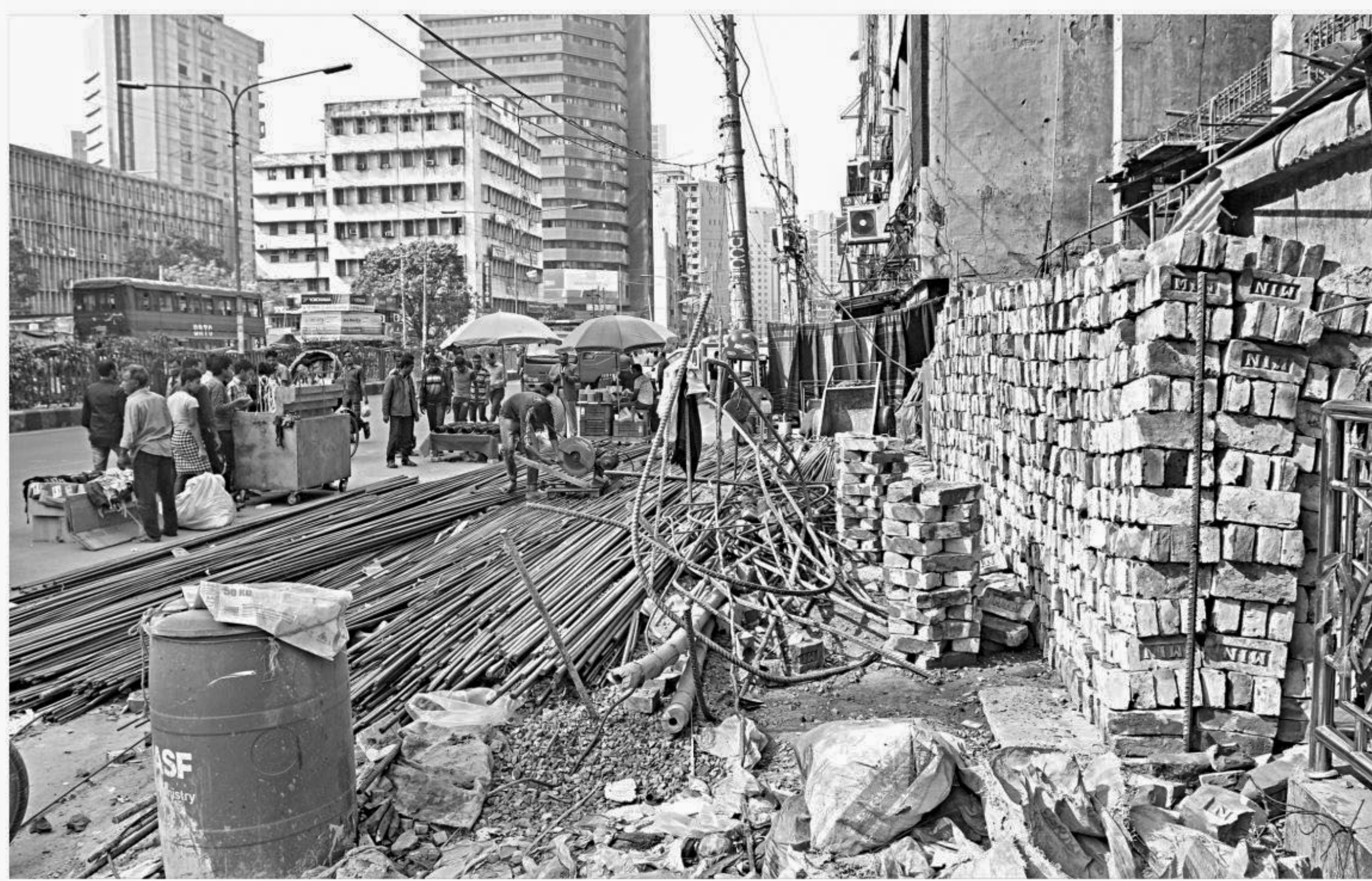
The buses will not carry any passengers beyond their seating capacity, said the transport leaders, claiming that the service will be better.

The city dwellers expressed their resentment, terming the initiative "illegal" and "illogical".

SM Nazer Hossain, vice president of Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB), said transport leaders cannot increase bus fare arbitrarily. They need approval from Regional Transport Committee (RTC) headed by the commissioner of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP), he added.

A similar initiative was taken some 10 years ago to provide better service by increasing fare, which did not continue, said Nazer, adding, but the increased fare remained unchanged.

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Building construction materials lie on a footpath opposite Bangladesh Krishi Bank in the capital's Motijheel area forcing pedestrians to use the busy street risking their lives. The photo was taken Thursday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

# Kuakata beach carnival kicks off today

BSS, Dhaka

The first ever "Kuakata Mega Beach Carnival" will begin today eyeing to make the south-eastern sandy beach of Bangladesh familiar as a popular tourist destination both locally and internationally.

Finance Minister AMA Muhiith is scheduled to inaugurate the three-day carnival.

"Successful celebration of the carnival would acquaint the Kuakata beach and adjacent tourism spot with the local and international tourists," Bangladesh Tourism Board Chief Executive Officer Akhtaruz Zaman Khan Kabir told the news agency.

Kuakata is located at Patuakhali district, south-eastern side of Bangladesh, which has a sandy beach of 18km long and 3km wide. From the beach, one can have an unobstructed view of both sunrise and sunset over the Bay of Bengal.

About the participation of foreign tourists, Tourism Minister Rashed Khan Menon said few countries have still continued travel advisory that is why ambassadors and high commissioners of different countries have been invited to the carnival.

"They (envoys) would disseminate messages to their citizens about the beauty of Kuakata and Bangladesh," he hoped.

# Empowering challenged people urgent: Speakers

BSS, Rangpur

Speakers underscored the need for establishing disabled-friendly atmosphere and ensuring rights to education, health services and dignity for the challenged children by flourishing their inherent talents and abilities.

They stressed on mainstreaming and empowering the people with disabilities through coordinated efforts of the government and NGOs.

The opinion came at a discussion styled "Mainstreaming of the intellectually disabled and vision impaired people" arranged by Dristi Sangstha Buddhi Protibondhi Biddyalaya (DSBPB) in its auditorium in Rangpur yesterday.

Deputy Commissioner Md Rahat Anwar was the chief guest with chairman of the governing committee of DSBPB Mir Anisul Haque Payara in the chair.

Deputy Director of the Department of Social Services Abdur Razzaque, District Women Affairs Officer Kawser Pervin, Sadar Upazila Education Officer Afroza Jasmine and DSBPB headmaster Ashik Iqbal also spoke.

# 60,000 Ctg households to get prepaid gas meters

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

The Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Limited (KGDCL) is going to install 60,000 prepaid gas meters in households of the port city by June 2018 under a project titled "Natural Gas Efficiency Project [Installation of Prepaid Gas Meter for KGDCL]".

The installation will start from next month and initially 3,000 meters will be installed in Khulshi and Nasirabad areas, said the KGDCL officials.

They said both the government and clients will be benefited by the prepaid meters as the revenue collection will increase and clients will also get "hassle-free" service.

Also gas wastage will reduce to a great extent and illegal usage of gas will stop due to the automated service.

According to KGDCL, the company has around six lakh clients.

Project Director Khaiz Ahmed Majumder said KGDCL and Toyokeiki Company Limited of Japan signed a deal Tuesday in connection with the installation of the meters.

The Tk 246.56 crore project will be completed by June 30, 2018, he said, adding, the expected lifespan of the meters is approximately 20 years.

Chawk Bazar, Anderkilla, Sholashahor, Nasirabad, Khulshi, Chandgaon, Lalkhanbazar, Kazir Dewri, Panchlaish and Halishahar have been selected in the preliminary phase of the installation.

Initially, clients will not have to pay for

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# BNP expects PM's

FROM PAGE 3

He said elimination of opposition must be stopped; all the detained political leaders should be freed, false cases withdrawn, and equal opportunity ensured for assemblies.

The government has to ensure press freedom and create a real democratic atmosphere, he said.

The BNP leader alleged that the government did not take effective steps to forge national consensus to fight against militancy; rather it was blaming the opposition party.

Portraying a gloomy picture of the country's economy, Fakhru said the government was misleading the people in the name of development.

The prime minister has tried to confuse people by giving false information about her government's development activities in her speech, he said. "Her claim regarding development is nothing but empty rhetoric."

The BNP leader also called upon the premier to shun the devastating path of one-party rule realising the people's demands and expectations. "Otherwise, she would be held accountable."

# Stolen child

FROM PAGE 3

driver who confessed to selling the child to a barber in Fatikchhari, who was later held, he said.

Rekha filed a general diary with the station on December 27 last year after her son went missing on the day, said Saiful Alam Chowdhury.

Rekha's husband left her around three years ago while shewas pregnant, said the OC.



Teachers and employees of non-MPO educational institutions stage a demonstration in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday demanding inclusion of their institutions in the government's Monthly Pay Order (MPO) facility.

PHOTO: STAR

# Musical tribute to

FROM PAGE 3

organisers raising funds by selling posters, t-shirts and stickers, said Tuhin Kanti Das, one of the organisers.

"Entity of the musicians is being dimmed as they are involved in commercial advertisements where they only speak on the company's behalf but not for the society," he said. Sponsorships or advertisements hardly allow them to sing freely.

The first "Concert for Fighters" was held in 2005, which took place as a protest against militancy and communal violence, said poet-singer Kafil Ahmed, one of the participants of the first concert.

Fourteen bands performed at the Thursday's concert including Maqsood O' Dhaka, Madal, Chitkar and Meghdol.

A portion of the raised funds will be donated to the Santal community of Gobindaganj.

# 200 regular blood

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"We need around 10 lakh bags of blood every year, and it can be managed by motivating people towards voluntary blood donation," he said.

"There will not be any crisis of blood, if at least one crore out of the 16 crore people donate once a year."

He also appreciated Quantum Foundation's contribution in the blood donation campaign and such an initiative to honour the donors.

Dr Nizamuddin Ahmed, an adviser of Quantum Foundation, said any physically sound person could donate blood every three months, and it would not create any negative impact on their health.

Madam Nahar Al Bukhari, chief coordinator of Quantum Foundation, also spoke at the programme.



Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed presides over the fourth ministerial council of Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement in Bangkok of Thailand yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

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**IN MEMORIAM**

Twenty sixth Death Anniversary of  
**Late Abul Qasem FCA (1919-1991)**  
Founder President (ICAB),  
Former President (DCCI),  
Founder, A. Qasem & Co., Chartered Accountants  
In Fond Remembrance  
Mrs. M.A Qasem, Shakil, Farzana, Sohel, Jabeen, Sanjida, Mostaq Sadaat, Sajid, Navid, Sadaaf, Omair, Ahnaf, Afraz  
&  
All Partners, Directors, Staff and Students of A. Qasem & Co.

**Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)**  
PKSF Bhaban, E-4/B, Agargaon Administrative Area Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207  
Phone: 9126240-3, 9140056-9 Website: http://www.pksf-bd.org

## Vacancy Announcement

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)-an apex development funding organization was established by the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in 1990 for sustainable poverty reduction through employment generation. Since its inception, PKSF has been implementing various poverty alleviation programs and projects through its Partner Organizations (POs) all over the country.

PKSF is going implementing a project titled 'Skills for Employment Investment Program (SEIP)', jointly financed by GoB, ADB and SDC. The goal of the project is to develop demand driven workforce through skills development training and thereby placing them in more productive self and wage employment at home and abroad which will in turn improve their livelihood. At least 70% of the total trainees will be employed after training and retained in respective job for six months. This project will be implemented across the country through recognized training institutions. The tranche-1 of the project will be completed within two years.

PKSF hereby invites applications from the suitable candidates for the following positions under the SEIP project.

SL No.	Name of the Posts	No. of Posts
1	Program Officer	2

All the employees will be recruited for the project period on full time contractual basis. Interested candidates who fulfill the requirements should submit online application by 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2017. For detailed job descriptions and instructions visit PKSF website: [www.pksf-bd.org](http://www.pksf-bd.org).

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. PKSF is an equal opportunity employer. Any kind of persuasion will be treated as disqualification of the candidate. PKSF reserves the right to cancel this recruitment process without assigning any reason whatever.

Deputy Managing Director (Finance)

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