

People suffer in pointless strike

Protesting conviction of killer bus driver, transport workers go on indefinite strike, cripple entire southwestern region

PANKAG KARMAKAR

Just because a killer bus driver was sentenced to life, transport workers in 10 southern districts yesterday brought road communications to a grinding halt going on strike for an indefinite period.

The strike caused huge sufferings to people, including passengers of trans-boundary buses, and stalled goods transportation.

Around five lakh people travel by about 4,500 buses between the capital and the 10 districts every day. Besides, about 3,000 trucks and covered vans carry goods on these routes, according to transport operators.

Road transport workers claim they had enforced the strike to get a "just trial", but the government and road safety activists are terming it "illogical".

Experts and passengers said transport workers often use such strike to materialise their demands, holding common people hostage.

The strike was enforced in 10 districts under Khulna division from 6:00am yesterday to protest a court verdict that sentenced a bus driver to life imprisonment in a case filed over the road accident that killed acclaimed filmmaker Tareque Masud, media personality Mishuk Munier and three others.

SEE EDITORIAL



Jamir Hossain



People stuck at Benapole on arrival from India yesterday. An indefinite strike called by transport workers in 10 southwestern districts, over a bus driver being sentenced to life imprisonment, left them without transport to get to Dhaka.

PHOTO: STAR



ANNOUNCEMENT

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TOP QUOTE

"There will be no discussion with those [transport workers] who went on strike keeping the people hostage."

ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS DIVISION SECRETARY **MAN SIDDIQUE** TOLD THE DAILY STAR OVER PHONE

Industries, export to feel the pinch

Businesses fear as gas gets costlier

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The latest gas price hike would put further pressure on local industries and exporters already facing many internal and external challenges, say business leaders and chambers.

The 15 percent increase in gas bills for industrial units and factories using gas-run generators comes at a time when exports are hit by low demand on the global market amid uncertainties stemming from Brexit, they say.

Moreover, cotton and yarn prices went up by 20 to 25 percent over the last two months. But the prices of apparel items, which account for more than 80 percent of Bangladesh's overseas sales, have not increased.

"Under these circumstances, the hike in gas price is like adding insult to injury," said Fazlul Hoque, a leading garment exporter.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

Babul, Mitu were not on good terms

Mitu's parents tell IO

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Detectives yesterday talked to the family of Mahmuda Khanam Mitu, slain wife of former SP Babul Akther, in Dhaka in connection with her murder in June last year.

After the four-hour questioning of the family members, the investigation officer,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

LOWER COURT JUDGES' APPOINTMENT, POSTING HC rule on legality of president's authority

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The High Court yesterday questioned the legality of the constitutional provisions that empower the president to appoint Supreme Court and lower court judges and also to control the appointment, promotion and posting of and disciplinary measures against lower court judges.

In a ruling, the HC asked the government to

explain in four weeks why the relevant articles -- 95(2)(b), 98, 115, 116 and 116(A) -- of the constitution should not be declared illegal and unconstitutional.

Article 116 of the original charter of 1972 had empowered the SC to decide on the posting, promotion and leave of lower court judges. The top court had also control over the magistrates' exercise of

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

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- Abinta Kabir
1997 - 2016

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