

Who's to blame for public suffering?

Top transport leaders deny their role in transport strike, but workers say leaders informally backing them

"There is no strike. The workers have voluntarily abstained from work. They did not call any strike."

SHAJAHAN KHAN
Shipping minister and also a leader of a transport workers' association



WASIM BIN HABIB and PANKAG KARMAKAR

With the ongoing transport strike intensifying and spreading across the country, a number of transport workers yesterday said they called the shut-down with full backing of some top leaders of their association.

The strike began on Sunday initially in 10 southern districts under Khulna division, protesting a verdict that gave life sentence to a bus driver over the deaths of filmmaker Tareque Masud, media personality Ashfaque Munier Mishuk and three others in an accident in 2011. A court in Manikganj, where the accident happened, gave the verdict on February 22.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Carrying their luggage, commuters trek along the road in Aminbazar, Savar yesterday as public transport went off the road because of an indefinite strike by transport workers. They were protesting conviction of two drivers over the deaths in two incidents, including the road accident that left eminent filmmaker Tareque Masud and media personality Mishuk Munier dead.

Over 12 hurt as transport workers, cops clash in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Agitating transport workers last night damaged about a dozen vehicles and set fire to a police box and a wrecker, prompting police to use tear-gas shells and charge batons to control the situation.

Four policemen and at least eight other people were injured in the ensuing clash.

Eight of the victims, including the four cops, were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital shortly after midnight.

Hundreds of cars, pickups and bikes trying to enter and exit the capital got stranded on the road stretching from Aminbazar to Savar, as several hundred transport workers blocked

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

TOP QUOTE

"Calling a transport strike against a court verdict is regrettable. If you [protesters] have any grievance, place it before the court, without making people suffer this way."

LAW MINISTER
ANISUL HUQ

5 to die for Hoshi killing

The Japanese national was killed by JMB men to tarnish Bangladesh's image, says court

KONGKON KARMAKER, from Rangpur with SHARIFUL ISLAM

A Rangpur court yesterday awarded death penalties to five JMB militants for the killing of Japanese national Kunio Hoshi in 2015.

Three masked assailants riding motorcycles shot Hoshi several times when he was heading to his farm on a rickshaw at Alutari village of Kaunia upazila in Rangpur on October 3.

The 66 year old died on the spot.

The convicts are: Rangpur region military commander of banned militant outfit



Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) Masud Rana Mamun, Ishaque Ali, Liton Mia Rafiq, Shakhawat Hossain, and Ahsanullah Ansari Biplob.

All but Ansari are in police custody.

Masud Rana and Ishaque Ali had confessed to their involvement in the murder.

Noresh Chandra Sarker, the judge of the Special Judge's Court, Rangpur, acquitted one accused.

In the verdict, the court observed that the convicts murdered Hoshi to tarnish the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

CHILD MARRIAGE ACT Rights bodies decry special provision

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Samajik Protirodh Committee (SPC), a platform of 70 women, rights and development organisations, yesterday denounced the enactment of the Child Marriage Restraint Bill 2017 with keeping intact a provision for "special circumstances".

Meanwhile, Child Rights Advocacy Coalition in

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

HC stays 2nd phase of gas price hike

Leftist parties enforce half-day hartal; BNP to stage nationwide sit-in tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday stayed for six months a government decision to hike gas prices from June 1 in the second phase.

It also questioned the legality of the move to increase the prices in two phases.

The court issued a ruling asking the authorities concerned of the government to explain why the public notification issued

for raising the gas tariff from March 1 and June 1 should not be declared illegal.

The chairman and the secretary of the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission were made respondents. They were asked to come up with the explanation within four weeks.

The BERC on February 23 raised gas prices for all consumers by 22.7 percent and

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

Be a part of our journey...



- 50% ENERGY SAVINGS
- 60% WATER SAVINGS
- 20% INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY
- 30% MORE FRESH AIR
- MOST SECURITY ENSURED

53 Gulshan Avenue
Dhaka-1212



LEED

PIONEER IN LEED PLATINUM COMMERCIAL GREEN BUILDING

AN ARTIST OF GREEN CONSTRUCTION

CITYSCAPE
Redefines Benchmarks



+88 01930 000 111, 01930 000 222, 01930 000 333

www.cityscapebd.net



Earthquake resistance
7.5
on Richter scale



ISO 9001: Quality Management System
ISO 14001: Environment Management System
OHSAS 18001: Occupational Health & Safety Series
ISO 50001: Energy Management System (pursuing)