

PROTESTING GAS PRICE HIKE

BNP announces countrywide sit-in for tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday announced staging countrywide sits-in for two hours for tomorrow, protesting gas price hike.

The programme will be held from 10:00am to 12:00 noon, BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Rizvi Ahmed told a press briefing at the party's Nayapaltn headquarters.

He, however, did not elaborate on how and where the programme will be observed.

"The government's decision to increase gas price is nothing but the reflection of its undemocratic character. The government does not hesitate to ignore people's will..." Rizvi said in a written statement.

The government has no time to pay heed to the crises and problems prevailing in the country, added Rizvi.



Pedestrians queue up for using a foot over-bridge instead of jaywalking in the capital's Banani yesterday as a mobile court led by an executive magistrate of Dhaka Metropolitan Police had to force them to follow the rule. The drive continued from 11:00am to 1:00pm. PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Cancel Gaibandha SP's transfer to Khagrachhari

CHT commission writes to ministry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Chittagong Hill Tracts Commission has requested the home minister to immediately cancel his ministry's decision to transfer Ashraful Islam, superintendent of Gaibandha police, to Khagrachhari recently terming the decision "risky".

The commission made the request on Monday through a letter signed by the commission's co-chairs Sultana Kamal and Elsa Stamatapoulou, according to a press release of the commission issued yesterday.

On February 23, the home ministry transferred Ashraful to 6 Armed Police Battalion (APBn) in Khagrachhari's Mahalchhari as its commander, 15 days after the High Court ordered the immediate withdrawal of the SP for not cooperating in a judicial inquiry into the torching of Santal houses in November last year.

In its letter, the commission said, "The High Court ordered the withdrawal of Gaibandha Police Superintendent after police involvement in the torching of Santal houses in Gaibandha's Gobindaganj and negligence in discharging duties on November 6, 2016, was proved."

"International Chittagong Hill Tracts Commission is expressing deep concern as the same superintendent is

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

SC chamber judge drops Ashiyan City's petition from hearing list

Ashiyan seeks stay on SC order that barred the housing project's activities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chamber judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain yesterday dropped from its hearing list a petition filed by the Ashiyan City authorities seeking a stay on an order issued by the apex court in August last year.

A chamber judge is in charge in dealing with emergency matters.

In August last year, the SC issued an injunction barring Ashiyan City from conducting all activities including selling plots and publishing advertisements.

Following two petitions by the government and

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

People suffer immensely for transport strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Like any ordinary day, Shantunu Haidar went to Jatrabari intersection to catch a Farmgate-bound bus for going to work. As she reached there she almost stumbled seeing hundreds of people desperately looking for buses.

She then walked to Sayedabad where the situation was worst. "Workers were putting brickbats on the road haphazardly so CNGs [auto-rickshaw] cannot move. I was frightened."

"I hired a rickshaw to go to Motijheel right away," Shantunu said, adding that she was lucky to get a bus there.

Yesterday, transport workers took their protests to a bigger scale protesting conviction of two fellow drivers and leaving commuters stranded in the capital and all over the country.

Thousands of passengers remained stranded at Sayedabad, Mohakhali and Gabtoli bus terminals. Some transport workers were seen forcibly stopping passenger-carrying vehicles with sticks and rods.

Women and children were the worst sufferers as a number of women were seen waiting under the sun carrying children in their laps.

Though few buses were operating in the capital since morning, the number declined

around noon, intensifying the crisis.

Urmila Karmokar of Uttara had to appear at a viva voce at Ramna yesterday. "I had to wait for three hours to get on a BRTC bus at Farmgate," the exhausted teacher of Milestone College told The Daily Star in the evening.

But, Banani resident Rezaul Karim was not that lucky. He went to a clinic at Dhanmondi to see a relative and failed to catch a bus even after waiting for two hours.

While, Naurin Jannat, a student of Dhaka Cantt Girls' Public Schools and College, who came to Farmgate for her coaching, was waiting for a bus over an hour.

Meanwhile, OC Anisur Rahman of Jatrabari Police Station said though no inter-district buses set off from Sayedabad Bus Terminal, some city buses, under police protection, operated. He said supporting the strike, some transport workers barred city bus services.

In Mohammadpur, some transport workers kept the buses at bay, said OC Jamal Uddin Mir of Mohammadpur Police Station.

While, OC Dadan Fakir of Pallabi Police Station said around 2:00pm some workers tried to prevent buses ply the streets but failed due to police intervention. PHOTOS ON PAGE 5

Toab Khan honoured marking ABM Musa's birthday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Veteran journalist Toab Khan has been honoured with lifetime achievement award by ABM Musa-Setara Musa Foundation for his contributions to the country's newspaper industry.

The award was given marking the 86th birthday anniversary of late journalist ABM Musa at a programme at Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday.

Dr Soumitra Sekhar, professor of Bangla department at Dhaka University, gave a memorial lecture marking Musa's birthday.

Riaz Uddin, editor of the News Today; columnist Syed Abul Maksud; Farida Yasmin, general secretary of Jatiya Press Club; Robayet Ferdous, professor of DU; media personality Muhammad Jahangir; poet Hasan Hafiz, and family members of ABM Musa, also spoke.

Sincere congratulations and best wishes



Abdul Kader Mollah receives CIP Card from the honorable Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed MP.

Like every year this year too **Mr. Abdul Kader Mollah** honorable Chairman and Managing Director of **Adury Apparels Ltd.**, in recognition of his remarkable contribution in the export trade, was elected **CIP (Export) 2013.**

We are very pleased and proud.

For this reason we offer our sincere thanks and gratitude to all concerned together with the ministry of commerce of the Government of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh.



Thermax Group Ltd.
Labour, Employees & Officers in all units

care advertising



ALL YOU CAN DRINK!

GET UNLIMITED FREE REFILLS ON EVERY DRINK WITH A PURCHASE OF ANY BURGER

ALL DAY LONG

1 TO 7 MARCH



Coca-Cola, Fanta and Sprite are the registered trademarks of The Coca-Cola Company. All prices are VAT inclusive



TM & © 2016 Burger King Corporation. Used under license. All rights reserved.

TBWA/Benchmark