



## Transport strike ends at 'request' of Shajahan

A transport worker dies from pellet injuries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transport workers yesterday resumed operation only after their leader Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan intervened.

Shajahan, also executive president of Bangladesh Road Transport Workers Federation, made a call for ending the transport strike following two meetings -- one with two ministers and another with transport owners and workers.

Vehicular movements started getting normal across the country after his call amid clashes between the strikers and police in the capital's Gabtoli bus terminal area that claimed the life of an agitating driver.

Shajahan held the first meeting in the morning with Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader and Law Minister Anisul Huq -- both of whom requested Shajahan to help put an end to the public sufferings, sources said.

Obaidul and Anisul also assured him of cooperation and legal assistance to the strikers, who had been demanding "justice" following two court verdicts that sentenced one driver to life and another to death over separate road accidents.

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Dakhil examinees hold up their admit cards trying to identify themselves as they rode on a small truck at Gabtoli to get to their exam halls. Transport workers mobbed them during yesterday's strike creating uncertainty for them. Their vehicle was attacked at several places on the way. The students were eventually allowed to pass.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Why should they not face action?

HC issues rule over strike enforcers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday asked the authorities to explain in three weeks why they should not be directed to take legal action against those behind the transport strike enforced to protest a court verdict.

In the rule, it also ordered the respondents to show causes as to why calling a strike or hartal against a court verdict should not be declared illegal.

At the same time, the authorities were told to take steps to ensure operation of transport across the country within 24 hours and to submit a report on

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## People suffer as rowdy strikers rule the roads

STAR REPORT

Mohammad Emdadul, an auto-rickshaw driver in Chittagong city, couldn't hit the road for three days due to transport strike.

But yesterday, he had no choice but to drive his CNG-run vehicle to take his ailing wife Zohora Begum to hospital.

Around 8:00am, he along with his wife started for Chittagong Medical College Hospital from his home in Bandartila area. But his fellow auto-rickshaw drivers intercepted his vehicle on the road nearby. He pleaded them to let him and his wife go, and they did.

But when his auto-rickshaw reached near EPZ intersection around a kilometre from his house, some unruly protesters vandalised the vehicle, forcing him to abandon it and take a rickshaw van.

"It took us three hours to reach the hospital only 15 km from my house. My wife was in unbearable pain and passed out once, but I was helpless," said Emdadul.

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"What was our fault? Why people had to suffer for the unlawful demands of the transport workers?"

MAKSUDUR RAHMAN  
A COMMUTER IN THE CAPITAL

## Matarbari coal power project back on track

Two Japanese bidders compete for job

SHARIER KHAN

The Japan funded massive Matarbari 1,200 megawatt coal power plant project near Maheshkhali was stalled following the Holey Artisan Bakery militant attack in July but it is now moving forward with just two Japanese bidders taking part.

Marubeni and a consortium of Toshiba-Sumitomo have submitted technical and financial bids in late January for the \$4.5 billion project.

It is one of the costliest coal power plant projects in the world, industry insiders said.

These two companies were selected through a prequalification process in August 2015 but the bidding process stagnated after that.

The technical evaluation committee (Tec) of the project is evaluating whether the bidders qualify for the project. The Tec would open their financial bids afterwards and recommend the lowest competitive

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## GULSHAN CAFÉ ATTACK 'Neo-JMB leader who supplied arms' arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Counterterrorism officials yesterday claimed to have arrested an upazila unit "Neo JMB" commander who leads a syndicate that supplied ingredients for grenades and arms used in the Gulshan attack from the Indian border area near Chapainawabganj.

A team of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police arrested Mizanur Rahman alias Boro Mizan, 60, in-charge of

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## স্ক্যানসিমেন্ট দিয়েই তৈরি হচ্ছে পদ্মা সেতুর মূল কাঠামো

একটি পদক্ষেপ বদলে দেয় অনেক কিছু  
যেমন করে পদ্মা সেতুর বন্ধনে পাঁটে যাচ্ছে দুই পাড়  
ভবিষ্যৎ পাঁটে দেয়ার এই যুগান্তকারী উদ্যোগের অংশীদার স্ক্যানসিমেন্ট