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## Bus fare NOT FAIR

City bus companies make their own rules to charge passengers extra

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

The maximum fare from Jatrabari to Motijheel, only three kilometres apart, should be Tk 5 but Shahnaz Khatun has to pay Tk 10 for the ride in a so-called sitting-service bus.

The capital's bus owners are charging the passengers fares at their will every day ignoring the government-set fares. It seems there are no rules regarding fares, said passengers. During rush hours, these "sitting service" buses turn into regular buses with people standing, they said, adding that the fare do not change then.

To collect the extra fare, bus owners ignore the set fare and use their self-devised system. Such "sitting service" system is illegal, according to Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) officials.

Yet, several bus service providers, operating between Jatrabari and Farmgate, charge extra using this "system", as the authorities seems to be doing not much to stop this.

Meshkat and Gabtoli Link (sitting service) both charge Tk 20 per passenger on that route. The fare according to the BRTA website is Tk 15 for large buses.

Branding their service "sitting-service", "gate-lock", "non-stop", "time-controlled", "speedy service" and "counter service", operators charge high fare even though those buses stop almost anywhere their drivers deem fit.

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Bus drivers' helpers look for passengers in the capital's Farmgate area yesterday. In absence of monitoring, city bus operators continue to charge passengers higher in the name of "sitting", "gate-lock" "non-stop" and other so-called special services. One "Kom-stoppage" bus even boasts that it stops at fewer places.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

**Mar 25 now Genocide Day**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The House last night unanimously adopted a resolution to observe March 25 as Genocide Day.

On this day in 1971, Pakistani army cracked down on the Bangalees and killed them indiscriminately.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal lawmaker Shirin Akter from Feni-1 placed the motion, which was adopted by voice votes amid thumping of desks.

Shirin in her notice proposed taking necessary initiatives to earn international recognition of one of the most brutal genocides in the world committed by the Pakistani occupation forces on the black night of March 25.

A total of 54 MPs, including Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Opposition Leader Raushan Ershad, took part

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## Lions tame Tigers

SAKEB SUBHAN from Galle

When the miscued shot off Mehedi Hasan Miraz's bat landed in the mid-off fielder's hands, Bangladesh lost their 10th wicket in just three hours and five minutes of batting on the fifth day of the first Test to be all out for 197. It was fitting that home captain Rangana Herath was the bowler to bring about the hurried end to Bangladesh's struggle with his sixth wicket of the innings, in the process moving four wickets clear of New Zealand's Daniel Vettori as the most successful left-arm spinner of all time.

The Tigers' whimpering end was in stark contrast to expectations when they came to the Galle International Stadium, which in March 2013 was the site of their highest Test score and one of the few fully fleshed out draws that the country can boast of. It was thought that the team had progressed even further in the intervening years and would present a tough challenge to a Sri Lankan

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## BNP rode on India, US to win in 2001

Came to power giving an undertaking to sell gas to India, says PM

UNB, Dhaka

Taking a swipe at BNP for its recent anti-Indian remarks, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday alleged that the party came to power in 2001 through giving an undertaking to sell gas to India.

"Today I hear them [BNP leaders] making anti-Indian remarks.... When the US company wanted to sell gas to India just before the national election in 2001, Khaleda Zia took BNP to power through giving an undertaking of selling gas. But I didn't give any undertaking as I wanted to utilise the country's resources for people's welfare," she said.

The then agent of RAW and officials of the US embassy also passed time at "Hawa Bhaban" before the 2001 parliamentary election so that the Awami League could be defeated and BNP grab power and thus sell gas, Hasina added.

The PM was addressing the National Council of Bangladesh Jubo Mohila League, a youth women front of the ruling AL, at Krishibid Institution, Bangladesh.

She said then PM Khaleda Zia toured India after assuming power in 1991, but when journalists on her return home asked her about the Ganges water sharing issue, the BNP chief told reporters that she forgot to raise it.

Khaleda, the premier said, made many anti-Indian remarks, joined a long march towards the Farakka barrage and also waged a move-

ment for Ganges water sharing treaty. "How could she forget such an important issue?"

About the elections under the previous BNP governments, Hasina said the party doesn't have any history of holding credible polls. "It has histories of vote rigging, printing additional ballot papers, stuffing ballot boxes, creating terrorism and militancy, snatching vote results and selling the country's resources to others," she alleged.

"If we see their election history, including 'yes-no' votes, presidential election in 1978, parliamentary polls in 1979, another presidential polls in 1981, Magura and Mirpur by-polls and national election on

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## BJP wins big in UP

Congress takes Punjab, Goa and Manipur

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS IN FIVE STATES

BJP gets 325 of 403 seats in UP, 57 of 70 in Uttarakhand

Congress gets 77 of 117 in Punjab, 18 of 40 in Goa, 28 of 60 in Manipur

STAR REPORT

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) yesterday secured an unprecedented landslide victory in legislative assembly polls in India's biggest state Uttar Pradesh.

The elections are considered the first major test for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's popularity since his demonetisation move three months ago.

The party also roared back to power in the Himalayan state of Uttarakhand with thumping majority, reports our New Delhi correspondent.

BJP's main challenger Congress won comfortably in Punjab and fought hard for its wins in Goa and Manipur states.

BJP's victory in UP would have significant ramifications not only for the composition of

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