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Bubbles burst

BRTA 'gives in to owners', suspends drive against 'seating service' with special fare

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BRTA has suspended for 15 days its drive against "seating", "nonstop", "gate-lock" and other so-called special bus services in the capital, apparently giving in to pressure from transport owners.

The Bangladesh Road Transport Authority took the decision in a meeting yesterday, a day after Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader publicly expressed helplessness over the matter.

"Another meeting will be called in those 15 days to find out how the seating service can be brought under a legal framework," said Khandaker Enayetullah, secretary general of Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Samity. He was one of the participants of yesterday's meeting.

Meanwhile, passengers' rights campaigners and commuters expressed frustration at the BRTA decision, saying the government body gave in to pressure from the bus owners. They also termed the decision a defeat of the government and the people to the transport operators.

"This will set a bad example in the history of transport sector and will have an adverse impact on the sector in future," said Ilias Kanchan, chairman of Nirapad Sarak Chai, a platform working for ensuring road safety. He also took part in the meeting.

"What was the necessity of launching such a drive, if you would stop it midway? Today's decision will definitely make the transport owners and workers more desperate," said Mahmud Khayer, a private job holder who was waiting for a bus near Farmgate intersection yesterday.

Recently, the BRTA and the transport owners announced that no public transport would operate in the city in the

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Buses are parked on Mirpur Ceramic Road in the capital yesterday. As the BRTA went on a drive against so-called "special", "seating" and "gate-lock" bus services on city streets, transport owners kept their vehicles out of service, causing passengers to suffer. The drive was suspended yesterday for 15 days.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Govt misleads people with untrue info

Sultana Kamal on Rampal power plant

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rights and green activist Sultana Kamal yesterday said the government was desperate to go ahead with Rampal power plant despite receiving various findings of international organisations that show adverse impacts of the project.

The convener of "National Committee to Protect the Sundarbans" claimed the government could not reply to different local and international studies that say the plant would harm the biodiversity of the Sundarbans beyond imagination.

"The government is not telling anything real and objective regarding the power plant. In some cases, they are confusing people by providing untrue information," she said at a programme at the city's Dhaka Reporters Unity.

The National Committee to Protect the Sundarbans organised the programme titled "Exim Bank's Finance in Rampal Power Project & Reality of the Sundarbans' Peril by Huge Pollution: Two International Evaluation Reports."

Noted engineer and air quality consultant Dr Ranajit (Ron) Sahu placed a paper titled "Comment on the Government of Bangladesh's response to Unesco regarding air emissions from the Bangladesh-India friendship power plant".

Coming down heavily on the government for its

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Girl killed for pursuing studies

M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL, Jhalakathi

Marufa Akhtar continued pursuing education after marriage and her illiterate in-laws did not like it.

As she was taking Higher Secondary Certificate exams from Nalchity Degree College in Jhalakathi, her in-laws' family in the absence of her husband, who works in the Middle East, became more harsh on her.

On Tuesday afternoon, Marufa's mother Lucky Akhtar alleged, her daughter's mother-in-law, brothers-in-law and sister-in-law tortured her until her death. Later they left the body at Jhalakathi Sadar Hospital.

"There was a spot round the neck of the body," said Golam Forhad, a physician of the hospital, who performed the autopsy.

According to the police inquest report the body bore marks of injuries, said Jhalakathi police.

"It is a harsh example of consequences of child marriage," said Akkas Shikder,

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CRIMES DURING 1971 LIBERATION WAR

2 Kishoreganj men sentenced to death

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

A war crimes tribunal yesterday sentenced two people from Kishoreganj to death for crimes they had committed during the 1971 Liberation War.

"The gravest nature of the offences of 'extermination' 'genocide' and 'murder' and the accused persons' participation and complicity therewith as already found proved shakes human conscience, the humanity and civilization," said the International Crimes Tribunal-1 in the verdict.

The court said all the six charges brought against the accused -- Syed Mohammad Hussain alias Hossain, 64, younger brother of convicted war criminal Syed Hasan Ali, and Muhammad Moslem Pradhan, 66 -- had been proved.

"These proved indictments also demonstrate the accused persons' close and culpable affiliation with the Pakistani occupation army as collaborators."

Of the convicts, Hussain, the commander of Razakar Bahini in Nikli, is believed to have left for Malaysia in May 2014, while Moslem, a member of the Pakistani army's auxiliary force, is now in jail.

On execution of Moslem's death sentence, the tribunal said he could be executed "by hanging or shooting."

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13 Bagerhat men face 7 charges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prosecution yesterday pressed seven specific charges against 13 Bagerhat men who allegedly committed crimes during the Liberation War in 1971.

Prosecutors -- Mukhlesur Rahman Badal and Sabina Yesmin Khan Munni -- submitted the charges, witnesses' statements and other documents to the International Crimes Tribunal-1 through its registrar office.

The 13 were "involved" in the killing of 21 people, raping of four women, abduction, confinement and torture of two people,

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Red-eyed wasp created for the first time



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A jewel wasp has been genetically modified to have red eyes to prove that 'gene editing' technology can be used on such small creatures.

The ultimate goal is to gain greater understanding of insect genetics, which could be used to find new ways of protecting crops or stopping the spread of diseases like malaria.

The researchers, led by Professor Omar Akbari, of the University of California Riverside, said initially they planned to look into the male jewel wasps' unusual ability to ensure all its offspring are male.

Professor Akbari said it was currently unknown

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PRAYER TIMING APRIL 20
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-25 12-45 4-45 6-27 8-00
JAMAAT 5-00 1-15 5-00 6-31 8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Illegal shops occupy the staircase of the footbridge near Sadarghat in the capital and cables dangle on the stairs, inset, forcing pedestrians to duck when they use the footbridge. The bridge painted bright orange looks beautiful from afar but the impression dies when one tries to use it.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

HELLO MAYOR
...
IS THIS OUR FOOTBRIDGE?

BCIM ECONOMIC CORRIDOR

India, China to resume stalled talks next week

HINDUSTAN TIMES ONLINE

The stalled consultation process for the BCIM (Bangladesh, China, India, Myanmar) Economic Corridor is set to resume, with officials and scholars from the four countries meeting in Kolkata next week after a gap of more than two-and-a-half years.

The last meeting of the Joint Study Group (JSG), which has government sanction, was

held at Cox's Bazaar in Bangladesh in December 2014.

Officials from the external affairs ministry and scholars and academics from India will take part in the meeting to be held during April 25-26. The objective behind resuming the dialogue will be to finalise the JSG report.

The BCIM-EC aims to link Kunming, the

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মরহুম আরিফুল হক স্মরণে দোয়া মাহফিল



এডভোকেট মরহুম সিরাজুল হক ও মিসেস জাহানারা হকের কনিষ্ঠ পুত্র এবং আমার ও মিসেস সায়েমা ইসলামে ছোট ভাই আরিফুল হক রনি (৫৬) গত ১০ মার্চ ২০১৭ তারিখে চিকিৎসাধীন অবস্থায় যুক্তরাষ্ট্রে ইস্তেকাল করেন (ইন্না লিল্লাহি ওয়া ইন্না ইলাইহি রাজিউন)। তার মৃত্যু সংবাদে বহু শুভানুধ্যায়ী, আত্মীয়-স্বজন এবং বন্ধু-বান্ধব আমাদের পাশে এসে দাঁড়িয়েছেন এবং সমবেদনা জানিয়েছেন। কঠিন দুঃসময়ে তাদের এই সমবেদনা ও সহমর্মিতা আমাদের দুঃসহ বেদনা সহ্য করার শক্তি যুগিয়েছে। আমরা সেই জন্য কৃতজ্ঞ।

মরহুম আরিফুল হকের আত্মার মাগফেরাত কামনায় আমরা তার পরিবারের সদস্যগণ আপামি ২১ এপ্রিল শুক্রবার বাদ আছর ঢাকার গুলশান আজাদ মসজিদে একটি দোয়া মাহফিলের আয়োজন করেছি। উক্ত দোয়া মাহফিলে সকল শুভানুধ্যায়ী, আত্মীয়-স্বজন এবং বন্ধু-বান্ধবকে উপস্থিত থাকার জন্য অনুরোধ জানাচ্ছি।

পরিবারের পক্ষে

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মন্ত্রী

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