



AVOIDING TOLL TAKES A TOLL ON ALL

Vehicles move at a snail's pace on the Hanif flyover in the capital while drivers almost everywhere try to avoid it. At times, it takes over two hours to cross Jabataba on Sayedabad Terminal through the pothole-riddled road. Still, commuters continue to use it to avoid paying toll for crossing the flyover. This eventually puts excessive pressure on the already battered road. As a result, commuters continue to suffer as vehicles get stuck or break down in potholes there. Many of the drivers said they would take the flyover if the toll amount was reduced. The road on the other side of the flyover suffers the same fate. The photos were taken in Dakkhin Kajla yesterday afternoon.

PHOTOS: ANISUR RAHMAN

CJ's 'resignation', 'removal' dominate pro-AL talks

STAR REPORT

Bangabandhu Awami Ainjibi Parishad (BAAP), a forum of pro-Awami League lawyers, yesterday announced that they would boycott the functions where Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha would be present because, they said, the CJ has not expunged "irrelevant" observations from the Supreme Court's 16th amendment verdict.

"We must boycott, reject and leave all the programmes where Justice SK Sinha will be present. No lawyers will go to his programmes," BAAP member secretary Barrister Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh told a meeting organised by the platform at the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

High time for building alternative political force

B Chowdhury, Dr Kamal say in joint statement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former president AQM Badruddozza Chowdhury and jurist Dr Kamal Hossain have called upon the people to forge a national unity to ensure people's fundamental democratic rights in the spirit of independence.

"We believe that the people of the country would forge a national unity to bring a meaningful change in the state and social system for ensuring their rightful share of power," they said in a joint statement issued yesterday. Citing the mass movements from 1952 to 1990, they said the people gained victory in 1971 with their united efforts.

"We think the same unity will have to be formed to hold the next general election in a free, fair, and inclusive manner," according to the statement. Describing people's unity as "superpower," they said, "We have seen many people bowing their heads down before unity. And it is the appropriate time for people to forge such unity to build an alternative, non-violent political platform."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Former national council with all parties

Proposes Bangladesh Sangskritik Muktiyog to EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Sangskritik Muktiyog yesterday placed a six-point proposal to the Election Commission including introduction of an "e-voting" (electronic voting) system in the next parliamentary election.

The party, which never took part in any election since its inception said the commission will deploy army and introduce "no vote" in the election.

The EC has started talks with the political parties yesterday to discuss possible electoral reforms ahead of the polls.

The commission invited two political parties on the first day but Bangladesh Nationalist Front (BNF) requested the commission to shift the date as they were busy distributing relief materials in flood-hit areas.

A 12-member delegation of Sangskritik Muktiyog went to the commission yesterday and gave a written proposal.

After the meeting, party leader Anisur Rahman told journalists that they had suggested forming a Jatiya Parishad (national council) comprising registered political parties and the EC.

The Chief Election Commissioner and the president of the council will head the council and he said, "The council will scrutinize all the laws and rules related to the election and work as an advisory to a search committee for conducting the new election commission."

Welcoming the proposals, Hela Uddin Ahmed, acting secretary to the EC, at a briefing said the party also suggested that if the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Barguna teacher pleads for fresh medical test



Primary school teachers form a human chain in Barisal Sadar upazila yesterday. Their demands include exemplary punishment for the criminals who raped a female teacher inside a school building in Barguna.

PHOTO: STAR

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The Barguna schoolteacher who was allegedly raped on August 17 by six people inside her primary school demanded a fresh medical test and security.

She made the demand on Tuesday after the medical test conducted at Barguna General Hospital could not find any significant evidence of rape.

Meanwhile, primary school teachers associations at district headquarters all over the country yesterday formed human chains demanding punishment to the attackers of the teacher in Barguna.

On Tuesday, the teacher told this correspondent that she was emotionally distressed and feeling insecure after her husband — an Indian national — left the country on Saturday after she gave a statement before a judicial magistrate the same day.

Her husband had told her that he would have to leave her as his family would not accept her after what had happened to her. As directed by her husband and to save the marriage, she did not make any claim of rape before the magistrate, she said.

Despite complying with his demand, "he left me... I already lost all my dignity and honour... [to regain a bit of it], now I only want a fresh medical test," she the young woman said sobbing.

I want to live... I plead for justice and security. I pray that no woman experience

the brutality I have endured." After raping her on the first floor of the school building, the assailants exited the building by climbing down service pipes, she said, alleging that there were over a hundred people who gazed downstair during the incident, but none came to her rescue.

Local member of Upazila Parishad, Manu Biswas, later rescued her after breaking open the lock of the main gate, she said. Dr Ajmeri Begum, gynaecologist of Barguna General Hospital, who conducted the medical test on her, said the test did not reveal any significant evidence that could prove the crime as rape. However, there were some injury marks on a female teacher's body.

She also apologised for making speculations of rape during primary investigations. Dr CK Chakrabarti, eminent gynaecologist in Barisal city, who was there on Tuesday under police protection, said he could not conduct any investigation as he was not provided any court order for it.

However, by noticing several signs and symptoms on her body, he could assume that she had been violated, he said.

On Tuesday, an investigation team of Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), led by Abu Ahmed Fazal Kabir, visited the area where the primary school is located in Betagi upazila of Barguna.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina hands over a cheque to the wife of Rab Intelligence Wing Director Lt Col Abul Kalam Azad at Prime Minister's Office yesterday. Azad was hit by splinters in a blast near a militant den in Sylhet city on March 25. He died in the early hours of March 31. The premier also distributed cheques among the families of other law enforcers who were killed during the raid.

PHOTO: PMO