



This has been a picture familiar to anyone who has been to Gulistan area in the capital. Bus drivers take up almost the entire thoroughfare to park their vehicles haphazardly while vendors and bus ticket sellers occupy the rest of it. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

# Ensure discipline in transport sector

17 organisations urge govt at human chain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seventeen organisations yesterday at a human chain demanded that the government strictly implement laws related to transportation services so that bus owners and staff cannot charge extra.

They also urged the government bodies concerned to make the transportation services woman- and child-friendly.

Poribesh Bachao Andolan (Poba), Puran



PHOTO: STAR

Participants at the human chain.

Dhaka Nagorik Udyog, and Bangladesh Nirapad Paani Andolon, among other organisations, formed the human chain at Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

Speakers alleged that the condition of most of the buses is unfit while buses of various companies plying the same route charge different.

Even the bus staffers do not hang the fare chart circulated by the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA), they alleged.

They called upon Dhaka Metropolitan

Police, and two Dhaka city corporations to take coordinated measures to improve transportation services.

"A passenger spends extra Tk 300 to 900 per month for transportation purpose, but they cannot avail satisfactory transportation services," said Md Abdus Sobhan, general secretary of Poba.

Referring to the fare chart of BRTA, he said, "Minimum fare of a bus is Tk 7, and for minibus it is Tk 5. However, the bus owners do not abide by the fare chart of BRTA."

"Bus drivers stop wherever they want, creating huge traffic congestion," he said, adding that reckless driving and mentality to break traffic rules result in accidents.

Zubaida Gulshan Ara, a university teacher, said as the buses stop at undesignated spots, women and children cannot board the buses braving the challenges involved in the process.

She asked the government to strictly implement the existing laws, forcing the bus drivers to drive carefully.

Anwar Hossain, president of Bangladesh Nirapad Pani Andolon, said, "Charging additional fare is a crime as it is not permitted by BRTA."

Nazim Uddin Ahmed, president of Puran Dhaka Nagorik Udyog, said, "There should be more public buses than private cars on the road so that more people can avail public transport comfortably."

Besides, the speakers at the human chain demanded that the government monitor the public buses, train the bus drivers and assistants, and fix dress code and identity card for them.

## CJ to be appointed soon

Hopes law minister  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday hoped that a new chief justice will be appointed soon, although he has no specific information in this regard.

"Under article 95 of the constitution, the president is the sole authority to appoint the chief justice. I don't know when he will appoint a new chief justice. I hope that the chief justice will be appointed very soon. I cannot say more than this," he said.

The minister was talking to reporters after attending as the chief guest the inauguration of a training programme for the government pleaders and public prosecutors at Judicial Administration Training Institute in Dhaka.

The post of chief justice has been lying vacant after the then chief justice Surendra Kumar Sinha resigned on November 10. Justice Md Abdul Wahhab Miah, the senior most judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, has been performing functions of the chief justice.

Minister Anisul Huq told reporters that Bangabhaban, official residence of the president,

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