



Extortion rampant in transport sector

Alleges state minister, slams cops, workers' organisations for realising illegal toll from buses, trucks for every trip on highways

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A state minister who also runs a transport business has come down hard on police and transport workers' organisations for rampant extortion from buses and trucks on highways across the country.

"How would a transport owner survive if he has to pay Tk 7,000 to Tk 8,000 for a trip from Dhaka to Panchagarh," said State Minister for Rural Development and Cooperatives Mashru Rahman Ranga, also president of Bangladesh Road Transport Owners' Association, yesterday.

He categorically accused leaders and workers of Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Shramik Federation of unabated extortion on the highways. Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan is the executive president of the Shramik Federation, the umbrella organisation of transport workers' bodies.

Though the Federation is supposed to be an organisation for transport workers, many non-workers have been

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"Against 100 buses in a district, there are 7,000 workers. Why do we have to shoulder the responsibility of 7,000 workers? Why should we pay extortion money to workers?"

STATE MINISTER FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATIVES MASHRU
RAHMAN RANGA.



The mangled wreckage of a microbus after one of its two CNG cylinders exploded near Kumudini College Gate area in Tangail town early yesterday. The blast killed three people and injured four others. The photo was taken at Tangail Police Lines.

PHOTO:
MIRZA SHAKIL

3 killed as CNG cylinder of microbus explodes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Three people, including a woman, were killed and four others, three of them policemen, injured in a microbus CNG cylinder blast in Tangail town early yesterday.

The deceased are Jannatul Ferdous Bonya, 19, her maternal uncle Sirajul Islam, 55, and cousin Faruk Miah, 40. They are residents of Narayanganj's Sonargaon upazila.

The injured are: Tanvir Ahmed, sub-inspector of Sonargaon Police Station, Habibur Rahman Habib, assistant sub-inspector, constable Azahar Ali, and microbus driver Akter Hossain, of Munshiganj's Gajaria upazila.

The policemen are

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RAJSHAHI CITY POLLS

3 hurt in blasts at BNP rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Three crude bombs exploded at an election rally of BNP mayoral candidate Mosaddek Hossain Bulbul in the city's Sagarpara area yesterday, leaving three people injured.

Among the injured are BNP chairperson's adviser Habibur Rahman and Banglavision's Rajshahi correspondent Aditya Chowdhury.

The BNP and Awami League traded blame over the incident. However, Election Commissioner Brig Gen (retd) Shahadat Hossain Chowdhury, who was visiting the city,

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Nothing serious, just 'error in records'

BB about report on impure gold in its vault

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Bank yesterday refuted the allegation that one of the gold bars kept in its highly secure vault by the customs department was adulterated.

"The purity of the gold [bar] was 40 percent, but it was mistakenly written 80 percent ... It was a clerical error," BB Executive Director SM Rabiul Hassan told reporters at an emergency briefing at the BB headquarters.

Quoting a report of the National Board of Revenue's Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate (CIID),

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What's the logic behind movement?

PM questions demo for quota reform

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said she was unable to understand the logic behind the quota reform movement.

"What's the reason behind such a sudden movement against the quota system? We don't

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BCL men were responsible

Says a group of DU teachers about Sunday's assault

DU CORRESPONDENT

A group of Dhaka University teachers yesterday held Bangladesh Chhatra League responsible for Sunday's assault on teachers and students and said the student body had turned into "goons".

"No matter what the minister [Obaidul Quader] or the party's [BCL] general secretary says, I'm asserting that they're Chhatra League activists; they have turned into

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