



Sufferings mount on long routes

Transport owners announce suspension of bus services for an indefinite period

STAR REPORT

Bus operators yesterday declared suspension of long-distance bus service for an indefinite period on "security grounds", which is likely to worsen people's sufferings caused by the "undeclared transport strike".

Like the previous two days, transport owners and workers kept long-haul buses off the roads yesterday, affecting road communication between the capital and the rest of the country.

They ran only a handful of inter-district buses for what they said was fear of vandalism amid the ongoing student agitation for safer roads.

A small number of night coaches plied the highways in the last two days.

Yesterday, transport leaders said they would not run buses "until the situation became normal".

Khondaker Enayet Ullah, secretary general of Bangladesh Road Transport Owners Association, told The Daily Star, "No bus will operate from tonight, as the situation has worsened."

"From now on, bus service will remain suspended for an indefinite period due to lack of security," he said.

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People ride on the back of a pickup at Gabtoli Bus Terminal yesterday morning. They have been paying about Tk 300, which is several times the normal bus fare, to go to Aricha.

PHOTO
PALASH KHAN

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ROAD ACCIDENTS

Two more students killed

STAR REPORT

Two college students were killed in separate road accidents in Gazipur and Narsingdi yesterday amid the countrywide student agitation for road safety.

With them, at least six students have been killed in road accidents over the last seven days.

A covered van ran over Farhana Alam Mim, a second-year student of Safiuddin Sarker Academy and College, around 12:30pm while she was crossing the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway near Barobari of Gazipur's Joydebpur, leaving her critically injured, police said.

She was rushed to Tongi Government Hospital where doctors pronounced her dead, reports our Gazipur correspondent.

Salehuddin Ahmed, deputy superintendent of Gazipur Traffic Division, said some locals, including students, caught the driver, beat him up and handed him over to police.

They also set the van on fire.

When a fire service vehicle went there to douse the flames, the angry locals vandalised it as well, said witnesses.

Later, the locals blocked the highway near the spot for nearly two hours, said Salehuddin, adding that it created long tailbacks on both sides of the road.

Evil political forces infiltrating student protest

Says Obaidul Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday alleged that evil political forces are infiltrating the students' peaceful movement.

"Vested quarters have extended political support to the student movement, and attempts have been made to transform the student protest into an anti-government movement," he said.

The AL leader was talking to reporters after a meeting with the party's secretary-level leaders at the AL president's Dhanmondi office yesterday afternoon.

Intelligence agencies are keeping an eye on some people and closely watching their movements, suspecting their links to the ongoing demonstrations, he mentioned.

Quader, also road, transport and bridges minister, called upon the agitating students to stay alert so that no vested quarter can take advantage of them capitalising on their non-political movement.

"The students should remain alert about the vested quarters that have extended political support to the movement. They [vested quarters] are trying to fish in troubled waters to create an

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Rumour mill goes into overdrive

Actress Nawshaba picked up

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over the last couple of days, some rumours have been spread apparently to undermine the peaceful student movement for road safety or to make it violent.

Some vested quarters are using social media, particularly Facebook, to serve their agenda, said high officials of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Showing some photographs at a press conference yesterday, DMP Commissioner Asaduzzaman Mia said the vested quarters have resorted to spreading rumours with photos dating back to 2012 and 2015 depicting police excesses on students.

In one such photo, a police official is seen holding a boy by his collar. The photo is from 2015 but it has been doing the rounds on social media over the past several days with the claim this is a moment of the road safety demo.

The city police boss called upon the people to remain alert to this sort of distorted and misleading items. He said police have launched investigation into the rumours, and those behind it would be identified and brought to book.

Many have been found sharing and posting such contents without verification, leading to confusion.

In one rumour, it was claimed that Dhaka Residential Model College expelled some of its students for joining protests.

However, the school authority later in a clarification said some students were sent home for parental motivation as they violated discipline. They have come back to their dormitories at the college.

Another post read that police picked up Sheikh Raian Ahmed Alif, an HSC student of Khilgaon Government Colony College, from his house in Kajla in Jatrabari. Later, a status from the supposed Facebook page of the youth said he was not detained.

Meanwhile, UNB reports, police filed a case with Ramna Police Station accusing 29 social media users and online news portals on charges of

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Mobile net slowed down

Many users say they can't access internet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mobile internet speed was brought down to minimum level yesterday evening so that picture or video could not be uploaded for next 24 hours following a recommendation of the law-enforcement agencies to limit street agitations.

The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission passed on the order yesterday afternoon to all mobile phone operators and asked them to implement it from 7:30pm, said a top executive of a mobile operator.

"The telecom regulator has directed us to bring down the speed for next 24 hours and after that they will evaluate the situation and give us new directives,"

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Wrestler Kane elected mayor of Knox County

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Glenn Jacobs, best known as Kane - a long-serving WWE superstar and former world champion - has been elected mayor of the third-most populous county in Tennessee.

Running as a Republican, Jacobs defeated Democratic candidate Linda Haney 31,739 votes to 16,611.

Jacobs was born in Spain and grew up near St Louis, Missouri, though his character Kane is

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Teacher hurls acid at boy

Says he mistook it for water

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A chemistry teacher allegedly threw acid on a student at a class room of Habiganj Technical School and College yesterday morning.

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PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 5					
Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN	4-20	12-45	5-00	6-47	8-15
JAMAAT	4-55	1-15	5-15	6-50	8-45
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION					

ফিটনেসবিহীন মোটরযান, ড্রাইভিং লাইসেন্সবিহীন ও মেয়াদোত্তীর্ণ ড্রাইভিং লাইসেন্স কিংবা কাগজপত্র না নিয়ে মোটরযান চালানোর বিরুদ্ধে ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণের সতর্কীকরণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সড়কপথে দুর্ঘটনা এড়াতে ও নিরাপদ ভ্রমণ নিশ্চিত করতে ফিটনেসবিহীন মোটরযান, ড্রাইভিং লাইসেন্সবিহীন ও মেয়াদোত্তীর্ণ ড্রাইভিং লাইসেন্স নিয়ে গাড়ি না চালানোর জন্য বিভিন্ন জাতীয় দৈনিকে বিআরটিএ কর্তৃক বারংবার বিজ্ঞপ্তি দেয়া হয়েছে। তারপরও, ইদানিং লক্ষ্য করা যাচ্ছে যে, সরকারি-বেসরকারি/ব্যক্তিগত বিভিন্ন প্রকার মোটরযানের বিভিন্ন কাগজপত্র নির্ধারিত সময়ের মধ্যে নবায়ন না করে গাড়ি চালাচ্ছেন যা বেআইনি। তাই জরুরি ভিত্তিতে সকল প্রকার মোটরযানের ফিটনেস, ট্যাক্স টোকেন, রুট পারমিট (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে) এবং গাড়ি চালকের ড্রাইভিং লাইসেন্স নবায়নের জন্য অনুরোধ করা হল। অন্যথায়, সড়কপথে ঐ সকল গাড়ি চালালে সংশ্লিষ্ট মোটরযানের রেজিস্ট্রেশন, রুট পারমিট ও চালকের ড্রাইভিং লাইসেন্স বাতিলসহ আইনানুগ কঠোর ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে। আরও লক্ষ্য করা যাচ্ছে যে, কিছু কিছু যানবাহনের মালিক ড্রাইভারদের ড্রাইভিং লাইসেন্স যাচাই না করে নিয়োগ দিচ্ছেন। যার ফলে সড়কপথে দুর্ঘটনাসহ নানা অপ্রীতিকর/বেআইনি কর্মকাণ্ড সংঘটিত হচ্ছে। উল্লেখ্য যে, বিআরটিএ'র বিজ্ঞ নির্বাহী ম্যাজিস্ট্রেটগণ ঢাকা মহানগরী ও এর আশেপাশে ফিটনেসবিহীন মোটরযান, ড্রাইভিং লাইসেন্সবিহীন ও মেয়াদোত্তীর্ণ ড্রাইভিং লাইসেন্স নিয়ে গাড়ি চালানোসহ মোটরযান অধ্যাদেশের অধীনে বিভিন্ন অপরাধের বিরুদ্ধে নিয়মিত মোবাইল কোর্ট পরিচালনা করছেন। তাছাড়া ৬৪ জেলার জেলা প্রশাসনের বিজ্ঞ নির্বাহী ম্যাজিস্ট্রেটদের মাধ্যমে এতদসংক্রান্তে নিয়মিত অভিযান পরিচালনা করা হচ্ছে। সড়কপথে শৃঙ্খলা ও নিরাপত্তা নিশ্চিতকল্পে এবং জেল জরিমানা এড়ানোর লক্ষ্যে সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলকে গাড়ির সকল কাগজপত্র (ড্রাইভিং লাইসেন্স, ফিটনেস ও অন্যান্য কাগজপত্র) হালনাগাদ করে সড়কপথে গাড়ি চালানোর জন্য অনুরোধ করা হল।

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