



People head for their destination on foot or motorbikes in Dinajpur town as transport workers forced different modes of transport including buses, minibuses and three-wheelers to stay away from roads yesterday, the second day of their countrywide 48-hour strike. Inset, Dinajpur-bound Ekota Express sees more than usual number of passengers at Gharinda station in Tangail at 1:00pm yesterday as many bus passengers opted for train journey due to the situation.

PHOTO: STAR



SECOND DAY OF TRANSPORT STRIKE

Pickets reign the roads

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Sufferings of commuters mounted on the second day of transport workers' countrywide strike yesterday.

They went on a 48-hour strike on Sunday morning to press for their eight-point demand mainly related to bringing amendments to the recently passed Road Transport Act-2018.

Commuters of Dinajpur, Rangpur and Joypurhat suffered a lot as picketing by transport workers continued in presence of their leaders on roads and highways.

"They have paralysed public life to press for their irrational demand. They are also creating obstacle when people travel on their own arrangements," said Rafiqul Islam of Baluadanga area of Dinajpur.

Pickers took position at College More, Baluadanga, Dinajpur bus stand and Phulbari bus stand in Dinajpur town, Dhap, Rangpur Bus Terminal area and Modern More and Bus terminal area in Joypurhat districts.

They were seen forcing the passengers of three-wheelers to get down.

Large quantities of goods including perishable ones like onion, which are imported through Hili land port, could not

be sent to different places due to the transport strike, said Harun Ur Rashid, president of Importer and Exporter Groups of Hili land port.

In Jhenidah, transport workers prevented the drivers of small vehicles like CNG-run auto-rickshaws, easy-bikes and human hauliers from running and forced passengers to get down.

Several commuters alleged that the administration is not taking action to stop harassment of commuters.

The transport strike mounted sufferings of people in different areas of Patuakhali.

Many people, especially those visiting Kuakata tourist spot, got stranded.

In Natore, many people requiring travel to different places for various purposes had to hire three-wheelers to go to their destination by paying almost double the usual fair.

"We cannot run our leguna on the highway as the transport workers beat our staff, vandalised the vehicles and snatched away keys," said Khorshed Alam, president of 'leguna association' in Natore.

Transport workers in Kurigram forced suspension of movement of three-wheelers on Kurigram-Chilmari and Kurigram-Bhurungamari routes yesterday, adding to sufferings of passengers.

Murder of Hindu woman sparks protest in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

People belonging to the Hindu community yesterday brought out a procession in Basail upazila headquarters, demanding punishment of the killers of housewife Jharna Rani Das, 48.

Earlier on Sunday, victim's relatives and neighbours recovered the body of Jharna, wife of Sunil Das of Raibari area in Basail municipality, after digging the floor of one of their neighbours' house at night.

Meanwhile, police detained Monoara Begum, 35, wife of Shahadat Miah, and Uzzal Islam, 27, of the area, for their alleged involvement in the killing.

Quoting deceased's family members, police said Monoara borrowed Tk 2,600

from Jharna a couple of months ago. As Monoara wasn't returning the debt Jharna went to her house on Sunday morning and remained missing since then.

When family members asked Monoara about Jharna's whereabouts she could not give any satisfactory answer.

Not convinced by her suspicious answer Sunil, along with some neighbours, entered Monoara's house forcibly around 11:30pm and recovered the body buried under the floor of one of the rooms.

During primary interrogation, Monoara said she with the help of Uzzal strangled Jharna and buried the body under the floor, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Basail Police Station Anisur Rahman said.

After killing Jharna, the duo took all her gold ornaments and sold those at a local market for Tk 25,000, the OC said.

3.2kg silver found while digging earth

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Huge quantity of silver ornaments weighing around 3.2 kilograms was found when labourers were digging the earth at a house in Nagarkanda upazila of the district on Sunday.

Dangi Union Parishad (UP) Chairman Kazi Abul Kamal said one Chan Mia of Judurdia village engaged four labourers to dig soil to build a sanitary latrine at his house.

At one stage of digging, labourers found the silver ornaments under the soil, he said.

Brutality on boy on 'theft charge'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A teenage boy was beaten mercilessly in Kishoreganj Sadar upazila over theft of a television about one year back.

Victim Shafiq Mia aged about 15 is now undergoing treatment at Kishoreganj General Hospital with severe injuries all over his body.

Shafiq Mia, son of Moti Mia of Kalikabari village in Kishoreganj Sadar upazila, has been living with his maternal uncle's family as his mother works as a house help in Dhaka since her separation from husband about two years ago, said local union parishad Chairman Emtiaz Sultan Rajon.

Victim's family members and locals said a group of people picked up Shafiq on October 22 and took him to the house of one Abdul Latif at the village, alleging that he stole a television set from Latif's house about a year ago.

The people know as Latif's men tied the boy to a tree at Latif's courtyard and beat him mercilessly with sticks.

At one stage of torture, when Shafiq, a construction worker, became uncon-

scious Latif's men left him in a nearby bamboo cluster and fled the scene, thinking that the boy might have died of the torture.

Later, local people rescued Shafiq and admitted him to Kishoreganj General Hospital.

Dr Ramjan Mahmud of the hospital said the boy sustained serious injuries all over the body, including the chest.

It will take another week for his full recovery, Orthopaedic Surgeon Dr Bidhan Chandra Banik said.

Farid Beg, a local ward member, said Latif had been blaming the boy since a TV set was stolen from his house about a year ago.

Shafiq's maternal uncle Delwar Hossain Badal said about 20 days ago Latif's men threatened his nephew of dire consequences for stealing the TV.

Shafiq's mother Fatema Begum lodged a case with Sadar Police Station accusing nine people, including Latif, on Sunday evening.

Kishoreganj Additional Superintendent of Police Masud Anwar said they were conducting drives to arrest the culprits soon.

Elderly woman killed by grandson

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

An elderly woman was killed, allegedly by her grandson, at her house on Girls' School Road in Bauful upazila on Sunday.

The victim was Sufia Begum, 65.

Victim's younger daughter Jahanara Begum filed a murder case with Baufal Police Station the same night.

Police arrested the alleged killer on the night from his residence at Dashpara village.

The arrestee is Mahedi Hasan Manna, 18, son of Sufia's elder daughter.

Patuakhali Superintendent of Police (SP) Md Mainul Hasan briefed journalists about the matter at his office yesterday in Manna's presence.

He said police learnt about the murder after a call on their emergency number 999 and recovered the body of Sufia from her residence, where she lived alone.

Police arrested Manna from his house about 2:00am yesterday and he gave confessional statement to them, the SP said.

The SP said about 20 days ago Manna had a quarrel with his cousin Aminul over a petty matter and threatened Aminul. After hearing about the matter, Sufia warned Manna that she would file case against him if he attacks Aminul.

"On Sunday afternoon, Manna went to Sufia's house and had an altercation with her over the matter. At one stage, he hit Sufia on the head with a brick, leaving her dead on the spot," the SP added.

"We will produce Manna to the court today to record his statement," he said.

Hindu family houses, temple vandalised

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Criminals vandalised three houses and a temple of a Hindu family over land dispute at Chohatta village in Aliabad union of Faridpur Sadar upazila around 10:00am yesterday.

Locals said Luxmi Rani Das and his family started living there after purchasing 55 decimals of land from Satish Chandra Roy in 1970. After Luxmi's death, her two sons live there now.

But Majibar Rahman of the village filed a case with a court in Faridpur, claiming ownership of the land.

Khokon Das, elder son of Luxmi Rani Das, said, "Majibar wants to grab our land. He with his men vandalised our three houses, a temple and an idol. They also assaulted our female family members and looted valuable goods."

This correspondent failed to take Majibar's version as his mobile phone was found off.

AFM Nasim, OC of Sadar Police Station, said, "Informed, police rushed to the spot but the attackers fled. Khokon Das filed a GD. We will talk with the two groups."

UNPLANNED EXCAVATION Road collapses into Kumar river

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Some 150 metres of a 2.5km concrete road went into the Kumar river in Kazi Kandi area of Nagarkanda upazila due to unplanned excavation of the river.

Thousands of people, especially students, in the area are suffering due to the road collapse.

Locals said the road collapsed on October 23 when Bengal Group started excavating the river in the area under a project of Faridpur Water Development Board (WDB), said Nur Hossain Bhuiyan, executive engineer of Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) in the district, adding that the work of excavation remained stopped since then.

A portion of the road went into the river due to unplanned excavation of the river by WDB, he said.

Tanvir Hossain, a worker of Bengal Group, said 850 horse power excavator was being used to excavate the river.

The worker suspected that as the sand was washed away from under the road due to excavation, it collapsed.

Israt Fakir, a residence of Kazi Kandi area, said they are facing huge problems after the road collapsed.

Faridpur WDB Executive Engineer Sultan Mahmud said this road collapsed due to excavation of the river. They will dump geo bags to protect the road.



Following brutal torture, 15-year-old Shafiq of Kalikabari village in Kishoreganj Sadar upazila fainted and fell to the ground.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



Long-desired Kushtia town bypass awaits inauguration. The photo was taken at Bottail in Kushtia Sadar upazila a few days ago.

PHOTO: STAR

Kushtia bypass opens today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to open the long-desired Kushtia town bypass to traffic today through a video conference.

A total of Tk 109.60 crore has been spent to construct the 6.60km road which will run from Bottail to Barkhada. Construction work of the road began in 2016.

At least 55.16 acres of land at six villages in Kushtia Sadar upazila were requisitioned for the purpose.

Two PC bridges and 20 culverts have also been built along the road which would relieve Kushtia town of heavy traffic congestion due to the Kushtia-Khulna highway that goes through the heart of the town. This highway is currently the only road link between the southwest and northern regions.

The people had been demanding construction of a bypass, but no government ever took the initiative to do so though foundation stone to construct the road was laid in 22 years ago.

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Nec) in 2015 approved the Kushtia Bypass Road project involving Tk 73 crore.

"It was our prime demand to construct the bypass for long. We thank the government as it has completed the work," said businessman Ajoy Sureka.

The people from all walks of life including students and patients in the town had been forcing to negotiate heavy traffic on their way to destinations for long.

Awami League Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif, also local lawmaker, said it was a commitment made by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during her visit to Kushtia in 2013.

Hanif said the people of the southwest and the northern regions would be benefited greatly by the bypass.

Woman gang-raped in Dinajpur hotel

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A woman boarder was gang-raped allegedly by a hotel manager and his friend in Parbatipur upazila early Sunday.

Later, Parbatipur police arrested the accused following a complaint filed by the 30-year-old victim.

The arrestees are hotel manager Nur Islam of Biswha Chandrapur village in the upazila and his friend Mamunur Rashid.

ASP Rafiqul Islam said the victim's mother has been suffering from cancer for long. She could not treat her ailing mother properly for their hardship. Recently she came to know that there is a homoeopathy doctor in Rangpur's Badarganj who treats cancer patients.

The woman along with her 18-year-old younger brother came to Badarganj to get the medicine on Saturday.

The siblings arrived at Parbatipur railway station around 9:00pm to get the train. But, they came to know that the Kurigram-bound train had already left Parbatipur station.

Later, the siblings went to nearby Hotel Deluxe to stay for a few hours.

But, Nur Islam caught the woman and took her to a room and locked her brother in another room. Nur and his friend Mamunur then raped her overnight.