

## BRTC BUSES Doomed to early demise

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Passengers may not get the best out of 600 new BRTC buses bought recently as the state-run corporation has a track record of ruining the vehicles well before their ages hit double digits.

Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) in 2011 imported 255 Daewoo buses, including some spare parts, for \$29.9 million. The vehicles were delivered in 2012 and 2013 but now only 138 of them are running, officials said.

The BRTC owns 1,445 buses, of which 921 are in service. Of the 524 out of service, 164 have to be written off and 360 need major repairs, said Almas Ali, a spokesperson for the corporation.

A lack of skilled mechanics, spare parts, inadequate maintenance, poor decisions made by the authorities, and corruption by a section of BRTC officials are to blame for the early demise of the buses, said officials concerned, wishing not to be named.

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- BRTC currently has 1,445 buses
- 921 are running, 524 broken down
- 360 need major repairs
- Repair of 164 not financially viable
- Buses run on 391 routes
- Has been incurring loss for last 2.5 years



Buses parked at a BRTC depot in the capital's Joar Sahara recently. There are 104 such vehicles at the depot and half of them are out of order. Inset, a battered BRTC bus plies a street in Motijheel area yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN/AMRAN HOSSAIN



A dream cut short  
SI killed in road crash in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Enamul Haque had just completed his training and was supposed to join Dhaka Metropolitan Police on Wednesday. But a fatal road accident only a day before cut his life short at 27.

The victim, of Gazipur's Kaliganj, was to join the DMP as a sub-inspector.

The accident happened on Tuesday when an ambulance hit a motorbike carrying the victim and his cousin in the capital's Bijoy Sarani area. They were returning to Uttarkhan after visiting Enamul's ailing father at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said Zane Alam Munshi, officer-in-charge of Sher-E-Bangla Nagar Police Station.

Enamul died at a city hospital yesterday.

His cousin Azizul Hakim, 24, is being treated at a hospital.

Enamul, son of a day labourer, graduated from Jagannath University and

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## Break the link

Strict measures to disconnect cops from narco gangs sought at police officers' meet

SHARIFUL ISLAM and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

IGP Mohammad Javed Patwary yesterday ordered the police officials to re-intensify the countrywide anti-narcotics drive.

He gave the instruction at a meeting at Rajargah Police Lines after a senior police official suggested that tough measures should be taken to break links between a section of policemen and narcotics syndicates, said meeting sources.

"Many policemen who are transferred for their involvement with drug syndicates again manage postings to their previous offices and indulge in the crime," said a superintendent of police at the meeting of field level police officials with the police chief.

ABM Masud Hossain, SP of Cox's Bazar, the gateway of smuggling yaba tablets into

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## POLYCHEM SYRUP TRIAL 1 year jail after 2 decades

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday jailed an official of Polycarb Laboratories Limited for a year for producing toxic paracetamol syrup and acquitted its three other employees following a prolonged legal battle that went on for 26 years.

The Dhaka Drug Court found Abdur Rob, director of the now-defunct company, guilty of manufacturing adulterated and sub-standard paracetamol syrup that caused death of 92 children in 1992.

The Directorate General of Drug Administration filed five cases against Polycarb and four other pharmaceutical companies between December 1992 and January 1993 after poisonous diethylene glycol was found in paracetamol syrup produced by them.

From 1982 to 1992, as many as 2,700 children

- 5 companies, including Polycarb, were sued for causing death of 2,700 children from 1982 to 1992.
- The kids died from renal failure after taking paracetamol syrup for fever.

died from renal failure after taking paracetamol syrup manufactured by these companies.

As per the Drug Control Ordinance 1982 under which the cases were filed, one can be sentenced up to 10 years in jail for producing and marketing toxic paracetamol syrup.

Yesterday, Judge Syed Kamal Hossain of the drug court also fined 65-year-old Rob Tk 50,000, in default of which he will have to spend three more

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## Teachers can't take coaching classes

HC upholds 2012 government policy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday upheld the government policy framed in 2012 to stop "coaching business" by the teachers of government and private educational institutions.

This verdict means the teachers of government and private schools, colleges and madrasas cannot coach students, Deputy Attorney General Mokhlesur Rahman told The Daily Star.

The bench of Justice Sheikh Hassan Arif and Justice Razik-Al-Jalil came up with the verdict after hearing five writ petitions, including three challenging the government "Policy-2012 to stop teachers from doing coaching business in educational institutions".



Unilever



An excavator demolishes an illegal structure on the bank of the Buriganga in the capital's Kamrangirchar area yesterday, the sixth day of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority's ongoing drive against encroachers.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## আন্তর্জাতিক বাণিজ্য মেলার সমাপ্তি উপলক্ষ্যে বাংলাদেশে গোল্ডেন আওয়ার - সনি প্রেসিডেন্ট

স্কুলবার ও শনিবার সকাল ১১ - ১২ টা এবং সন্ধ্যা ০৬ - ০৭ টা পর্যন্ত - দিনে ০২ বার!

দিনের অন্যান্য সময়ে চলবে - সনি-র্যাগ্রেস প্রেট এক্সচেঞ্চ অফিসে!!



মি: আতিউর রহমান

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মি: আতিউর রহমান সনি সিঙ্গাপুর এবং সনি কর্পোরেশনের অফিসের পক্ষ থেকে বাণিজ্য মেলা উপলক্ষ্যে অফিসের কার্যকর থাকবে।

## A BPL to cherish

SPORTS REPORTER

The sixth edition of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) will come to an end today with one of Dhaka Dynamites or Comilla Victorians taking the coveted trophy after the final at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur today.

Although the tournament had seen a few dull, low-scoring contests, it gathered steam and crowds were treated to some scintillating performances. The most exciting and unique aspect of this year's BPL was that it saw three hattricks after the previous five editions combined had

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