

# DHANMONDI CIRCULAR BUS Expansion of service postponed as owners' body opposes proposal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the face of objection from top leaders of bus owners' and workers' associations, the proposal of providing transport facilities to more people through newly-launched circular bus service in Dhanmondi area was postponed yesterday.

At the fifth meeting of the coordination committee formed for bringing discipline in mass transport service, resolving traffic jam, bus route rationalisation and introducing bus franchise service, Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) Chairman Farid Ahmed Bhuiyan proposed to bring Mohammadpur area under the coverage, to reach out their service to more people.

Currently, BRTC is operating the service between Nilkhet-Science Lab-Satmasjid Road-Dhanmondi 27-Mirpur Road with air-conditioned buses.

"A large number of people live in Mohammadpur, and if it [the area] could be brought under the circular bus service, more people will be benefitted," he said, proposing to increase the fare by Tk 5 for the extended area.

Right now, the minimum fare is Tk 10 and maximum is set at Tk 30.

Sources at the meeting said Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) Mayor Sayeed Khokon, who inaugurated the service on March 27, agreed to the proposal.

"Tk 5 is okay," Khokon said, adding that they are getting good response from people for the service.

The mayor too suggested increasing the number of buses on the route, and BRTC Chairman promised to add more in 10 days.

At this point, sources said, Khandaker Enayetullah, secretary general of Bangladesh Transport Owners' Association, opposed the proposal.

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# No face mask, vuvuzela in Shobhajatra

Baishakhi celebrations must end by 6pm

AGENCIES

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan yesterday said programmes to celebrate Pahela Baishakh must end by 6pm and face masks as well as vuvuzelas cannot be used during Mangal Shobhajatra (procession to welcome Bangla new year).

Law enforcement agencies will remain vigilant in this regard, he told journalists after a meeting at his office in Dhaka.

Mostafa Kamal Uddin, secretary to public security division; Inspector General of Police Javed Patwary; chiefs of police units and intelligence agencies were present, reports BSS.

The minister said the meeting decided to ban use of vuvuzelas and masks during Mangal Shobhajatra.

The government has taken tight security measures across the country, including at Ramna Batamul, Rabindra Sarobar and Hatirjheel, for smooth and peaceful celebration of Pahela Baishakh, UNB adds.

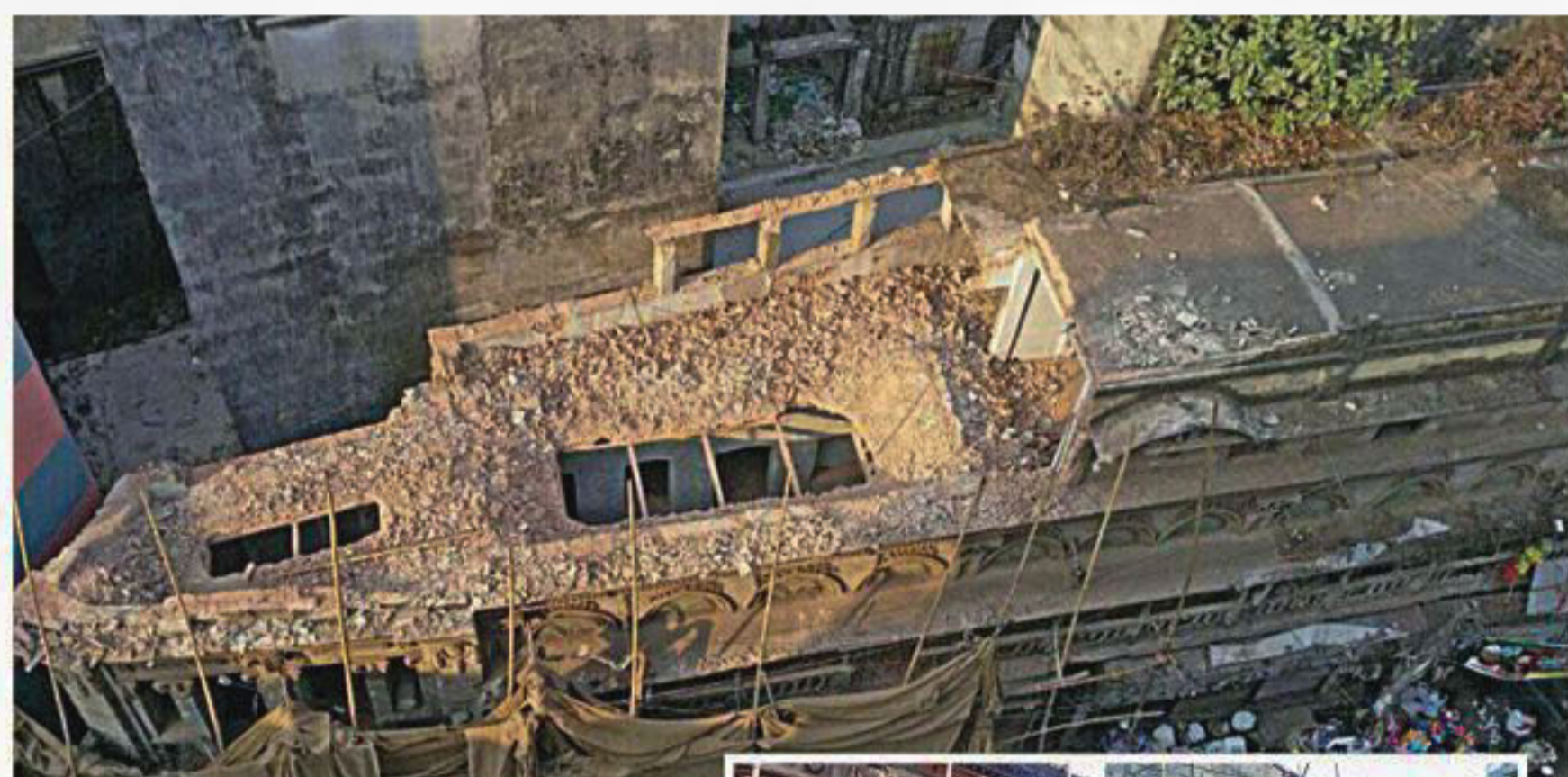
# PHOTO OF THE DAY

RASHED SHUMON



Children in various stages of diving. Although swimming, fishing, and washing clothes in Crescent Lake are prohibited, the rules didn't seem to hamper their playtime. The photo was taken near the parliament yesterday.

# Chawk Bazar's 'Jahaj Bari' faces demolition threat



Parts of the building were already knocked down when Urban Study Group filed a general diary to stop demolition. Inset, some banners were put up in front of the building, terming it "risky".

PHOTO: COLLECTED/STAR



HELEMUL ALAM

"Jahaj Bari", the ship-shaped building on Chawk Circular Road famous for its aesthetic value, is under threat of demolition.

Parts of the building were already knocked down when members of Urban Study Group (USG), an organisation working to protect Dhaka's architectural heritage, filed a general diary with Chawk Bazar Police Station last Friday citing an HC order, following which the law enforcers stopped the demolition work, and the jute mat covering on the outer walls (used during demolition of buildings) was also removed.

However, some banners were put up in front of the building, terming it "risky".

The High Court on August 13 last year

issued a directive on Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) to not approve or allow construction on, demolition or modification of 2,200 archaeologically significant buildings, listed by USG, until Rajuk prepares an amended list of its own scrutinising the USG list.

Moreover, the land is property of a Waqf Estate (a charitable donation that cannot be sold), according to a Waqf administration official.

Md Abdul Quddus, assistant administrator of Bangladesh Waqf Administration, said it is mandatory to take permission from them for handing over or selling a Waqf land, or doing any development work.

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# Road safety committee to take public opinion before finalising report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A committee led by former shipping minister Shajahan Khan will now take opinion from people before finalising their report on preventing road accidents and bringing discipline in the road transport sector.

The committee yesterday took the decision, after apparently failing to receive expected response from civil society members and media personalities.

As per yesterday's decision, the committee will upload its draft report on the website of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) today and people will be able to give their opinion for the next 15 days.

The committee will then finalise the report taking public opinion into consideration, Shajahan Khan told reporters after a meeting at BRTA auditorium.

Amid growing concern over frequent road accidents, the government formed the body on February 17 and the committee

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# Yaba inside corpse!

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Forensic doctors at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College, while conducting autopsy on a 40-year-old unidentified woman yesterday, found some solid items inside her stomach.

Taken out, morgue assistants discovered 57 small packets wrapped in tape. The packets contained around 1,500 yaba pills, said Zanea Alam Munshi, officer-in-charge of Sher-e-Bangla Police Station.

Yesterday's recovery of yaba from inside a dead body is the first of its kind. Law enforcers earlier arrested a number of people trying to smuggle yaba

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# SM HALL ATTACK Tougher movement if no action taken by April 8: Nur

DU CORRESPONDENT

Ducus vice president Nurul Haq Nur yesterday threatened to launch a tougher movement if the Dhaka University authorities do not take any action by April 8 against those who assaulted him and a resident student in separate incidents.

Nur gave the ultimatum at a press briefing at the base of Raju Memorial Sculpture, a day after a group of Bangladesh Chhatra League activists assaulted him and kept him confined in a room at DU's Salimullah Muslim Hall for at least one and a half hours.

"The Vice-chancellor has listened to our demands. We told him that no actions were taken against Chhatra League men who were involved with several attacks previously. We want the authorities to take exemplary steps in this regard by Monday," said Nur.

The Ducus VP also reiterated demands which include evicting outsiders and non-students from dormitories.

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# DHAKA TODAY

## WORKSHOP

Fact-Watch  
Venue: Ulab Campus B  
Time: 4pm

## LECTURE

Sketch A Day by Reesham Shahab Tirtho  
Venue: BU Urban Lab, 13/3 Iqbal Road, Mohammadpur  
Time: 10am



## ART EXHIBITION

Tumi Robe Nirobe  
Venue: Abinta Gallery of Fine Arts, AJ Heights  
Time: 10am

## WORKSHOP

Feminism in Contemporary Bollywood Cinema  
Venue: Canadian University of Bangladesh  
Time: 11am

## SESSION

The Bokulful Story  
Venue: Jatra Biroti  
Time: 6pm

Advertorial



Mr. Iftekharul Islam, Vice Chairman of Uttara Bank Limited & Managing Director of Aftab Group handed over cheques of Taka One crore to Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as donation to the "Prime Minister's Relief & Welfare Fund" for the help of fire incident affected people of Churihatta, Chawkbazar, Dhaka recently.



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