DHAKA

Dhanmondi Circular Bus Service

Commuters satisfied so far, want authorities to maintain quality

Julekha Parvin

As the bus pulls up, the driver opens the doors automatically at the push of a button. Those on board are first allowed to leave, before the passengers waiting in a queue can enter the bus that stopped at the corner of Dhanmondi Road 15 and Satmasjid Road.

This was the scene of the circular bus service on the Dhanmondi-New Market-Azimpur route that hit the roads on March 27 in a bid to ease commuting woes and traffic congestion in Dhanmondi and nearby areas.

Passengers can avail the service for Tk 10-30, depending on the distance travelled. As tickets are bought from makeshift booths under red and green umbrellas at every stop prior to boarding the bus, there is no rush nor a chance of haggling or dispute.

This service is part of a plan by Bus Route Rationalisation Committee, which was formed to bring city bus service under discipline. Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sayeed Khokon inaugurated the service that currently operates 19 air-conditioned buses. These 50seat buses ply two circular routes and stop at 36 points.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Md Jahurul Islam, a tickets salesman at Dhanmondi Road 15 bus stop, said, "People are responding positively to this new service." Some curious by-standers were also seen observing passengers embarking and disembarking with ease and the orderly manner in which the tickets were sold.

"Even if there's no seat available in one bus, passengers don't get frustrated as the next bus is just 5-10 minutes away," Jahuraul told



this correspondent last week. Most passengers at this stop were seen buying tickets to Science Lab, New Market, Azimpur, and Palashi.

University student Asma Sultana was standing in the queue, waiting to board, to go to New Market. She paid Tk 20 for her commute. "I was eagerly waiting for such a bus service," she said. "I have already used this service three times and there's no bargaining over fare or pushing and shoving to get on the

Recalling unpleasant experiences with public buses before, she said, "The service providers need to focus on maintaining quality. I hope it

does not turn into a typical public bus service in future."

inside the bus.

Niger Sultana, another passenger in the queue, said she commutes to Dhanmondi regularly from Azimpur to drop her son at school and pick him up. "We usually take rickshaw, but just last week, my son and I spotted the new buses stopping in front of the ticket booth and got curious. We have used the service for a couple of days, and so far so good."

It is a comfortable ride and hopefully quality of service will be upheld by Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation, said others waiting in the queue.

Motijheel bus depot manager Nayeb Ali, who is in charge of the service, said, "About 4,000 people are using the buses every day."

PHOTO: COLLECTED

"We are currently running a total of 80 trips a day with the buses. If an average of 16 buses run each day, each bus completes the circle four to five times, depending on traffic," he told The Daily Star on May 18.

There is a lot of traffic on the Dhanmondi-New Market-Azimpur route because of a high number of rickshaws and private cars. This service should improve the situation, Nayeb hoped.

The writer is an intern at The Daily Star

Govt negligence, transport owners' greed behind deaths on roads: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers demanding safe roads yesterday blamed government's negligence and the intentions of transport owners and drivers to maximise profits for frequent deaths on roads.

Apart from long-term projects, they also urged the government to take adequate measures to ensure safe and smooth journey for homebound people ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr.

The demands came from a human chain under the banner of "Stop death toll on the roads: ensure safe public transportation" in front of Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital in the capital.

A platform of 27 civil society organisations -- led by Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa) -- organised it.

Citing a survey done by the Centre for Injury Prevention and Research Bangladesh, Dr Abdul Matin, general secretary of Bapa, said that around 64 people die in road crashes every day across the country, of whom 14 are children.

Quoting the World Health Organization (WHO), he said around 21,000 people in Bangladesh die every year because of road accidents, and over 34,09,300 people are injured, leaving around 80,000 of them physically disabled.

"It is nothing short of murder, so the transport owners must be brought to book for irregularities in the sector," he added.

He presented a 17-point demand, including amending the Motor Vehicles Ordinance, 1983; bringing transport owners to justice; removing unfit vehicles

from the roads; recruiting drivers who would receive a monthly salary instead of wages; making the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) more transparent and effective and launching a training academy in every district to

enhance the skills of drivers. Speaking as chair, columnist Syed Abul Maksud, vice president of Bapa, claimed that the chaotic situation [on roads] is unprecedented.

He said expecting that the country can be changed in a day would be unrealistic, but the government has to be sincere in proper implementation of law. "Transport owners backed by an

influential group are responsible for the chaos, so the government should implement public-oriented policy to handle irregularities in this sector," he said. Former PSC chairman Ekram Ahmed,

president of Families United against Road Accidents, urged the government to bring adequate amendments to the vehicle law to control indiscipline. Prof Abu Sayeed, president of Doctors

for Health and Environment, blamed the mismanagement in the road transport sector for bad governance and social injustice in the country. "We want accountability in every sector," he added.

Among others, representatives from the Department of Environmental Science of Stamford University, Dhaka Jubo Foundation, TaruPallab, Bangladesh Ghuri Foundation, Old Town Citizens' platform, Work for Green Bangladesh and Bangladesh Jatri Kalyan Samity were also present.



Speakers at the human chain in front of Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital yesterday.



'Hizb ut-Tahrir' man held in Jatrabari

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Terrorism Unit of police claimed to have arrested a member of banned militant outfit Hizb ut-Tahrir from Jatrabari area in the capital city.

The arrestee was identified as Jahidul Islam, 37. He used to be a member of the outfit's media wing, Md Mahiduzzaman, superintendent of police (legal and media) at Antil'errorism Unit, told The Daily Star yesterday.

A special team of the unit arrested Jahid from Bibir Bagicha (Gate-1) area in Jatrabari on Thursday night, he said.

During the drive, the ATU team also seized a laptop, four mobile phones and extremist books from

his possession. SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

'Govt trying to kill Khaleda in jail without treatment'

Fakhrul claims

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday alleged that the government is trying to kill the party chief Khaleda Zia in jail.

"The government is prolonging Khaleda Zia's stay in jail by creating obstacles to her release using various ploys. They are trying to interfere in the trial and pushing her towards death in jail without treatment," he said.

Gulshan office, Fakhrul said the government is depriving the BNP chief of bail, although she deserves it in all the cases against her. "We think the government is showing an inhumane

Speaking at a press conference at BNP chairperson's

attitude towards Khaleda Zia by depriving her of legal rights. It's also tantamount to violating the constitution," the BNP leader added.

Fakhrul also alleged that the authorities are depriving Khaleda of her right to treatment. He said the party requests the apex court to grant bail to Khaleda and uphold her rights.

The BNP leader also urged the authorities to take steps for Khaleda's release so that she can receive proper SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

DHAKA TODAY

SEMINAR

Budget for higher education to achieve SDGs Organiser: Reading Club Venue: Social Science Building (2nd floor), Dhaka University Time: 2pm

EXHIBITION & TALK

Kala Kendra Kothopokothon 47 Venue: Kala Kendra, Mohammadpur Time: 4:30 pm

WORKSHOP

Advanced Photoshop Organiser: Through the Lens: Bangladesh Venue: Sony Flagship Store, Bashundhara City Time: 10:30 am

CHARITY EVENT

Clothes for homeless children Venue: Aziz Super Market, Shahbagh Time: 12pm

MEMORIAL SPEECH

Prof Muzaffar Ahmed's Contribution to Economics Organiser: Prof Muzaffar Ahmed Smriti Sangsad Venue: EMK Center, Dhanmondi Time: 11:30 am

SALE

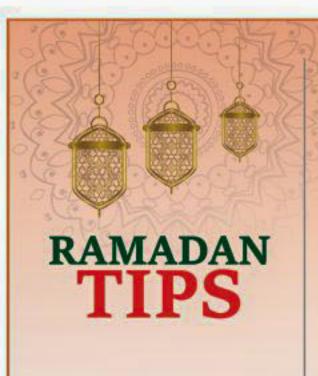
Organiser: Le Royal Venue: Le Meridien Dhaka

Time: 3pm

FOOD OFFER Taste of Arabia Venue: Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka Time: 6:30 pm

FAIR

Charu Eid Mela Venue: Midas Center, Dhanmondi Time: 12 pm



Fasting and Headache

The fasting headaches that Muslims experience at the beginning of Ramadan, are called First-of-Ramadan headaches which are triggered as a result of the fasting. Those with previous history of headache, either migraine or tension-type, are more likely to develop a fasting headache. Hypoglycemia does not seem to be a factor, as most Muslims eat a meal before dawn (sehri) and then a second meal after dusk (iftar). However, caffeine withdrawal from coffee and tea and dehydration may play a factor

in such headaches. Consumption of a caffeinated beverage and adequate intake of water before the fast (at the time of sehri) are likely to relieve the headache symptoms. For the migraine sufferers who fast in Ramadan, taking a long-acting pain reliever prior to fasting, adequate rest and sleep may prove effective to prevent fasting-induced

Dr. S M Hasan Shahriar Consultant, Neurology



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fell asleep in the lap of a family member, who also decided to sit down and catch a breath during shopping at a market yesterday.

Eid shopping is surely fun, but can also be exhausting for children as it takes a while for guardians to make their final choices. This little boy

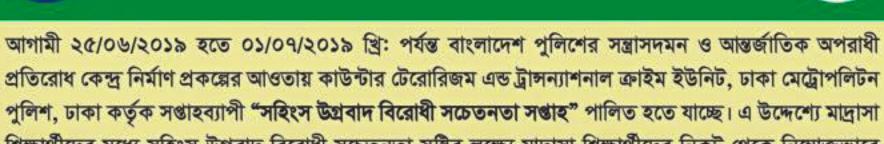


Hospital

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প্রতিরোধ কেন্দ্র নির্মাণ প্রকল্পের আওতায় কাউন্টার টেরোরিজম এন্ড ট্রাঙ্গন্যাশনাল ক্রাইম ইউনিট, ঢাকা মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ, ঢাকা কর্তৃক সপ্তাহব্যাপী **"সহিংস উগ্রবাদ বিরোধী সচেতনতা সপ্তাহ"** পালিত হতে যাচ্ছে। এ উদ্দেশ্যে মাদ্রাসা শিক্ষার্থীদের মধ্যে সহিংস উগ্রবাদ বিরোধী সচেতনতা সৃষ্টির লক্ষ্যে মাদ্রাসা শিক্ষার্থীদের নিকট থেকে নিম্নোক্তভাবে প্রতিযোগিতায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য রচনা আহবান করা হচ্ছেঃ

- ১। রচনার বিষয়বস্তঃ সন্ত্রাসবাদ প্রতিরোধে ইসলামের শিক্ষা
- ২। শব্দ সংখ্যাঃ সর্বোচ্চ ৫০০০
- ৩। রচনা পাঠানোর শেষ তারিখঃ ২০/০৬/২০১৯, বিকেল ১৭.০০ টা
- ৪। রচনা পৌছানোর ঠিকানাঃ উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার, কাউন্টার টেরোরিজম বিভাগ, কাউন্টার টেরোরিজম এভ ট্রাঙ্গন্যাশনাল ক্রাইম ইউনিট, ঢাকা মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ, ৩৬ মিন্টো রোড, ঢাকা। ই-মেইলঃ dcct.ct@dmp.gov.bd
- ১। পুরস্কারঃ ১ম পুরস্কারঃ ৫০,০০০ টাকা , ২য় পুরস্কারঃ ৩০,০০০ টাকা ও ৩য় পুরস্কারঃ ২০,০০০ টাকা।

প্রতিযোগিতায় অংশগ্রহণের নিয়মাবলীঃ

- ১। রচনা বাংলা ভাষায় লিখতে হবে। তবে উদ্ধৃতির ক্ষেত্রে বিদেশী ভাষার ব্যবহার হতে পারে। সে ক্ষেত্রে উদ্ধৃতির বাংলা অনুবাদ থাকতে হবে। ২। A4 সাইজের সাদা কাগজে নিজ হাতে লিখে অথবা এমএসওয়ার্ডে কম্পিউটার কম্পোজ (SutonnyMJ ফন্ট)
- করে পাঠাতে হবে (উভয় পৃষ্ঠায় নয়)। লাইন স্পেস ১.৫ ও ফন্ট সাইজ ১২। ৩। লেখার সাথে নিজের ও শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম, শ্রেণী/ বিভাগ, রোল, বর্ষ, শাখা এবং মোবাইল নম্বর (যোগাযোগের
- জন্য) উল্লেখ করতে হবে। ৪। প্রতিযোগীদের শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান প্রদত্ত শিক্ষার্থীর পরিচয়পত্রের ফটোকপি ও পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ০২ (দুই) কপি ছবি
- পাঠাতে হবে। ৫। প্রতিযোগীকে রচনার সাথে এই মর্মে অঙ্গীকার দাখিল করতে হবে যে, এই রচনা লেখকের নিজস্ব, রচনাটি অন্য কোন রচনা বা রচনার বাক্য বিশেষ অবিকল নয় বা হুবহু অনুবাদ নয়। উল্লেখ্য, অঙ্গীকার দাখিল করা সত্ত্বেও

যদি কর্তৃপক্ষের নিকট নির্ভরযোগ্য সূত্রে প্রমাণিত হয় যে, রচনাটি নকল বা অনুবাদ তাহলে তা বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।

- ৬. পুরস্কার প্রাপ্ত রচনাসমূহের সর্বস্বত্ত্ব কাউন্টার টেরোরিজম এন্ড ট্রান্সন্যাশনাল ক্রাইম ইউনিটের জন্য সংরক্ষিত থাকবে। কাউন্টার টেরোরিজম এন্ড ট্রাঙ্গন্যাশনাল ক্রাইম ইউনিট প্রয়োজনে নির্বাচিত রচনাসমূহ বা সকল রচনা নিজস্ব ওয়েবসাইটে বা বই আকারে প্রকাশ করতে পারবে।
- ৭. রচনা ডাকযোগে বা কুরিয়ার সার্ভিসের মাধ্যমে বা ইমেইলে পাঠাতে হবে। হাতেহাতে বা সরাসরি কোন রচনা গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।
- ৮। খামের উপর "সহিংস উগ্রবাদ বিরোধী সচেতনতা সপ্তাহ" উদযাপন উপলক্ষে রচনা প্রতিযোগিতা লিখতে হবে। ৯। বিচারকদের রায় চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।



কাউন্টার টেরোরিজম এন্ড ট্রাঙ্গন্যাশনাল ক্রাইম ইউনিট