

PHOTO OF THE DAY

SHEIKH NASIR

# 'Artificial' transport crisis spells misery for port city commuters

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

There has been an acute transport shortage on two major routes in Chattogram city for more than a year, as most public buses are being used for RMG workers after their duty hours.

Eventually, other commuters -- especially office goers -- said they face difficulties to go home after 6pm.

The authorities of readymade garment (RMG) factories in and outside the city reserve most of the buses and minibuses plying CEPZ-Bahaddarhat and Kathgar-Laldighirpar routes to carry their workers, factory sources said.

As a result, commuters find sparse public transports on those routes from 6pm to 8:30pm.

According to transport sources, around 400 buses and minibuses ply route no-10 stretching from CEPZ to Bahaddarhat and some 200 such vehicles on route no-6 from Kathgar to Laldighirpar.

Although a total of 600 vehicles are supposed to be operated on the routes throughout the day, hardly 20 are found after 6pm, said commuters.

This correspondent recently made a trip on the Kathgar-Laldighirpar route. There were adequate public vehicles in the afternoon but the scenario changed in the evening.

Hundreds of commuters were seen waiting for transport at Katgar, Steel

*"My residence is at Agrabad and the regular fare from CEPZ to Agrabad is Tk 7, but they demand Tk 20 in the evening seizing opportunity of the artificial crisis."*

Mill Bazar, Bandartila, CEPZ, customs intersection, Berek Building intersection, Agrabad Badamtoli intersection, Chaumuhani, Dewan Haat, Tiger Pass, Lalkhan Bazar intersection and GEO intersection bus stops.

Several buses and minibuses -- packed with RMG workers -- were also seen there.

Amid the "artificial" crisis, many buses take advantages of passengers by charging extra. After a 40-minute wait, this correspondent found a minibus at CEPZ intersection, as commuters rushed there and tried to board it.

Many of them, however, came back with unhappy faces as the helper demanded fare three to four times more than usual.

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A traditional Nouka Baich (boat race), organised by locals, was held on the Badaghat Chengerkhal in Sylhet on Sunday with hundreds of onlookers enjoying it from a bridge. Ten boats participated in the competition. Organisers say this is a century-old tradition.

## SAPLING PLANTATION IN RESERVE FOREST Tea estate staff bar forest officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chattogram

Forest officials in Chattogram yesterday said a sapling plantation programme of theirs at a reserve forest in Fatikchari was foiled by staff of a tea estate.

AZM Hasanur Rahman, assistant conservator of forest at Chattogram South Divisional Forest told The Daily Star that at least 70 persons from Halda Tea Valley -- armed with locally-made weapons -- took position to attack them at a nearby hill, when they started planting saplings at Anandapur area of the Ramgor-Sitakunda reserve forest yesterday afternoon.

"At one stage, they threatened us. Sensing danger, we contacted the manager of Halda Tea Valley, who claimed the land belongs to the tea estate," Hasanur said.

"I requested him to come over and help us detect the demarcation so that we could avoid their land and continue the plantation. However, he replied with more threats, saying we would face grave consequences if we continue the work there," Hasanur added.

Forest department planned to plant six thousand saplings at Anandapur, he said, adding that the land falls under Ramgor-Sitakunda mouja while the tea estate's land falls under Halda mouja.

Hasanur further alleged that at least 500 saplings that they planted were removed by the tea estate workers, and the rest were taken away by them. He also claimed that police and local administration did not help, and rather "took the tea estate's side."

Jahangir Alam, manager of Halda Tea Valley told The Daily Star that the High Court issued a status quo on the land where forest department was planting saplings.

He denied allegations of uprooting any saplings, adding that they sought help from local administration to maintain the status quo.

Sheik Abdullah, officer-in-charge of Vujpur Police Station told The Daily Star, "Some tension prevailed between tea estate staff and forest officials when they started planting."

"Since there is a long-standing dispute between

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## Life-term convict arrested 2hrs after escape from jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police yesterday arrested a man convicted to life-term imprisonment, two hours after he escaped from Rajshahi central jail.

Amar Kisku, 26, was arrested from the city's Dingadoba area while he was walking on the railway track at 12:15pm, said Golam Ruhul Kuddus, deputy commissioner and spokesperson of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police.

Amar, a member of the Santal community, was arrested at the age of 18 in 2011, in connection with the gang-rape and murder of schoolteacher Moriam Murmu in the same upazila.

He has been in jail since then. In May 2012, he was convicted in the case and awarded with 60 years of rigorous imprisonment.

Three other accused -- Johan Marandi, Andrias Murmu, and Shawkat Iqbal -- were awarded death sentence in the case; according to the judgement, Amar was not given capital punishment considering his age.

At 10am yesterday, he managed to flee the jail, climbing over the high boundary wall of the jail, the police official said, quoting their sources.

No one from the jail authorities received phone calls despite repeated attempts, to comment on how the man escaped from jail.

However, the jail authorities filed a case against Amar with Rajpara Police Station, accusing him of escaping prison and hindering government activities, the police official said.

## 10 DU students receive Sitara Parvin Award

DU CORRESPONDENT

Ten students of Mass Communication and Journalism at Dhaka University (DU) yesterday received Prof Sitara Parvin Award for their outstanding results in BSS (Hons) examination in 2018.

The awardees are: Mehjabin Bashir Tuly, Sharmin Jahana Juha, Fayaz Ahmed, Abdur Razzak Sohel, Tonmoy Saha Joy, Namrata Talukder Arpa, Tahmina Akter Jeny, Sumaiya Tanim, Shamima Nasrin and Meherun Nahar Meghla.

Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof Md Akhtaruzzaman handed certificates and cheques among the recipients at a programme held at RC Majumdar Arts Auditorium of DU.

Dr Imtiaz Ahmed, director of DU Centre for Genocide Studies and professor of international relations, delivered the Sitara Parvin Memorial Lecture at the programme, presided over by Prof Kaberi Gayen.

Prof Md Akhtaruzzaman paid tribute to the memory of Prof Parvin, saying that she was an honest, sincere, and devoted teacher of the university. He congratulated the recipients of the award and their parents.

Prof Sitara Parvin died in a road accident in the USA on June 23, 2005.

## Conference on sustainable fisheries ends in Sylhet

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

For the first time in Bangladesh, a two-day international conference on sustainable fisheries was organised at Amanullah Convention Hall in Sylhet city and ended yesterday afternoon.

International Conference on Sustainable Fisheries (ICSF) was organised by the Faculty of Fisheries of Sylhet Agriculture University (SAU).

There were 227 participants from 14 countries, including 32 foreign professors and scientists, said the organisers.

Prof Md Matiar Rahman Howlader, vice chancellor of the university, chaired the closing session of the conference. Sirajul Hoque, general manager of Animal Health Division at Renata Limited, was present as guest of honour while Prof Md Tariqul Alam, dean of the Faculty of Fisheries and chairperson of the conference, delivered the welcome speech.

The conference was inaugurated on Sunday morning by Agriculture Minister Dr Muhammad Abdur Razzaque as chief guest, where Dr David C. Little, professor at Institute of Aquaculture of University of Stirling in Scotland, presented the keynote paper.

There were three technical sessions on the first day, and six on the second day.

On the first day of the conference, the sessions were organised at different halls of the convention centre. The sessions

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## Road accidents kill 10, injure 15

STAR REPORT

At least 10 were killed and 15 injured in road accidents across the country yesterday, according to reports from our correspondents.

In Sylhet, a man was killed and 12 were injured after a collision between a CNG-run auto-rickshaw and a human haulier in Pargana Bazar area in Sylhet Sadar upazila.

The deceased is Sohel Miah, 26.

Police, quoting locals, said Sohel and his friends were going on a trip to Jalong via the auto-rickshaw. The accident left 13 people injured initially.

Later, Sohel died at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital, minutes after locals took him there. Both the vehicles were seized and the injured are undergoing treatment at the hospital.

In Dhaka, a woman was killed when a speeding truck hit her at Dhulivita in Dhamrai upazila.

The deceased is Fatema Begum, 42.

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As peak hilsa fishing season is on, fishermen get out on small dinghy boats -- braving inclement weather, at the estuary of the Padma and Meghna rivers in Barishal. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS



Using a hose, a teenager tries to cool off in the scorching heat at Paroirchak landfill in Sylhet. According to Met office, temperatures have been in mid to high 30s in Celsius over the week.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

## Ehsan Elahi new BRTC chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday appointed Ehsan Elahi, an additional secretary of Road Transport and Highway Division, as chairman of Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC).

Public administration ministry issued a gazette in this regard yesterday.

The ministry on July 21 issued a gazette appointing Rahamat Ullah Md Dastagir, additional secretary of power division, as BRTC chairman. As he did not take over, outgoing chairman Farid Uddin Ahmed Bhuiyan discharged his duties.

The public administration ministry yesterday cancelled Rahamat's appointment.

**SOUTHEAST UNIVERSITY**

**7<sup>th</sup> Convocation 2020**  
27 February 2020

**Venue: Bangabandhu International Conference Center, Agargaon, Dhaka**

The Students of Southeast University who have completed their degree requirements during Spring 2016 to Fall 2018 are invited to participate in the 7<sup>th</sup> Convocation to be held on 27 February, 2020. Interested students are requested to complete Online Registration from **25 August to 15 October 2019** following the steps below:

- Fill in the Application Form online available at [www.seu.edu.bd](http://www.seu.edu.bd)
- Pay applicable Registration Fee to the banks listed below:
  - Registration Fee: Single degree - Tk. 6,500/-
  - Double degree - Tk. 8,000/-
  - Accompanying person (Maximum 2) - Tk. 1,500/- (Per Person)
- Authorized Banks:
  - Midland Bank Ltd. 0002-1050003643
  - Prime Bank Ltd. 20731050002617
  - SIBL 40131310000030
  - Brac Bank Ltd. 1507200853926001
  - Dhaka Bank Ltd. 020615000001033
- Take a print-out of the receipt/token of the form and submit the same to the Registration Booth at the main campus of the University (House 64, Road 18, Block B, Banani, Dhaka 1213) along with i) Payment Receipt, and ii) Documents specified in the Online Registration Form.
- Bring all previous Original Certificates at the time of submission of application.
- Limited Registration on **First come first served basis.**

**For details, please contact: 01799389465**