

'A chance to make hefty profits'

Jatri Kalyan Samity alleges govt increased bus, launch fares for transport owners' interests

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Jatri Kalyan Samity yesterday alleged that the government has increased bus and launch fares to give the transport owners a chance to make hefty profits.

Rejecting the government-fixed public transport fares, the organisation asked the government to re-fix "reasonable" fares for the buses and launches, which will be acceptable to all.

The organisation's secretary general Md Mozammel Hoque Chowdhury came up with the demand at a press conference at Shishu Kalyan Parishad Auditorium in the capital's Segunbagicha.

He said the low and middle-income people have been facing a major crisis, as the government has increased the fare, ignoring the interest of passengers.

After the fuel price hike, the government said the bus and launch fares would be increased to a tolerable level in consultation with all stakeholders, but that did not happen, he said.

Sharifuzzaman Sharif, a member of the organisation's advisory council; its vice president Tauhidul Haque Liton; joint secretary general M Manirul Haque; and publicity secretary Anwar Hossain, among others, spoke at the event.

After a lengthy negotiation with transport workers, bus and launch fares are now up by as much as 28 percent and 43 percent, respectively. This development came after diesel and kerosene prices were hiked by Tk 15.



When this photographer visited the Kalunagar canal on November 8, 2017, the water body -- located in the capital's Hajaribagh area -- was outright buried under garbage, *inset*. But thanks to Dhaka South City Corporation's cleaning efforts, relocation of tanneries and locals' awareness, the same canal now stands rejuvenated, with its water flowing just as it should be. This photo was taken yesterday from the same spot of the inset photo.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Those doing low-quality work will face action

Says LGRD minister on construction of roads, bridges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD) Minister Md Tazul Islam yesterday said if quality is not ensured when constructing roads, bridges or culverts, those responsible for shoddy work will have to face "dire consequence".

The minister made the comment during a views-exchange meeting on development issues with government officials, public representatives of Kotallipara and political leaders at the auditorium of upazila parishad.

Tazul said they will take action against anybody involved with low-quality work.

"We will even take legal action against contractors, engineers and others, if they remain involved with low-quality work," said the minister.

Mentioning the necessity of sustainable development to build a developed

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Over 70pc teenagers exposed to cybercrimes

Reveals ULAB survey

ASIFUR RAHMAN

More than 70 percent of teenagers were exposed to cyber-stalking, bullying, or blackmail online, while around 75 percent said they or their seniors or peers had sent or been asked to send explicit messages, photos, or videos, according to a recent survey.

Only 13.4 percent of the victims sought help from their parents and 15.9 percent from their teachers. Only 7 to 35 percent said they are willing to seek help from law enforcement, police cybercrime units, or dedicated apps, helplines, or websites.

The survey was conducted by Dilshad Hossain Dodul, Sumon Rahman and Mahmudunnabi,



faculty members of the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh's (ULAB) Department of Media Studies and Journalism.

According to the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission, the number of internet users in Bangladesh

increased by 26.21 million from January 2020 to August 2021.

A large proportion of them are presumably teenagers who have newly acquired internet access for academic purposes due to the closure of schools and colleges amidst the pandemic, said Dilshad Hossain Dodul.

The survey was participated by 298 individuals aged 13 to 19 at Bhairab, Barisal, Satkhira, Jessore and Sreemangal, followed by a focus group discussion with 25 participants.

A total of 86.6 percent of the respondents reported that they fear the risk of getting exposed to cybercrimes.

The survey also found that

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Tiger found dead in Sundarbans

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Forest officials have recovered a dead tiger from a remote area of Sundarbans.

The deceased tiger's corpse was recovered near Chunkuri Rajakhalai canal of Satkhira range under West Sundarbans on Saturday evening, said MA Hasan, assistant forest conservator of the range.

Upon getting information from fishermen, forest officials rushed to the spot and recovered the tiger's cadaver, he said.

The forest official said the body of the tiger was

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Gathering dust instead of cleaning it

With six sweeping trucks lying idle, CCC decides to buy two more

MOSTAFA YOUSUF

Though six of Chattogram City Corporation's sweeping trucks are gathering dust at a dumping ground in the port city for years, the city authorities have taken up plans to buy two more vehicles at the cost of Tk 8 crore.

Procured in phases from 2011 to 2019, the six sweeping trucks have been lying abandoned at the Sagorika dumping ground. Three of them have gone totally out of order, while the remaining three haven't been used in months.

Equipped with gutter brooms and dust collection bins, the trucks were deemed incompatible with the country's dusty

environment and bad condition of the city's roads, according to CCC. When the trucks swept the roads, they threw up dust into the air, which swirled and did not go away, they added.

As a result, rather than reducing it, they increased sufferings of city dwellers, who often locked into altercation with the drivers over the matter. This is what led to the closure of the vehicles' operations, according to CCC officials.

For this reason alone, it is all the more confusing why the city corporation chose to buy two more of the same vehicles under a project of the Local Government Division (LGD) recently.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Three teens die as bike hits tree in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Three teenagers died after the motorcycle they were riding hit a tree by the road in Tangail's Ghatail upazila yesterday morning.

The deceased are: Md Sharif, son of Samir Uddin; Abu Bakar, son of Shah Jalal; Saim, son of late Ramzan Ali of the upazila.

All three were 16-year-old and ninth graders at Dhalapara SUP High School.

The three went out, on the bike, in the morning. As they reached near Dhalapara Sorisha Ata intersection around 10:30am, their speeding

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Lying unused for 28 years!

Installed in 1993, Postogola crematorium's electric furnace only ran for three months



DIPAN NANDY

In 1993, Postogola's Shamshan Ghat finally got its own electric furnace to cremate the deceased. The then unified Dhaka City Corporation brought it in to help members of the Hindu community complete their burial rites in an environmentally-friendly way.

But after running for three months, the furnace has not been operated again, to this day. This is all the more surprising as the furnace was transformed from an electricity-based one to a gas-based one, and yet, it hasn't been used for a single day since that time.

Postogola Maha Shamshan hosts the highest number of cremations in the country. It was founded way back in 1876, when influential zamindar Babu

After 28 years of neglect, the furnace room and the adjacent one that houses its controllers, wires, and other equipment, have basically turned into a storeroom for the shamshan ghat.

PHOTO: DIPAN NANDY

Gobindra Chandra Datta donated a piece of land for it. It initially ran on money donated by wealthier Hindus.

For a long period, it stayed under the domain of Dhaka Municipality, before being handed over to the city corporation. In 1993, the city authority set up the electric furnace for around Tk 3 crore.

But within three months, the coils inside the furnace got damaged, putting a stop to its operation. Confusingly, it never got repaired, and even after its system was transformed to a gas-based one in 2008, its cogs never turned again.

STATE OF THE FURNACE TODAY

Besides the furnace, the shamshan ghat has three funeral pyres. One of it is out

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Two automatic train washing plants set up at Dhaka, Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Railway yesterday got its first automatic washing plant for carrying out quick cleaning works and saving water.

One such plant was installed at Dhaka's Kamalapur Railway Station while another was installed at the Rajshahi Railway Station.

Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujon inaugurated the plant at Kamalapur while the one in Rajshahi Railway Station was inaugurated by Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton.

Apart from the two plants, 200 meter-gauge and 50 broad-gauge carriages were brought in under a Tk 1,374.50 crore project funded by Asian Development Bank.

According to a BR document, the plants have been brought in from the United States and can be operated both automatically and manually.

Currently, the cleaning of the trains are done manually.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



Bangladesh Railway has installed two automatic train washing plants at Dhaka and Rajshahi, as part of a railway project funded by Asian Development Bank. Brought in from the United States, the plant would take only ten minutes to wash a 14-carriage train and save 1 lakh litres of water daily. This photo was taken yesterday at Dhaka's Kamalapur Railway Station.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

BLOGGER ANANTA BIJOY DAS MURDER Trial deferred again in absence of witnesses

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A Sylhet court yesterday deferred witnesses' deposition for the case filed over murder of blogger and science writer Ananta Bijoy Das, as no witness appeared.

Md Nurul Amin Biplab, judge of Anti-terrorism Special Tribunal in Sylhet, set November 22 as the new date for deposition, said Mohammad Monir Uddin, a lawyer of the plaintiff.

He said, "So far, 20 witnesses' testimonies were recorded out of 29. But two key witnesses remain absent, even after repeated summonses by the court."

The two witnesses are the case's investigating officer and police's Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Inspector Arman Ali and IT Forensic unit's sub-inspector Masud Siddiky.

Earlier on October 26, the witnesses' deposition was deferred too. Testimony of the last witness

was recorded on October 12.

Ananta was killed on the morning of May 12, 2015 at Subidbazar area, near his residence, in Sylhet. Banned militant outfit Ansarullah Bangla Team claimed responsibility for the murder.

Ananta's brother Ratneswa Das had filed a murder case that day, and the investigation was later handed over to CID.

On October 18, 2016, CID Inspector Arman Ali pressed a charge sheet, which the court rejected. A supplementary charge sheet was later filed on May 9, 2017.

The accused are Shafiur Rahman Farabi, Mannan Yahya alias Mannan Rahi, Abul Khaer Rashid Ahmed, Abul Hossain alias Abul Hussain, Harunur Rashid and Faisal Ahmed.

Among them, Farabi and Abul Khaer are now in jail. Mannan died on November 2, 2017, after he fell ill at Dhaka Central Jail. The other three accused are on the run.