

GHATARCHAR-KANCHPUR ROUTE

120 buses under one authority from Dec 1

Operations to start on pilot basis as part of bus route rationalisation project

HELEMUL ALAM

A total of 120 brand new, green-coloured buses will ply Ghatarchar-Kanchpur route under a single authority on a pilot basis from December 1, as part of the government's bus route rationalisation initiative.

Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority (DTCA) has already prepared a draft guideline to run the buses under the name "Dhaka Nagar Paribahan". It has also prepared a draft of the joint venture contract for agreement among bus owners.

All the buses will run under a management committee comprising bus owners, and it will be responsible for the whole operation, said an official of Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC).

He said the committee will report to DTCA.

Currently, there is no guideline to run the buses in the capital. Discussions centring the draft guideline will take place in a meeting with stakeholders on December 24. It will then be presented at the 19th meeting of the bus route rationalisation committee on December 28 for approval.

Around 40 passenger stoppages and

AT A GLANCE

- » Management committee comprising bus owners will be responsible for operation
- » Draft guideline for the buses will be presented to authorities on Dec 28
- » 40 passenger stoppages and 16 bus-bays to be installed on pilot route
- » Passengers must buy tickets from counters to board bus
- » Buses will have to embark from designated bus terminals, depots
- » They will only be allowed to park at designated spots

16 bus-bays will be installed on the pilot route. But work for bus-bays will start after inauguration, the DSCC official said.

No passenger will be allowed to board the bus without a ticket, which will have to be collected from certain counters, he said.

Design of the buses has already been

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Buses parked in two lines take up about half of this section of the capital's Azimpur road pretty much all day, every day. This condition forces all kinds of vehicles to squeeze through an otherwise wide road. Despite this being a regular practice, authorities seem to be turning a blind eye. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

7 decades of cultural exchange

British Council celebrates 70th founding anniversary in Bangladesh



Stevie Spring CBE, chairperson of British Council, presenting a historic photograph to Education Minister Dipu Moni on the occasion of the 70th founding anniversary of British Council in Bangladesh.

PHOTO: COURTESY

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"When I was a student of Dhaka Medical College, I used to study at the British Council Library regularly. It was a time when there was no internet and we had to rely on physical libraries to learn about the world. For many students like us, the library was the perfect place to get in touch with the contemporary world, to read the global literature and famous international magazines."

With these words, Education Minister Dr Dipu Moni recounted her memories with the British Council during a reception programme on Monday celebrating its 70th founding anniversary in Bangladesh.

In November 1951, British Council opened an office on 17 Nazimuddin Road with only two employees.

At that time, its functions were mostly arranging visits of distinguished guests from the UK, setting up exhibitions and fielding educational inquiries.

However, according to the minister, in the last 70 years, this organisation has evolved to be a provider of educational services, a centre for cultural activities and an advocate of women's empowerment and inclusive community.

At the event, Tom Misciocia, director Bangladesh, British Council, said, "We now have offices in three cities in the country with a team of over 200 staffers, 95 percent of whom are Bangladeshis working with partner organisations in 64 districts in the country."

"It is very special to see all our valued partners and friends here today who have helped us over the last 70 years to create the impact across the country," he added.

Robert Chatterton Dickson, British high commissioner to Bangladesh, said, "As a diplomat I have worked with the British Council for 30 years in many

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Mother, son burnt in Mugda fire die

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two of the four family members burnt in a fire in Dhaka's Mugda area on Monday have died.

The deceased are Priyanka Baroi (32) and her son Arup Boidya (5), confirmed Dr SM Ayub Hosen, resident surgeon of Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery.

Arup died around 10:00pm last night with 67 percent burn injuries and Priyanka around 2:00am with 72 percent burns, the doctor said.

They were both being treated at the intensive care unit of the hospital.

The two other victims -- Priyanka's husband Sudhanshu Boidya (35) and her mother Shefali

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BCL INFIGHTING

30 students suspended, CMC to reopen Nov 27

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong Medical College (CMC), which was closed following a clash between two factions of Chhatra League (BCL), will reopen on Saturday.

The decision came at a meeting of the college academic council yesterday, confirmed Prof Dr Shahena Akter, principal of CMC.

According to the decision, the male dormitory will remain closed while the female one will be opened on Friday.

The authorities during the academic council meeting also decided to take punitive actions against as many as 30 students for their involvement in the clash.

Of them, eight were suspended for two years, two for one and a half years and 20 for one year, the principal said.

One internee doctor was also found guilty in the investigation by the probe body formed to investigate the clash, added

the principal.

On Monday, the probe body headed by Dr Motiur Rahman Khan, a professor of CMC general surgery department, submitted the probe report to the principal.

Dr Shahena, who presided over the academic council meeting, said all the previous allotments of the male hostel have been cancelled, and the students will have to apply anew for allotment.

Meanwhile, both the BCL factions rejected the decision of suspension. In this regard, the college unit of BCL issued a statement yesterday.

Chittagong Medical College was announced closed for an indefinite period following the clash on the campus on October 30.

CMC student Mahadi J Aqib, a BCL activist and follower of Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury Nowfel, was critically injured during the clash.

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9 members of teen gang held in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of Rapid Action Battalion claimed to have arrested nine members of a Mohammadpur-based teen gang and seized sharp weapons, a toy pistol and yaba from their possession.

Rab came to know about the gang known as "Vaibha Lo King" after it arrested four teens on charge of mugging a couple at Dhaka Udyan area in Mohammadpur on Monday night.

The three others are below the age of 18.

Rab also recovered a stolen wrist watch and bag from the arrestees.

Following their information, Rab arrested five other members of the gang.

Seven knives, an axe,

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New drug 'DOB' seized, 3 held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) claimed to have seized the narcotic DOB (dimethoxybromoamphetamine) for the first time in the country yesterday.

On information of a consignment of LSD (lysergic acid diethylamide), a DNC team conducted a drive in Khulna on Monday and arrested two suspects -- Asif Ahmed Shuvo and his friend Arnab Kumar Sharma.

The team also arrested Mamunur Rashid, manager of Khulna's Boyra Bazar Sundarban Courier Service, for assisting the narcotics trade.

The DNC team traced and seized a consignment of around 90 blots of DOB upon interrogating Shuvo, said Md Fazlur Rahman, additional director of DNC. They also found LSD blots from Shuvo's residence.

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Investigators said Shuvo used the dark web and cryptocurrency, and purchased around 200 blots of DOB, a psychedelic drug.

Within a month of placing the order, the consignment was delivered directly from Poland to Shuvo's Khulna residence through an international courier service, which remained undetected due to the absence of high-quality scanners at the airport.

Shuvo then kept the consignment at Arnab's place, which was seized by the DNC team during the bust.

The DNC officials received information about the consignment of DOB and started investigating.

The officials, in the guise of drug abusers, ordered five blots of LSD from the supplier. The parcel then reached the Elephant Road branch of Sundarban Courier from Khulna.

Restricted, yet being sold in open market

Drug for chronic illness being abused, say law enforcers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Oxymorphone, a drug used to reduce pain induced by last-stage cancer and chronic heart disease, and for surgery patients, is reportedly being abused due to its availability in the open market, claimed the detective branch (DB) of police.

DB arrested two persons -- Alamgir Sarker and Jahidul Islam -- with 13,000 pieces of oxymorphone in their possession from the capital's Dhanmondi and Kotwali areas on Friday.

Addressing a briefing at its media centre yesterday, AKM Hafiz Akter, additional commissioner of DB, said detectives arrested the duo while conducting drives in courier service offices at Dhanmondi and Babubazar.

Detectives claimed that the medicine is only supposed to be sold against the prescription of registered physicians.

Special permission is required to import its raw material, and for production and sale, and pharmacies are not authorised to sell the drug without the supervision

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CPB leader released 18 hours after detention

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communist Party of Bangladesh leader Sajedul Huq Rubel was released 18 hours after police detained him allegedly for his involvement in organising a labour movement.

Police picked him up around 10:30pm on Monday from his Senpara residence in Dhaka. But the Kafrul police initially declined it. He was released around 4:30pm yesterday, said Ali Kawsar Mamun, president of CPB Ward-14.

Sajedul was spearheading a labour movement of workers of "4 You Clothing Limited" and "Fashion 2000 Limited" in Senpara for several days, to increase their benefits, he said. The workers were staging sit-in in front of the factory from Sunday.

Workers of different factories alleged that local ruling party activists barred many garments workers from joining the protest. They chased away workers at different alleys of Mirpur-14 and also threw brickbats at them.

Kafrul Police Inspector (Operation) Jahanur Ali said the chase counter chase took place between groups of workers and there was no involvement of activists of any political party. Meanwhile, OC Hafizur Rahman yesterday said they detained Sajedul for questioning on Monday night. "We have released him after quizzing."

CPB yesterday rallied at Purana Paltan protesting the detention of Sajedul, who is the immediate past general secretary of its Dhaka unit.



Due to security reasons, some gates of the capital's Ramna Park remain closed, while others welcome in visitors. But just to save a few minutes, many people take the unnecessary trouble of climbing over the closed gates, instead of walking for some distance to enter through the open ones. Aside from this being a violation of the rules, such climbers are at risk of getting injured in the process. This photo was taken yesterday.

YOUTH TIED UP, TORTURED

Newly-elected UP chairman arrested in Dhamrai

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Police have arrested 12 people including the newly-elected chairman of Balia Union Parishad in Dhamrai, Mojibur Rahman, on charges of assaulting a youth.

The arrestees were sent to a Dhaka court yesterday.

On Monday evening, Mojibur and his cohorts tortured a local youth -- Israfil Hossen (32) -- over previous enmity. They ambushed him at Shurapur, tied and beat him up.

They also vandalised his house, said Inspector Wahed Parvez of Dhamrai police. Israfil filed a case against 24 people. In the elections held on November 11, Mojibur contested with the "boat" symbol and got elected with 6,658 votes.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUNON