

ROAD SAFETY Cops foil hunger strike by students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police have foiled the hunger strike by agitating students demanding half fare at all public transport across the country and safe roads yesterday.

Witnesses said a group of students gathered inside the Jatiya Press Club under the banner of "General Students" around 12:15pm and started marching towards the secretariat from there.

Around 12:30pm, the agitating students assembled in front of gate-2 of the secretariat to hold their pre-announced programme, when police came in to remove them from the spot and snatched their banners.

Later, police brought them back in front of the press club. At that time, students were shouting slogans in favour of their nine-point demand to ensure half fare, road safety and justice for the victims.

One of the students -- Mohidul Islam -- said, "We have rejected the gazette notification on half bus fare. We demand half fare at buses, train, launch and metro rail without any condition." According to Mohidul, police didn't allow them to hold the hunger strike in front of the secretariat, saying that there was "VVIP movement" in the city.



This year's Victory Day merits a special place in the country's journey. For a nation oppressed under multiple rules, for a state once dismissed by the elites of world politics, today, Bangladesh hits 50 years of independence, excelling across many development indicators. Fitting for the occasion, landmarks across the capital have been adorned in bright lights and festive decorations. This photo was taken from Motijheel area.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Why illegal 3-wheelers still on the roads?

HC directs authorities to take action

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed authorities concerned to locate illegal three-wheelers plying across the country and take necessary steps to remove them from the roads.

The court also issued a rule asking authorities to explain why their inaction to halt import and local production of illegal three-wheelers should not be declared illegal, Deputy Attorney General Amit Dasgupta told The Daily Star.

Secretaries at the ministries of industries; road, transport and bridges; environment, forest and climate change; executive chairperson of Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA); chairperson of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority; chairperson of National Board of Revenue; and inspector general of police have been made respondents to the rule.

The HC bench of Justice Mamnoon Rahman and Justice Khandaker

Dilruzzaman issued the order and rule, following a writ petition filed by Kazi Zashimul Islam, president of Bagha Automobiles Ltd, seeking necessary directives on the issue.

Citing the petition, petitioner's lawyer Atique Towhidul Islam said easy-bikes, illegal three-wheelers that are powered by recycled lead-acid batteries, are not approved by Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology and are not registered under BIDA.

The government does not get revenue from easy-bikes, and such vehicles pose risks to public health, he said.

Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh in September last year announced to take legal action against all such battery-run three-wheelers from that very day, but the situation remains the same.

DSCC conducted drives against the three-wheelers on October 5 last year, but

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

VICTORY DAY Unesco launches children's books

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Unesco, in collaboration with The Asia Foundation, launched "Children's Books on Traditional Games" yesterday as part of celebrating Bangladesh's 50th Victory Day and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's birth centenary.

The Asia Foundation and Unesco's Dhaka office joined forces to produce and disseminate books and reading materials on Bangladesh's cultural heritage and promote reading among children and youth of Bangladesh, according to a statement.

A piece of furniture, a piece of history

Tales of the table where surrender document of Liberation War was signed

DIPAN NANDY

At first glance, it doesn't look much different from any other table. In fact, you or someone you know may own one bearing the very same design.

But the table kept at Shahbagh's Bangladesh National Museum is unlike any other in the entire world. Indeed, for Bangladeshis, it bears witness to one of the most significant events in the country's history. On December 16, 1971, General Amir Abdullah Khan Niazi signed the surrender document of the war on behalf of the Pakistan army on top of this table.

Today, it occupies a special place at the museum. Complete with a caption stand, it always pulls in the eyes of the visitors by its sheer historical significance, for the table does not bear any noteworthy aesthetic element.

Coming in at three by one-and-a-half feet, it features a wave-like pattern



Fifty years on, the table stands as a major attraction at the Bangladesh National Museum in the capital's Shahbagh.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



on the top and two cleaved lines on legs that gradually narrow as they reach the bottom.

History tells us that arrangements for the signing programme at the then Ramna Racecourse, now rechristened

Suhrawardy Udyan, was done in a hurry. Although representatives of both the Allied Forces and the Pakistan Army were there, no table to sign the surrender document was available. As there were no furniture shops or offices nearby, the table and two chairs were brought in from Dhaka Club.

The table was later collected by the personal efforts of then Dhaka Museum -- now Bangladesh National Museum -- Chief Executive Firoz Mahmud.

"Later on, Dhaka Club recognised the table as one of theirs," he said.

Firoz recounted to this correspondent his journey of recovering the table. "The day after the army surrendered [December 17], I went to the Racecourse. I didn't go there to collect the table. I went there just to see the spot where the surrender took place. But I did ask around for the table, but left after I couldn't find it."

"Around January, 1972, I suddenly heard that the table was in the possession of a Dhaka University staffer. Without delay, I rushed there and found it at the Dhaka University

staff welfare association's office, which was beside the Shaheed Sergeant Zahurul Haq Hall."

"Its possessor wasn't a staffer, but a young man. After I asked him where he found it, he confirmed that he collected it from the Ramna Racecourse on December 17 early dawn," Firoz recalled.

But the saga didn't end there. As Firoz asked for the table, its owner vehemently refused to let it go. "I even offered to buy him another one that looked the exact same, but he rejected the offer."

"After I told him of its historical significance, he finally softened and promised to hand it over once his exams ended in May. He kept his words."

"As soon as I got it, I brought it back to the museum. However, I could never find the chairs where the signatories of both parties sat during the surrender programme," Firoz said.

A year after its recovery, the table started being exhibited at the National Museum since May 12, 1973, where it stands to this day. Meanwhile, a replica is put up for display at Suhrawardy Udyan's Museum of Independence.

জয় বাংলা

জয় বঙ্গবন্ধু

মহাবিজয়ের মহানায়ক

THE GREATEST HERO OF THE GLORIOUS VICTORY

জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের জন্মশতবার্ষিকী ও বিজয়ের সুবর্ণজয়ন্তী উদ্‌যাপনে বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ ভবনের দক্ষিণ প্রাঙ্গণে দুই দিনব্যাপী অনুষ্ঠানমালার প্রথম দিন

১লা পৌষ ১৪২৮/ ১৬ই ডিসেম্বর ২০২১

- বিকাল ০৪:৩০টায় মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী বঙ্গবন্ধুকন্যা শেখ হাসিনার পরিচালনায় সুবর্ণজয়ন্তী ও মুজিববর্ষের শপথ
- মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রীর সভাপতিত্বে বিশেষ আলোচনা অনুষ্ঠান
প্রধান অতিথি : জনাব মোঃ আবদুল হামিদ, গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশের মহামান্য রষ্ট্রেপতি
সম্মাননীয় অতিথি : শ্রী রাম নাথ কোবিন্দ, ভারতের মহামান্য রষ্ট্রেপতি
ভাষণে বক্তব্য : ড. শিরীন শারমিন চৌধুরী, এমপি, মাননীয় স্পিকার, বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ
আ.ক.ম. মোজাম্মেল হক এমপি, মাননীয় মন্ত্রী, মুক্তিযুদ্ধ বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়
স্বাগত সম্বোধন : ড. কামাল আবদুল নাসের চৌধুরী, প্রধান সমন্বয়ক, জাতীয় বাস্তবায়ন কমিটি
- বঙ্গবন্ধুকন্যা শেখ রেহানা কর্তৃক সম্মাননীয় অতিথিকে মুজিব চিরন্তন শ্রদ্ধাঙ্গরক প্রদান
- জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের জন্মশতবার্ষিকী উপলক্ষে বাংলা ও ইংরেজিতে প্রকাশিত দুটি স্মারকস্বত্বের মোড়ক উন্মোচন
- সবশেষে বর্ণাঢ্য সাংস্কৃতিক অনুষ্ঠান

অনুষ্ঠানটি বাংলাদেশ টেলিভিশন ও বাংলাদেশ বেতারের মাধ্যমে সকল টেলিভিশন, বেতার, অনলাইন ও সামাজিক যোগাযোগ মাধ্যমে সরাসরি সম্প্রচারিত হবে

জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের জন্মশতবার্ষিকী উদ্‌যাপন জাতীয় বাস্তবায়ন কমিটি

বিজয়ের পঙ্কশ
গৌরবের উচ্ছ্বাস
লাল-সবুজের মহাউৎসবে
বেঙ্গুর আত্মবিক্রম শুভেচ্ছা

মাদের মহান আত্মত্যাগে
আমাদের এই স্বাধীনতা,
মহান বিজয় দিবসে
সেইসব বীর শহীদের প্রতি
বেঙ্গুর
গভীর শ্রদ্ধাঞ্জলি

বাংলাদেশের
সুবর্ণজয়ন্তী
Bangladesh

বাংলাদেশ রপ্তানী প্রক্রিয়াকরণ এলাকা কর্তৃপক্ষ