

Fuel, fare, frustration

Day 1 of price hike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Day one of increased fuel price saw scuffles between bus staffers and passengers, a shortage of transport and taking additional fares by the staffers.

The reason shown by transport workers behind the excessive hike in fares was that new fare charts were yet to be prepared in line with the fuel price hike.

Meanwhile, rickshaw pullers, drivers of CNG-run three-wheelers and human-hauliers also took additional fares from commuters as this correspondent found during visits to Gulistan, Paltan, Shahbag, Science Laboratory, Banglamotor, Karwan Bazar and Farmgate yesterday.

The authorities on Saturday increased bus fares up to 22 percent, with the per kilometre fare for long-route buses being Tk 2.20 from the existing Tk 1.80. The fares for city buses saw an increase by 16 percent with the per kilometre fare being Tk 2.50 from the existing Tk 2.15.

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After walking long stretches of the road, this woman had to carry her daughter the rest of the way, as the little one's feet couldn't take their long search for public transport on the roads yesterday. Most of the buses remained suspended ever since the announcement of the fuel price hike. And for those who did manage to get a ride, they had to take on desperate measures like hanging from the bus entrance, holding onto the bars for dear life. These photos were taken in Shyamoli area.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

5-yr-old strangled to death by 'mother'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A five-year-old baby was strangled to death allegedly by her mother in Dhaka's Rampura area yesterday afternoon.

The deceased is Jhumur, daughter of Shompa Akter and Jasim Uddin.

Shompa, a mother of two and six-month pregnant, had been going through mental issues for a long time, her family members said.

Shompa's bother Jamal Uddin said his sister along with her daughter and son came to his house near Rampura's Kunjaban area from her residence in Savar for treatment purposes.

"Around 2:00pm, she took her daughter in the room and locked the door from inside. When we opened it, we found her on top of the baby and covering the baby's face with a pillow with one hand...", Jamal said. As the

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PRAYER TIMING
AUGUST 8

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:20	12:45	5:00	6:47	8:15
JAMAAT 4:55	1:15	5:15	6:50	8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Political solution the only way forward

Say speakers on dealing with indigenous issues



Speakers at the seminar yesterday. The event was jointly organised by National Coalition for Indigenous People, Research and Development Collective and Bangladesh Adivasi Forum in cooperation with Manusher Jonno Foundation at The Daily Star Centre.

PHOTO: STAR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The indigenous issue should not be seen through the prism of security, rather it should be dealt with politically and that is the only way to resolve this, said speakers in a seminar yesterday.

The event was jointly organised by National Coalition for Indigenous People, Research and Development Collective and Bangladesh Adivasi Forum in cooperation with Manusher Jonno Foundation at The Daily Star Centre yesterday, ahead of International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

Rashed Khan Menon, founder and chief advisor to the Parliamentary Caucus on Indigenous and Minority Affairs, said the effort to resolve indigenous issues requires a political solution. "Many development initiatives have been taken in CHT, costing the indigenous peoples their peace," he said.

He also mentioned that the condition of the indigenous peoples of the plain lands is even worse.

"We commit not to leave behind anyone in realising the Sustainable Development Goal by 2030. However, the indigenous peoples

are being left behind. We see the commitment only in words when it comes to them, devoid of any reflection in the budget," he added.

Narrating the history of how the debate centring on the word "indigenous" surfaced, Menon said in 1994, when the celebration of the day was launched in the country, the messages issued by both the then prime minister Khaleda Zia and then opposition leader and current Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina clearly mentioned the word "indigenous".

"Awami League leaders even mentioned the word in their

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Covid test kit for Tk 250

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Council of Science and Industry Research (BCSIR) yesterday officially announced the development of a low-cost Covid-19 detection kit.

The Department of Drug Administration already approved the production of the Tk 250 kit, speakers said at a programme held at the BCSIR auditorium.

State Minister for Science and Technology Dr Yafes Osman inaugurated the kit named "BCSIR-Covid Kit", which is the first time that a government-run organisation developed an RT-PCR kit to detect Covid.

BCSIR chair Prof Aftab Ali said about 1 crore 31 lakh 58 thousand 764 samples have been tested so far. Each Covid test costs approximately Tk 3,000-5,000. This large number of kits were entirely imported.

"BCSIR-Covid Kit will have a positive impact on our country's economy," he added.

The Limit of Detection (LoD) of this kit is 100 copies/mL, which is 1000 copies/mL in the case of other kits. This implies that this kit will be able to identify covid patients sooner than other kits.

The drug administration has approved the production of the kit.

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The fresh hike in fuel prices, especially diesel, has left the country's people in serious miseries. But the government is least bothered.



MIRZA FAKHRUL ISLAM ALAMGIR
BNP Secretary General

“

This price hike has disappointed all quarters. It has proved that the government has no mercy towards the people.



GM QUADER
Jatiya Party Chairperson

“

The government will adjust the prices again if it drops in the international market.



OBABDUL QUADER
Awami League
General Secretary

We're far behind in fulfilling dream of Bangabandhu

Speakers tell webinar on his visions to become self-reliant with energy reserves

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is far behind the policies of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to be self-reliant with the country's energy reserves, speakers said at a webinar yesterday.

They said Bangabandhu had an ambition for using national energy but the governments succeeding him did not show any interest in enhancing the capacity of state-owned institutions.

Bangladesh Energy Society (BES) organised the webinar titled "Sustainable Energy Security in Bangladesh: Vision of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman".

Engineer Khandaker Salek Sufi during this keynote presentation, said, "His [Bangabandhu] vision was to ensure power and energy to all Bangladeshis at affordable cost and to rely on national primary fuel in the long term."

"Bangabandhu took back five gas fields -- Titash, Bakhrabad, Habiganj, Rashidpur and Kailashtila -- from the international oil companies, which are our major gas suppliers till now. He invited six international oil companies to explore the sea, other foreign companies to find coal, mines etc within his only three-and-a-half-year tenure," Salek Sufi said.

He said it was Bangabandhu's vision to give a sustainable and equitable supply of electricity to all. "We need long-term energy sourcing, policy and actions to fulfill his visions," he added.

The prime minister's energy advisor Tawfiq e-Elahi Chowdhury blamed the current energy crisis in the country on the "westerners."

"This is not a problem we created ourselves. The westerners have put us in this danger," he said.

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A motorbike rider looks at the fuel meter at a filling station with much anxiety and concern. Like him, a large number of people have to bear the brunt of the fuel price hike. This photo was taken in Tejgaon Industrial Area yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

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