

'Robbery in broad daylight'

Commuters in peril with extra fare on day 2 of price hike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

According to the BRTA chart, the fare for the Farmgate-to-Victoria Park route was Tk 17. Bihanga Paribahan used to charge Tk 3 extra for this 7.9km route.

After the recent hike in fuel price, the government has increased the bus fare from 2.15 paisa to 2.5 paisa per kilometre. The new fare on the mentioned route enforced from Sunday is Tk 20.

However, the streak of overcharging by Bihanga buses continues, who are now charging Tk 30 on the route.

Bihanga Paribahan is not the only one. Passengers travelling on all public transport have been charged extra yesterday.

This correspondent boarded an Ajmeri Glory Paribahan bus from Sadarghat to Gazipur's Chandra route and found passengers were being charged Tk 5 to 10 extra.

The fare charts are yet to be hung on the buses even after two days of the new fares coming into effect, and

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Laws, mindset and awareness vital

Speakers tell event on ensuring women's safety

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Alongside formulation and enforcement of relevant laws, a change in social mindset is required to prevent different forms of offline and online harassment against women, participants said at an event yesterday.

Moreover, training and sensitisation of relevant stakeholders, especially law enforcers, and building mass awareness are essential, they added.

Young Bangla, a youth platform of Centre for Research and Information (CRI), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) jointly organised the event styled "Policy Cafe" on "Women's Safety in Public Places" at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital.

At yesterday's event, Israt Farzana, assistant coordinator of Young Bangla, shared the findings of an online survey conducted by CRI in April-May this year covering 24 districts.

The findings revealed that at least 87 percent of women reported some form of harassment in public spaces. Of

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Although this seems like a quintessential Dhaka morning, a closer look reveals that the number of buses were much lower compared to what could typically be seen. Interestingly, though the bus movement has decreased owing to the fuel price hike, the state of traffic almost remains the same. This photo was taken from Saat Rasta in Tejgaon area yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Raise your voice as one

Speakers urge ethnic minorities for getting their rights

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To achieve their rights, ethnic minorities should come forward and protest collectively, forgetting differences among themselves, said speakers at a seminar yesterday.

They said if the groups become united and continue their protests, their demands will definitely be met one day.

"There are many differences among different groups of ethnic minorities in plain lands, but they will have to be organised," said Haimonti Sarkar, chief executive of People's Union of the Marginalized Development Organization (PUMDO), one of the keynote speakers in the seminar.

Pallab Chakma, executive director of Kapaeng Foundation, in his keynote speech said ethnic women are the worst sufferers of environmental disasters.

Women of Mro and Tripura

communities were the main sufferers when a rubber company set fire to 350 acres of Jhum land, a village forest and garden in April. But the administration did not take any effective measures against the perpetrator, he claimed.

Natural water resources are being dried up, and biodiversity is being damaged due to the indiscriminate lifting of stones from hill streams, Pallab said.

Citing examples of different surveys and research work, he said at least 22,300 acres of the Mro's land have been encroached without their consent, and at least 1,100 Mro families have been evicted from their own places in 30 villages.

He demanded acknowledgment of ethnic people's identity, language and culture in the constitution through its amendment.

Sanjeeb Drong, indigenous community leader, said ethnic minorities do not destroy forests,

rather they take care of them.

Urging ethnic minorities to be united, Rashed Khan Menon, chairman of parliamentary standing committee on social welfare affairs ministry, said though ethnic minorities in hill areas are united, the situation of plain land ethnic minorities is even worse.

While talking as chief guest, he said the effort to resolve indigenous issues requires a political solution.

Khushi Kabir, coordinator of Nijera Kori, said commissioners of different commissions are blamed for not doing their work. But it is also true that no logistics are being provided to them to do their work properly.

In Chattogram Hill Tracts, commissioners were being given charge, but they cannot perform their duties properly.

Prof Robaet Ferdous said the number of ethnic minorities in

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5 women receive Bangamata Padak

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday handed over Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Padak 2022 to five distinguished women for their outstanding contributions to different fields.

The award recipients are: Syeda Zebunnesa Haque (Sylhet) in politics, lawmaker Selima Ahmed (Cumilla) in economics, Dhaka University former Pro-Vice Chancellor Nasreen Ahmad in education, Achhia Alam (Kishoreganj) in social service and valiant freedom fighter of Gopalganj district Ashalata Baidya (commander during the Liberation War) in independence and Liberation War.

The award giving ceremony was held at Osmani Memorial Auditorium and the prime minister joined the event virtually from her official residence Gono Bhaban.

State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Fazilatun Nessa Indira, on behalf of the premier, handed over the awards.

At two places simultaneously?

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Left-leaning student leader Joy Dip Bhattacharjee went to India on July 29 for medical treatment.

According to his documents, he has not come back still. However, what's interesting is his inclusion in a case filed over an incident that occurred in Shabagh on Sunday.

The case was filed over an "attempted murder" of a policeman by some left-leaning activists who were protesting the recent fuel price hike.

Another activist Mashiur Rahman Khan Richard, who was protesting at Hatirpool, was charged in the same case.

SI Polash Shaha filed the case against 21 named persons and 20 to 30 unnamed persons with Shabagh Police Station, said OC Moudut Hawlader.

While the protestors claimed that police attacked the peaceful demonstration they were staging, law enforcers, on the other hand, claimed to have been attacked by them.

"We deny their baseless allegations and demand an immediate withdrawal of the case. Otherwise,

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PRAYER
TIMING
AUG 9



	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					



Although law enforcers and activists halted the demolition of this century-old heritage building in Old Dhaka, conservationists are still pessimistic if it has been stopped entirely. The over 100-year-old structure's owners had already sold off some parts of the property, violating a High Court's directive on demolishing British Era buildings.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED, COLLECTED

NO ROOM FOR HERITAGE

After Neelam Ghar, another century-old building on brink of destruction

HELEMUL ALAM and DIPAN NANDY

It seems like Dhaka is on its way to remove all traces of its glorious past as another heritage building is on the brink of destruction, ready to be lost like many other historical structures of the city.

Locals said present owners of a two story heritage building located at 20 Pyari Das Road in Bangla Bazar, have started to demolish it a few days back.

But it was stopped when police went there and challenged the move, they said.

The development comes only a month after the demolition of the Neelam Ghar, a century-old heritage building in Old Dhaka.

But activists are not so hopeful even though the demolition work have stopped.

Taimur Islam, chief executive of conservation organisation Urban Study Group, said they were informed by architect Augustin Anjan on Wednesday morning about the demolition of the over 100-year-old building and managed to stop it with the help of law enforcers from Sutrapur Police Station.

"But from our past experience, we can say that there's no reason to think that it has been stopped permanently. We're certain that they are going to start again today or tomorrow, maybe in the middle of the night. That's what they do," he said.



He also said the initiative is a violation of a 2018 High Court directive that ordered the authorities to stop changing, modifying and demolishing 2,200 British-era buildings named in USG's list of heritage sites in Old Dhaka.

Contacted, Md Momin Uddin, director (zone-7) of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk), said they sent their local inspector just after getting this information and coordinated with the local police station to stop the work.

"This building is not in the heritage list of Rajuk. But it is listed among the 2,200 British era buildings that the High Court ordered to conserve," he said.

"We will issue notice to the owners as they

have violated the directive. If they do not provide satisfactory answers or take steps in this regard, we will submit a complaint report to the Supreme Court in this regard," he added.

He clarified that the demolition process did not begin with Rajuk's approval, which is another violation of the existing laws.

Besides, locals have alleged that influential political leaders were behind the demolition.

Despite repeated attempts, Arif Hossain, councillor of ward-43, could not be reached for comments.

During recent visit to the site, it was found locked and these correspondents could not find anyone.

According to Rajuk, the name of the current owner of the building is Hazi Md Kamal Hossain.

Contacted, his manager "Salman" said local police station told them that they could not demolish the building so they stopped the work.

As to why they were demolishing the heritage building, he did not answer.

He also did not want to disclose the name of the owner and stopped receiving calls from this correspondent.

THE HERITAGE BUILDING

This two-storied building stands on a sprawling

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