

Commuters suffer as usual

Transport workers go on strike with five-point demand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Sylhet's transport workers went on an indefinite strike from yesterday morning to press home their five-point demand.

The strike, called by Sylhet Zilla Sarak Paribahan Sramik Somonoy Parishad, will be observed in all four districts of Sylhet division, and Brahmanbaria district from today.

The five demands of the workers include stopping the harassment by traffic police, excessive fine collection, withdrawal of the metropolitan police commissioner, deputy commissioner of the traffic department, and additional deputy commissioner of Sylhet police.

Ali Akbar Rajon, joint general secretary of Sylhet Zilla Bus Minibus Coach Microbus Sramik Union, said, "We have been making these demands for a long time. On September 8, we formed a human chain and submitted a memorandum to the home minister but to no avail."

Meanwhile, no bus left Sylhet Kadmatoli bus terminal

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Commuters had to walk long distances after getting off at Kadmatoli bus stand, since no modes of transportation were seen operating in the city streets yesterday. Transport workers in Sylhet went on an indefinite strike from morning to press home their five-point demand. Inset, at Humayun Rashid Chattar, 70-year-old Nawab Ali lies on a roadside while his wife tends to him. Nawab fell sick after waiting for transportation for hours to go to Companiganj.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

YABA RECOVERY

Arrestee's bail triggers mixed reaction

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Younus Miah Prokash Liton, who was arrested in a case filed for smuggling 38,887 yaba tablets to Saudi Arabia in October 2020, got ad interim bail from a Dhaka court yesterday.

The bail order has triggered a mixed reaction among lawyers and litigants, court sources said.

Liton was arrested on April 24 from Matuail Maternity in Kadamtoli. The next day, he gave confessional statements before a Dhaka magistrate.

In the forwarding report submitted on April 25, Masudur Rahman, also an inspector at Department of Narcotics Control, mentioned Md Asadullah, another accused in the case, told the court that Liton and Hasmat Ali Prince kept those yaba in three cartons for sending to Saudi Arabia where expatriate Rafiqul Islam will receive those.

Moreover, Liton confessed to the magistrate that he along with Prince, Rafiq and Md Sharif had been running yaba

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PRAYER TIMING



SEPTEMBER 14

Fazr Zohr Asr Magrib Esha

AZAN 4:35 12:45 4:30 6:14 7:45

JAMAT 5:10 1:15 4:45 6:17 8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Helmets: crucial in saving lives

Only 34pc bikers use helmets, says study

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN, from COX'S BAZAR

Even though the number of motorbikes and deaths in bike-related accidents is rising sharply, only 34 percent of bikers wear helmets while driving, according to a recent study conducted by the World Bank and Buet's Accident Research Institute.

Around 53 percent of bikers wear helmets most of the time, 10 percent wear them once in a while and two percent do not wear helmets. Of the bike-related deaths, 88 percent of bikers were found to be without helmets.

Wearing a helmet accurately reduces fatality by 40 percent and severe injury by 70 percent, the study added.

The study was conducted between July 2019 and July 2021 among 400 riders in Dhaka, Barishal and Dhaka-Mawa expressway and Dhaka Gaibandha Road.

Kazi Md Shifin Newaz, assistant professor of ARI, presented the study at a training session in Cox's Bazar recently.

According to ARI's data, at least 1,168 people were killed in 994 bike accidents last year, whereas there were 1,097 deaths in 958 bike-related accidents in 2020.

According to Road Safety Foundation, at least 2,144 people were killed in 1,733 road accidents in the first four months. Bike-related accidents alone were responsible for 830 deaths, which is 38.71 percent of the total deaths. Researchers said not wearing helmets or using low-standard ones is the reason behind this rising number of deaths in motorbike accidents.

Addressing the training session, Taifur Rahman, programme manager of Global Road Safety Partnership, said there is nothing mentioned in the law about the standard of a helmet. Bangladesh Standards and Training Institution has no mechanism for it.

Khalid Reza Chowdhury, assistant director of the certification marks (CM) wing of BSTI,

imported. "Our officials will check the quality of the helmets that arrive at the ports. They can be sold in the market only after being certified by our officials," he added.

Meanwhile, experts said the government should bring the motorbike sale and licensing under monitoring.

Speaking at the training, Sahin Islam, director general of National Institute of Mass Communication, said with the number of non-licensed

bikers is also increasing.

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority, in an advertisement published in a newspaper on May 9, said the number of registered bikes and issued licenses are 36.50 lakh and 23.50 lakh respectively, implying that around 13 lakh bikers do not have licenses.

The number of registered motorbikes was 22.70 lakh and licensed riders 11.32 lakh in 2018. He said the issuance of fake licenses also needs to be checked properly.

SAFETY FIRST

RISK FACTOR

Not wearing helmets or using low standard ones

Not bringing motorbike sale, licensing under monitoring

Year	Crashes involving bikes	Number of Deaths
2021	994	1,168
2020	958	1,097

Year	Registered Bikes	Issued Licenses
2022 (Till May)	36.50 lakh	23.50 lakh
2018	22.70 lakh	11.32 lakh

Meanwhile, the ARI study also revealed that around 62 percent of bikers do not wear helmets when they are on a short trip and 19 percent do not wear one during hot weather.

Besides, 45 percent of bikers feel uncomfortable and 21 percent feel suffocated, the study added. Experts recommended initiating research to develop more comfortable helmets considering the socio-economic and environmental characteristics of the country.

Make umrah airfare affordable: HAAB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the face of the high price of air tickets for umrah hajis, Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh yesterday demanded that the government take necessary measures to bring the airfare on the Dhaka-Saudi Arabia route to a rational level.

In this regard, HAAB president M Shahadat Hossain Taslim and its secretary general Faruk Ahmed Sardar submitted a letter to State Minister for Civil Aviation M Mahbub Ali at the latter's secretariat office.

Talking to this correspondent, the HAAB boss said the airfare to Saudi Arabia was around Tk 74,000 a month ago. But now it has increased to around Tk 1 lakh, which is irrational and unacceptable.

In the letter, the HAAB leaders said in 2020 and 2021, Bangladeshis could not perform hajj due to the pandemic.

This year, only a limited number of Bangladeshis could perform hajj due to restrictions of the Saudi authorities. Besides, due to age restrictions, many could not perform hajj.

'Blue' panel sweeps syndicate poll at DU

UNB, Dhaka

Blue panel, the Awami League-backed teachers' panel of Dhaka University, has bagged victory in the senate election.

The poll was arranged at the university's Nawab Ali Chowdhury senate building from 10:00am yesterday morning.

Elected teacher representatives of Dhaka University Syndicate are Dr Mohammad Masudur Rahman as the hall provost, Prof Nijamul Hoque Bhuiyan as the representative of Professors, Abu Hossen Mohammad Ahsan of Public Administration Department as associate professor, Mohammad Sharif Ul Islam as assistant professor, Dr Ismat Rahman of Computer Science and Technology Department as the associate professor of academic council, ASM Manjur Al Hossain of Medicine Technology Department as the representative of lecturer and Dr Mohammad Shafikul Islam of Applied Mathematics

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Umbrella repairman Chandidas has been gaining some business lately due to continuous rain in Khulna. Locals have been showing up at his doorstep with their broken umbrellas on a regular basis to repair those. Chandidas said he earns around Tk 500 per day. This photo was taken in Dumuria yesterday.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh			
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare			
Health Services Division			
Health Economics Unit			
3rd Floor, 14/2, Topkhana Road, Dhaka- 1000			
Memo No. 45.05.0000.007.32.016.22.1646			
Dated: 13/09/2022 CE			
EOI Corrigendum Notice			
The Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) for "Procuring services of a Scheme Operator (SO) for managing implementation of the Shasthyo Suroksha Karmasuchi (SSK) in Kurigram District" EOI Ref. No. 45.05.0000.007.32.016.22.1605 published on "The Daily Star" and "দেনিক বাংলাদেশ প্রতিদিন" on 31/08/2022 CE has been amended as follows:			
Serial No	Existing EOI	To be amended as	
10.	EOI Closing Date and Time	15.09.2022 CE at 02:00 PM	
12.	Experience, Resources and Delivery Capacity Required	<p>The following experience are mandatory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience with health insurance/ health protection schemes and contracting of health care providers Experience in managing health insurance OR health protection schemes OR contracting of health care providers 	
2. Other terms and conditions described in the EOI notice shall remain unchanged.			

13.09.2022

Dr. Md. Enamul Haque
Director General (Additional Secretary)
Health Economics Unit