



FARMGATE-UTTARA

Bus ride smoother than ever

Say many passengers after BRTC buses use expressway for 1st time

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Alauddin Hossain endures long tailbacks during his daily commute but his yesterday's experience was completely different.

"I couldn't just believe that I reached the airport area from Farmgate on a bus in just about half an hour," said an elated Alauddin.

The resident of Farmgate said the BRTC bus service has made his daily commute much easier.

Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) yesterday launched the bus service on the Uttara-Farmgate route via the Dhaka Elevated Expressway on a trial basis.

Like Alauddin, many other office goers were happy to avail the bus service as it helped them cut their travel time significantly.

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To make room for the Dhaka Elevated Expressway, this part of Hatirjheel has been filled up near the Pan Pacific Sonargaon hotel. The expressway will link Shahjalal International Airport and the Dhaka-Chattogram highway. The airport-Farmgate section of the expressway has been opened recently. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

KHALEDA'S JAIL SENTENCE

Govt extends suspension by six months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has extended the suspension of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's jail sentence by six more months with the same two conditions as before – she would not be able to go abroad and she has to receive treatment in the country.

With this, her jail sentence has been extended eight times.

A notification, signed by Mohammad Abu Sayed Mollah, deputy secretary (Jail-2 section) of the Security Services Division, Ministry of Home Affairs, was issued on September 12.

The government released the BNP chief after suspending her jail sentence as per Section 401 (I) of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

On September 10, the law ministry sent a file to the home ministry suggesting the suspension of Khaleda's jail sentence and extending the release period for another six months.

On the same day, Law Minister Anisul

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TORTURE OF 2 BCL MEN

DMP probe body report due today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In its report likely to be submitted today, the police probe committee, tasked with investigating the torture of two Chhatra League leaders at Shahbagh Police Station, may recommend actions against at least five police officers, including suspended ADC Harun and Inspector Golam Mostafa.

The three-member probe body of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police recorded statements from all people related to the incident, including additional deputy police commissioners Harun-or-Rashid and Sanjida Afrin, President's Assistant Personal Secretary Azizul Haque, two injured BCL men, and staffers of Birdem Hospital, sources in the probe body said.

The committee also collected footage of the incidents.

"We've worked hard to produce a comprehensive report. We hope to submit it tomorrow [today]," Shahen Shah, additional deputy commissioner (New Market Zone), told The Daily Star last night.

Also speaking to this newspaper, DMP Joint Commissioner Biplab Kumar Sarkar said an independent and impartial investigation has been conducted to unearth the truth.

"The probe report is to be submitted

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USE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY Bangladesh at bottom in S Asia

Says Sanem; use of alternatives to LNG can save \$39.6b or 9.17pc of GDP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Among South Asian countries, Bangladesh produces the lowest amount of renewable energy against total power generation capacity, according to an analysis by South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (Sanem).

Bangladesh's renewable energy usage stands at only 1.90 percent against Pakistan's 6.8, Sri Lanka's 22.22 and India's 30.2 percent.

This was revealed at a roundtable titled "Exploring Sustainable Energy Pathways: Focusing on Cost-effectiveness and Green Budget". The event was organised by Sanem at a city hotel yesterday.

Presenting the keynote paper at the discussion, Sanem Senior Research Associate Israt Hossain said, "Bangladesh can save at least \$39.6 billion or 9.17 percent of its GDP by 2030 if it uses alternatives to LNG."

The government intends to decrease its reliance on domestic natural gas due to the depleting gas reserves. That's why it is increasing imports of LNG and other fossil fuels, reads the paper.

Addressing the event, experts said that the government neglected the renewable energy potential, which is why the country has less than two percent power generation capacity from this source.

"There is no doubt that we neglected the renewable energy potentials. We

"The government is making predatory profits. The sector needs a strong and independent regulatory body."

PROF M SHAMSUL ALAM
Senior Vice President, Consumers' Association of Bangladesh

need to enforce power cuts when the electricity demand rise. But we have sunlight which is a very good source of renewable energy," said Prof Ijaz Hossain, dean of the engineering faculty at Bangladesh University of

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24 personalities voice worries at high inflation

Urge govt to take steps to tame prices of essentials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-four eminent citizens have expressed concern over inflation and high prices of essentials, including eggs and potatoes.

In a statement yesterday, they said prices of food items have gone beyond the purchasing capacity of the ordinary people. They hoped that the government would take effective measures to bring the situation under control.

Over the last one year, inflation has risen to an unbearable level, they said.

In August, prices of daily commodities increased by 12.54 percent and the overall inflation stood at 9.9 percent, they said, referring to government data.

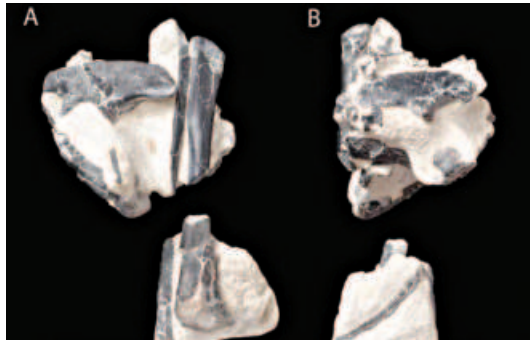
"In this situation, it has become difficult for the low-and middle-income people to lead their lives," they said.

Especially, an increase in the prices of egg and meat can result in less protein intake which may have an impact on people's nutrition balance in the long run, they further said.

The eminent citizens said the Bangladesh government blames it on the Russia-Ukraine war while traders claim that the US dollar crisis is making the situation worse.

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Chicken-sized dinosaur species discovered



INDEPENDENT ONLINE

The fossil of a new species of plant eating dinosaur has been discovered on the Isle of Wight, suggesting Europe had its own family of small herbivorous dinosaurs distinct from Asia and North America.

The preserved remains are of a dinosaur called vectidromeus insularis, which was the size of a chicken but juvenile so might have grown much larger.

It is the second member of the hypsilophodont family to be found on the island off the south coast of England.

These noble, bipedal herbivores would have existed about 125 million years ago and lived alongside tyrannosaurs, spinosaurs, and iguanodonts.

The discovery was made as part of research carried out jointly by the universities of Portsmouth and Bath.

Ukraine claims gains on south front

Downs swarm of Russian attack drones, missiles; Chinese FM visits Russia for security talks

AFP, Kyiv

Ukraine said yesterday its forces had recaptured small clutches of land from Russian forces along the southern front and near Bakhmut, regions where Kyiv's troops have focused their slow-moving counter-offensive.

Kyiv launched its bid to wrest back territory controlled by Moscow in June, after stockpiling Western-supplied weapons and recruiting assault battalions.

Its efforts have focused on the war-battered town of Bakhmut in the eastern Donetsk region, as well as several points along the frontline in the south, towards Crimea.

"Two square kilometres (0.77 square miles) were liberated in the Bakhmut sector," Deputy Defence Minister Ganna Malyar said on state media.

Her announcement came one day after Kyiv said its forces had retaken Klishchiivka, a village south of Bakhmut. Malyar also said Ukrainian forces had clawed back 5.2 square kilometres in the south.

Ukraine said yesterday its air defence systems had downed a swarm of attack drones and nearly 20 cruise missiles in Russia's latest aerial barrage overnight.

Meanwhile, Russia hit out at Ukraine at the International Court of Justice yesterday, as the two warring countries squared off in a legal case over Moscow's claim that "genocide" in eastern Ukraine was a pretext for last year's invasion.

Moscow's representative, Gennady Kuzmin, said Ukraine's case that Russia "abused" the United Nations Genocide Convention as a reason to launch its war against its neighbour in February 2022 "couldn't be further from the truth".



Abul Miah, 55, tending to his cucumber plants in Kandigaon union of Sylhet's Sadar upazila. Farmer families across the upazila are happy as the yield this year is good and the vegetable is being sold at a wholesale price of Tk 50-55 per kg. However, Abul claimed he could have had better yield if it weren't for excessive rain this season. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

AL leader killed, 17 hurt in factional clashes

STAR REPORT

An Awami League leader was killed and at least 17 others were injured in two separate incidents of factional clashes among ruling party men in Cumilla and Narsingdi districts yesterday.

In Cumilla, a Swechhchasebak League leader was killed and at least 10 others were injured in a clash between two local AL groups over "controlling sand trade" in the district's Meghna upazila.

The deceased was identified as Nizam Sarker, 40, president of the Swechhchasebak League's Chalibhanga union unit and brother of union chairman Humayun Kabir.

According to locals and witnesses, ever since the Meghna upazila was included under the Cumilla-2 constituency, Zilla Parishad member Abdul Quaiyum, who is a follower of Cumila-2

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