

# Satrasta back

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Tejgoan, they will have to create a central parking facility for transportation of goods as well. “This problem will never be fixed without solving it.”  
He said the crux of the problem is the central truck terminal, built illegally on railway land beside Tejgaon Railway Station.  
Asked, Mohammad Nazrul Islam, divisional estate officer and deputy commissioner (railway lands and buildings) of Bangladesh Railway, said around eight acres of railway land is being used illegally for the truck stand.  
Mentionable, the 550-metre Satrasta is the only thoroughfare for the central truck terminal.

An on-duty traffic police told The Daily Stat last week that they try to keep the Mayor Annisul Road free from parking during daytime but if becomes virtually impossible for them to maintain traffic at night due to the trucks.  
Trucks are parked on the road due to lack of accommodation facilities in the terminal, said many truckers.

However, Iqbal Habib said truck owners’ association do not follow the loading and unloading schedules of goods. As a result, many trucks remain parked illegally on Satrasta.

“No one is taking the initiative to construct a central parking facility, evicting encroachers,” he said, adding that it is the duty of the city corporation to ensure that.

“This is a vital alternative road to reduce traffic pressure at Farmgate and Karwan Bazar -- the two busy business hubs in the city,” he said.

Adil Mohammad Khan, general secretary of Bangladesh Institute of Planners, said eviction of illegal occupants from Satrasta was a big achievement. But in absence of an alternative arrangement for truckers, they have once again started occupying the road.

“We need truck stands. But it should be outside the city not in the middle of it,” he said. This truck stand must be removed to ensure smooth traffic movement on the road, he added.

Asked, Osman Ali, general secretary of Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Samik Federation, said there is shortage of space at Tejgaon truck terminal for which trucks that enter the city after 11pm have to park on this road.

But the road remains free of trucks during the day, he claimed. “I will talk to local leaders to keep the road clear for smooth traffic,” he said.

About parking trucks on other roads connecting Satrasta, he reiterated that it was due to space constraint at the terminal.

Contacted, DNCC Mayor Atiqul Islam said he has conducted drives twice to keep the roads free. “I will again send magistrates to take necessary steps shortly,” he assured.

About space constraints at the terminal, the mayor said a comprehensive plan is needed in this regard. He said they are working on the issue and trying to come up with a permanent solution.

# High Court

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proceedings using technology.  
The HC also said the contents of the act are not contradictory to the constitution of the country, DAG Bashir Ullah added.  
Attorney General AM Amin Uddin opposed the writ petition while writ petitioner AKM Asiful Haque himself argued for the petition.  
In the petition, he said that the law is contradictory to the constitution as there was no recommendation from the president for passing it as a money bill in the parliament. He also said the bill on the law was passed hurriedly in the parliament.  
The parliament on July 8 passed “Adalat Kartrik Tathya Projukti Byabohar Bill 2020” in a bid to empower country’s courts in carrying out trial proceedings through videoconferences and other digital means.  
Law Minister Anisul Huq placed the bill which was passed by voice votes.  
Earlier, an ordinance was promulgated by President Abdul Hamid with an aim to reduce the backlog of huge number of cases in different courts due to countrywide closure since March 25. The ordinance was approved by the cabinet on May 7.

According to the previous law, the trial proceedings were only run in physical presence of judges, counsels and witnesses in the court.  
Following promulgation of the ordinance, it was possible to run the proceedings during the coronavirus situation as social distancing was necessary to contain the spread of Covid-19.  
It was possible for the judges to run the trial proceedings through videoconferences and other digital means keeping the accused in jails, the lawyers in their residences and the witnesses in other places during the coronavirus crisis as per the ordinance.

# Tazreen fire

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Shahidul Islam Sabuj, general secretary, Garments Workers Unity Forum, said since her financial condition was very poor, and nobody cared about her ailment; she died without proper treatment.  
Sharmeen had to arrange funds by herself for the treatment. “She had loans worth Tk 10 lakh for her treatment and family expenses, as she couldn’t work. They even took loans against their two rooms in Nischintapur, Savar,” said Nasima.  
Sharmeen’s husband Karim, a day labourer, said she was paid only three months’ salary after the incident. The couple have two sons.  
According to Sabuj, Sharmeen was present at the sit-in in front of Jatiya Press Club for a dignified compensation and proper treatment with 44 other former workers, who have been protesting for 70

days.  
“After staying two days at the footpath, she got sick and we sent her home,” said Sabuj.  
It has been eight years since the horrific incident, yet most workers of Tazreen Fashions are yet to receive a dignified, proper amount of compensation from the government, Bangladesh Labour Welfare Foundation and Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).  
The injured workers on Tuesday even decided to march to Gono Bhaban with a three-point demand — compensation, rehabilitation and long-term treatment. But they were barred by the police.  
“If the government still doesn’t pay heed to us, we all have to die like Sharmeen,” said an aggrieved Nasima.  
Our Savar correspondent contributed to this report.

# Investigators

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to an incumbent state minister to get away from a case filed against him in 2019, according to intelligence sources. The Daily Star checked the registration number with BRTA, which found it to be fake.  
Talking to this correspondent yesterday, BRTA Chairperson Nur Mohammad Mazumder said they are helping investigation agencies with information related to the vehicles.  
Meanwhile, Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday called Rab and told them that they want to collaborate with the elite force to investigate the irregularities

and wealth of Monir.  
Rab on Tuesday sent letters to three separate agencies -- NBR, BRTA and Criminal Investigation Department -- in this connection.  
Monir was placed on 18-day remand under the detective branch’s custody in three cases filed under Special Powers Act, Narcotics Control Act and Arms Act with Badda Police Station on November 22.  
However, he must be in remand for 11 days instead of 18, as the seven-day remands in two cases were granted for the same period.

# HC seeks

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were not equipped to provide treatment to newborns. They advised Azad to admit them to Dhaka Shishu Hospital.  
Shishu Hospital authorities told Azad he had to pay Tk 5,000 for treatment of each baby per day, which he could not afford.  
Azad reached out to a HC judge, who advised that the newborns be taken to BSMMU, where its director would meet them. He went to BSMMU with the twins on an ambulance at around 2pm. Once there, BSMMU authorities told him the director had gone home after conducting a surgery.  
A doctor later visited the babies in the ambulance and declared them dead.

# A school

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the sessions are helping him become more positive.  
Third-grader Ayon said, “I’ve become tired of watching TV and playing games on the smartphone all the time. I always used to wonder about when the school will reopen, and this made me restless,” he added. “But the sessions are helping me realise the situation and calm down a bit.”

# Mob beats

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state, a fight broke out between the villagers and robbers.  
As the villagers were just about to have cornered the robbers, all but three of them escaped.  
The villagers beat up the three, leaving two of the them dead on the spot and the other badly injured.  
Police later went to the spot, recovered the two bodies and detained injured Manik, a resident of West Abdullahpur in Kishoregonj’s Kuliarchar upazila. He was sent to Narsingdi Sadar Hospital before being referred to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The police inspector said deceased Sohel was accused in several cases, including some of murder.

The bodies were sent to Narsingdi Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsies.

# 37 killed

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but we don’t know how many,” it said.  
A police source told AFP that when rescue workers arrived at the scene, “there were bodies everywhere.”  
“It was impossible to tell who had been in the truck and who had been in the bus,” he said.  
Police are still investigating the cause of the crash.  
Rescue workers were still treating victims at the scene. Taguai is about 340 kilometers (210 miles) west of Sao Paulo, Brazil’s biggest city and economic capital.

# Foreign minister

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been cancelled.  
A delegation comprised of officials from the foreign ministry and Bangladesh mission to the OIC in Saudi will attend the meeting on November 27-28.

# White House co-op ‘sincere’

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Biden’s comments come one day after the GSA informed him that the Trump administration is ready to begin the formal transition process. His transition team is now in talking to all federal agencies, a transition official told CNN.  
Dr Anthony Fauci, the nation’s top infectious diseases doctor, said Tuesday he has had preliminary conversations with members of Biden’s team and looks forward to more substantive discussions in the future.  
An administration official said the White House has given approval for Biden to receive the president’s daily classified intelligence brief.  
The decision means Biden will have access to the latest intelligence reports about major national security threats around the globe.  
The GSA letter was the first step the administration has taken to acknowledge President Donald Trump’s defeat and marked a considerable turning point against his bid to overturn his loss.  
Still, the Biden team had not waited for the formal transition process to begin preparing for the presidency, as Biden introduced a slate of veteran diplomats and policy-makers on Tuesday.  
Looking ahead to his administration, Biden vowed his term would not be “a third Obama term.”  
“We face a totally different world than we faced in the Obama-Biden administration,” he said. “President Trump has changed the landscape.”  
He continued, “It’s become America first. It’s been America alone. We find ourselves in a position where our alliances are being frayed. It’s a totally -- that’s why I’ve found people who join the administration and keep points that represent the spectrum of the American people as well the spectrum of the Democratic Party.”  
Asked Tuesday if he supports investigations into Trump after he leaves office, as some Democrats have called for, Biden vowed to “not do what this President does and use the Justice Department as my vehicle to insist that something happen.”  
“There are a number of investigations that I’ve read about that are at a state level. There’s nothing at all I can or cannot do about that. But I’m focused on getting the American public back in a place where they have some certainty, some surety, some knowledge that they can make it,” he said.  
“The middle-class and working-class people are being crushed. That’s my focus.”  
And asked whether he has spoken with Sens. Bernie Sanders or Elizabeth Warren about Cabinet positions, Biden said, “We already have significant representation among progressives in our administration, but there’s nothing really off the table.”

# Virus load soars in US

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nations were slowly relaxing measures ahead of their own Christmas holidays, as a second wave of infections slowed following weeks of lockdowns.  
EU chief Ursula von der Leyen warned, however, against easing restrictions too quickly.  
“We must learn from the summer and not repeat the same mistakes, relaxing too fast,” she said yesterday.  
In a televised address, French President Emmanuel Macron announced shops could reopen from Saturday, and nationwide stay-at-home orders would be lifted from December 15.  
British authorities also announced restrictions on social mixing and said travel would be eased across the UK over Christmas.  
MIXED SIGNALS IN ASIA  
Elsewhere in Europe, 16 German states agreed to slightly loosen limits on social contact over Christmas, according to a draft deal seen by AFP, even as cases near one million there.  
State leaders agreed to cap gatherings to 10 people over the December 23 to January 1 holiday -- double the limit for the rest of December.  
In Australia, the country’s most populous state, New South Wales, eased social distancing measures and allowed employees back to work, Premier Gladys Berejiklian announced yesterday, after three weeks without a locally transmitted Covid-19 case.  
Singapore, which has one of the world’s lowest virus death rates, announced it had no live clusters of Covid-19 cases in the country -- the first time since its outbreak began earlier this year.  
And in more positive news, China recorded just five new coronavirus cases on Tuesday -- all imported, authorities said yesterday.

# Bangabandhu

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meet Bangabandhu at his residence and apprised him of certain problems of the mill. The prime minister meets a delegation of the workers and assures them that he would hold discussions with all concerned in near future and would take steps for ensuring smooth production.  
NEW BARTER TRADE AGREEMENT WITH SOVIET UNION  
A new barter trade agreement is expected to be signed between Bangladesh and the Soviet Union providing for appreciable increase in the volume of trade between the two countries. This is disclosed to newsmen at Dhaka Airport by I.I. Grishin, Soviet deputy minister for foreign trade who arrived as the head of an eight-member trade delegation yesterday for talks with Bangladesh officials. He said that his country was satisfied with the turnout of the first barter trade with Bangladesh for the current year and was hopeful that a good increase would be possible in the coming year.  
SOURCES: November 27, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

# Hindu families

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grabbing the adjacent lands.  
“At one stage, he took away the entire 51 decimals. He has dug a pond and constructed a semi-concrete house on the disputed land.  
“If we demand our land, Mostafa and his cohorts threaten us with life,” Paritosh added.  
His nine-year-old son was fishing in the pond on September 28. Mostafa’s cohorts drove him away and threatened to beat him up, if he went there again.  
Around 11:00pm that day, Mostafa along with a local named Alal Miah, 50, and some others attacked Paritosh’s house and beat up all the family members.  
Neighbours rescued them and sent them to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.  
Paritosh’s wife Dipa lodged a case with Pagla Police Station accusing Mostafa among others two days later.  
A court then sent Mostafa to jail and granted bail to the other accused.  
“We do not want to lose our ancestral lands. We are so miserable that we have to live in our home with police protection,” Paritosh told The Daily Star.  
Md Shahinuzzaman Khan, officer-in-charge of Pagla Police Station, said he is keeping regular contacts with the families and necessary measures were taken for their safety.  
Roksana Begum, chairman of Duttae Bazar Union Parishad, said she would take measures for ensuring their safety.

# The scourge worsens amid

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number of reported cases went down. This is because the men could go out of their homes again,” said Shaheen.  
Nina Goswami, senior deputy of ASK, said, “Rape [incidents] too have gone up from 732 in 2018, to 1,413 in 2019, and 1,349 up until October 2020.”  
Dr Faustina Pereira, director of the Human Rights and Legal Aid Services at Brac, said, “The family sphere is the most dangerous,” while pointing out that Bangladesh still holds reservations about ratifying Article 16 of The United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).  
Article 16 addresses equal rights of women in marriage, family relations, and divorce.  
“The government says that the withdrawal of the reservation is not possible because the society is not ready for such modification and the government is mindful of the possible repercussions from conservative religious groups and therefore is taking cautious steps,” said Faustina.  
“The very fact that this is the reasoning put out there is a matter of concern,” she said, adding, “Our progress is in the economic sphere but not in the family sphere and that is where the true test of equality lies.”  
Orlagh McCann, representative of the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, pointed out that many countries made special provisions to make sure that the needs of women were addressed.  
“The special rapporteur has been noticing and receiving information that because of the measures being put by governments in dealing with Covid-19, there was a huge rise in cases of domestic violence. She urges governments to address domestic violence even during the pandemic,” said McCann.  
“The special rapporteur noted that the current crisis exacerbated the gaps that already existed, especially when responding to cases of gender-based violence.”  
Dr Abul Hossain, project director of Multi-Sectoral Programme on Violence Against Women at the Ministry of women and Children’s Affairs, said, “I believe the number of public prosecutors can be increased to expedite the judicial system.”

# Mega-shark raised its young

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Indeed, the reliance of Megalodon on nurseries may have contributed to the end of their 20-million-year reign, according to the research.  
Otodus megalodon -- sometimes classified as a Carcharocles megalodon -- took 25 years to become an adult -- “an extremely delayed sexual maturity”, the authors said in the research paper.  
But once it was fully grown, the shark could reach up to 18 metres, three times the size of the largest great white shark, made famous by the 1975 hit-movie Jaws.  
As an apex predator, and up until its extinction around three million years ago, the adult megalodon had no rivals among other ocean hunters and feasted on smaller sharks and even whales.  
But its young were vulnerable to attacks by other predators, often other razor-toothed sharks.  
Nurseries on shallow continental shelves with extensive smaller fish for food and few competing predators gave them the ideal space to reach their awesome size.  
“Our results reveal, for the first time, that nursery areas were commonly used by the O. megalodon over large temporal and spatial scales,” said the authors.  
The research team discovered a nursery zone off the eastern coast of Spain in Tarragona Province after visiting a museum and observing a collection of megalodon teeth.  
“Many of them were quite small for such a large animal,” the authors from British University of Bristol, Carlos Martinez-Perez and Humberto Ferron, told AFP.  
Judging by the size of the teeth, they surmised the area had once been home to young megalodons.  
The Spanish nursery could be described as “a perfect place to grow”, the authors said.



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