

Hasina warns troublemakers

Tough action against anyone harming religious harmony: PM in address to nation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said no one will be allowed to harm religious harmony in the country, and that her government will get tougher on troublemakers.

"We are taking stern action against those who are on the wrong path. If necessary, we will get tougher," she said in an address to the nation yesterday, marking the second anniversary of her government's assuming office.

In her half-an-hour televised speech, the PM mostly highlighted the success stories of the government. She called upon people to keep up efforts for the country's progress, rising above their beliefs and party affiliations.

"The country today stands on the road to development. Let's build a developed and prosperous nation free from hunger and poverty."

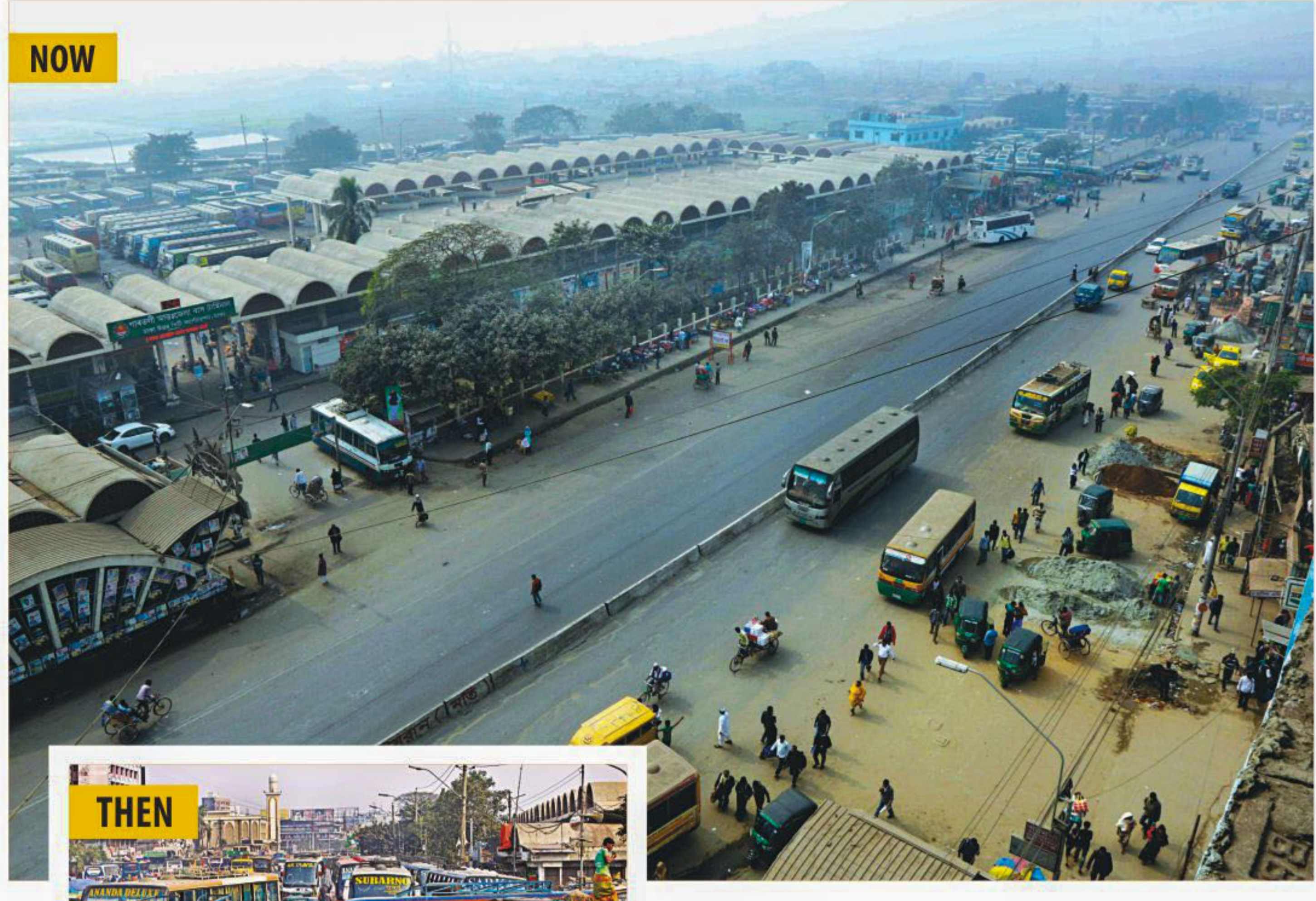
Bangladesh is now a role model of development in the world, she said.

Whenever the Awami League came to power, it worked for the country's development, said the PM.

Hasina, also president of the AL, criticised the BNP and the Jamaat-e-Islami for "resorting to violence and arson attacks" ahead of the January 5 election of 2014 and also after the first anniversary of her government's assumption of office last year.

She also remembered the victims of "BNP-Jamaat's violence".

Hasina said people brought victory for democracy in the last national election, overcoming obstacles created by the BNP-led



Traffic moving freely on Shyamoli-Aminbazar road in front of the capital's Gabtoli Inter-District Bus Terminal on Sunday, much to the relief of commuters. People over the years had to endure long tailbacks in the area due to illegally parked vehicles, inset. But things improved since December 29 last year when Dhaka North City Corporation prohibited parking on the road.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN, RASHED SHUMON

THANK YOU MR. MAYOR

A different scene on Gabtoli road

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a major step towards easing the city's crippling traffic congestion, Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) has freed the Shyamoli-Aminbazar road in the capital from illegal parking.

With the DNCC initiative, the road, which remained crammed with buses and trucks parked haphazardly, has now got a refreshingly new look, much to the relief of city commuters.

There are hundreds of bus counters at Shyamoli, Kalyanpur and Gabtoli Bus Terminal from where buses set off for different districts across the country. And the road, more often than not, remained clogged with these buses, as the bus owners occupied two-thirds of the road by parking their vehicles there.

"Just a couple of days ago, it took me 30 to 45 minutes to go to Shyamoli from Gabtoli. That's why I used to leave home early. But now it

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TOP QUOTE

"We are moving towards a solution to the crisis. I hope it would be possible to solve the problem through discussions."

EDUCATION MINISTER
NURUL ISLAM NAHID
ON THE ONGOING STRIKE BY PUBLIC UNIVERSITY TEACHERS

Strike, talks go on

Public university teachers meet education minister, to continue strike until demands met; Nahid hopes to reach a solution soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Agitating public university teachers have vowed to continue their movement, but said they would also hold talks with the government simultaneously to realise their demands.

The announcement came after a delegation of the teachers' leaders met Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday, the second day of the strike at all public universities across the country.

There was no positive outcome from the meeting, but both sides hoped there would

be a breakthrough soon.

The Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers Association (FBUTA) president and secretary general sat in the meeting with the minister and the education secretary at the secretariat in the evening.

"At the discussion, they assured us that they would sincerely try to meet our demands and discuss with the finance ministry and other officials concerned for a positive result," said Prof Farid Uddin Ahmed, president of the Federation.

The FBUTA is a platform for the country's

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Bangladesh tops list of 'hope index'

Most people optimistic about 2016, finds WIN/Gallup survey

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshis are the most optimistic people in the world though the country intermittently faces various challenges, according to a global survey.

Bangladesh topped the list of 68 countries in the hope index and secured the second place in the economic optimism index,

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Loss-ridden railway set to hike fare

Move to have little impact on annual loss of Tk 900cr

M ABUL KALAM AZAD and RASHIDUL HASAN

Bangladesh Railway is going to jack up the fares for passengers and freight in a few months.

However, the move would have little impact on the around Tk 900 crore annual losses as it would bring in only an additional Tk 45 crore annually once the new fares come into effect, railway officials say.

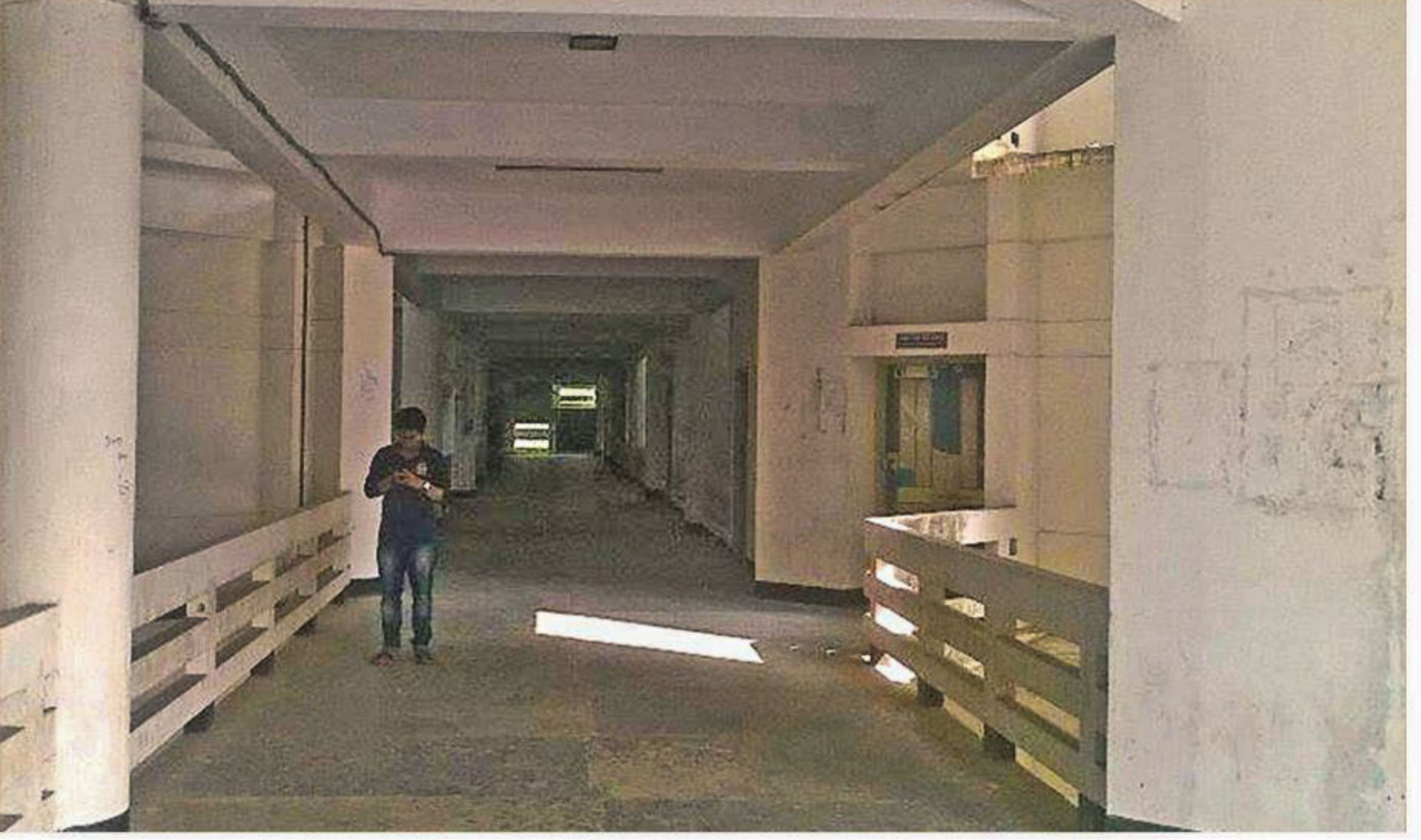
According to the fare-hike plan, which the parliamentary standing committee on railways endorsed at a meeting at the Jatiya

Sangsad Bhaban yesterday, passenger fares would go up on different routes between Tk 20 and Tk 30 in the lower classes and between Tk 75 and Tk 135 in upper classes.

The fare of lower class like shovon chair on Dhaka-Chittagong route would be Tk 345 from the current Tk 320 while the fare of upper class like AC chair would be Tk 654 from the present Tk 610.

The fare for a 20-foot wagon between Dhaka and Chittagong Port would be raised by Tk 700.

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A section of an academic building of Chittagong University wears a deserted look as teachers of public universities continued their indefinite work stoppage for the second day yesterday, demanding the government remove 'disparities' in the new pay scale.

PHOTO: STAR

LAST PART

Over the past few days, The Daily Star published a series of reports on ordeals of the victims of mindless violence in the name of politics between January 5 and April 5 last year. Lives perished, people were crippled, families torn apart and dreams shattered in the 91 days of brutality that shook the nation to its core. In the last part of the series, we today will tell you the story of a victim who is living a life no one wants.

Asset now burden

One gruesome attack turned Bogra trucker into a liability for a family of six

MAMUN-UR-RASHID, Bogra

Golam Mostafa wishes he were dead. He has keloid scars all over his face and throat, and deep eschar marks on both hands, so frightening a sight that people do not even want to sit beside him.

The fingers of his both hands are disfigured, so much so that he cannot even hold a spoon.

Once a happy man with a good income, Mostafa is now a "burden" for his six-member family.

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