



ABAHANIS COLLIDE

Dhaka Abahani face their Chittagong counterparts in the final of Independence Cup today

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ERDOGAN'S WAY

We'll go our way, you go yours: Turkish president tells EU over visa deal

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ONE YEAR OF TWO DHAKA MAYORS

Annisul Huq and Sayeed Khokon took oath as mayors respectively of Dhaka North and South City Corporations on May 6 last year. They took over offices with serious pledges and commitments to bring about qualitative changes in delivering civic services.

Both, however, found themselves constrained with coordination crisis among the multiple service-providing agencies at every step in this mess of an unplanned city. Though one year is not an adequate period for making a progress report on a public office bearer, the two mayors have made sincere efforts to make some difference in civic life. In some cases, they achieved extraordinary goals, while in others, they faltered.

In exclusive conversations with The Daily Star on the eve of their completion of one year in office, Annisul Huq reflected on some of his stunningly bold actions to retrieve public interests against the age-old coterie benefits, his constraints, and future plans to turn north Dhaka into a smart and green city. On the other hand, a committed Sayeed Khokon primarily dwelt on a mayor's fundamental constraints due to lack of coordination with other service providing agencies.

Freeing illegally occupied roads, sites was not easy

DNCC Mayor Annisul wants to go ahead despite obstacles

TAWFIQUE ALI

The Daily Star (TDS): What was your first task as mayor?

Annisul Huq (AH): There was a time when Dhaka's skyline was blocked by countless illegal, ugly billboards. No one had the guts to touch those owned by powerful syndicates. But we have done it in four months. Over 20 thousand billboards and banners of different sizes were removed.

TDS: Was there any other challenge you took on?

AH: We cleared ten sites around the city that had been illegally occupied with unauthorized parking and structures. Clearing the roads has eased traffic and pedestrian movement tremendously. The sites cleared include Mohakhali, Tejgaon, Karwan Bazar main road, Gabtoli, Amin Bazar, Kalyanpur, Abdullahpur, Mohammadpur, Mirpur and a road near Japan-Bangladesh housing. Several hundred transport workers went berserk and fought pitched battles with law enforcers during the eviction drive that I led to free Tejgaon

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We kept footpath recovery by evicting street vendors a low priority as it is also the livelihood of some people. We, however, have forced the shopkeepers in Gulshan, Banani, Gabtoli and Kalyanpur to move back to their leased space from encroaching upon footpaths or adjacent public spaces.

Annisul Huq

More authority needed to deliver civic services

DSCC Mayor Khokon for better coordination between all agencies

HELEMUL ALAM and MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

The Daily Star (TDS): One of your top electoral pledges was road repair and maintenance. What have you done so far?

Sayeed Khokon (SK): We have started repair of 300 roads. Reinforced concrete is being used to repair three-fourth of the roads so they will last for decades. The rest will be repaired with bitumen. Overloaded cargo vehicles are one of the main reasons for the city roads to crumble. A truck is supposed to carry five to seven tons. But many trucks carrying 50 tons enter the city damaging the roads. The traffic police can stop running of overloaded vehicles in the capital to keep the roads serviceable.

Frequent and uncoordinated digging by various utility agencies is another reason our roads have short lifespan. Soon after we complete a road for traffic, utility agencies like Wasa, BTRC, and Titas Gas want to dig at different times for working on their underground cables and pipes. There is no coordination. What can we do?

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Lack of coordination among the agencies serving the capital city is a big challenge in providing better services to the people. I am helpless. Public suffering due to poor service will have no solution as long as there is such lack of coordination.

Sayeed Khokon

DNCC
EXISTING AREA 82 sq km
PROPOSED EXPANSION 114.58 sq km
UNIONS TO BE INCLUDED
Beraid, Badda, Bhatara, Satarkul, Harirampur, Uttarkhan, Dakkhinkhan, Dumni
DSCC
EXISTING AREA 45 sq km
PROPOSED EXPANSION 64.17 sq km
UNIONS TO BE INCLUDED
Shyampur, Matuail, Demra, Dania, Sarulia, Dakkhingaon, Nasirabad, Manda

Govt to double size of Dhaka city area

Proposal to be placed before NICAR Monday

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

The government is going to more than double the area of the two Dhaka city corporations through inclusion of 16 nearby unions, said LGRD ministry sources.

The proposal for the expansion would be placed at Monday's meeting of the National Implementation Committee for Administrative Reforms (NICAR) at the secretariat for approval.

As part of efforts to provide better civic amenities to the people of these unions, the government plans to add eight UPs each to Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) and Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC).

According to city corporation officials, the total area of the two city corporations now stands at 127.63 sq km -- 82.63 sq km in the DNCC and 45 sq km in the DSCC.

If the proposal gets through the NICAR, an area of 178.75 sq km would be added to the two city corporations -- 114.58 sq km to the DNCC and 64.17 sq km to the DSCC, they said.

According to the proposal prepared by the LGRD ministry, Beraid, Badda, Bhatara, Satarkul, Horirampur, Uttarkhan, Dakkhinkhan and Dumni would be included in the DNCC, while Shyampur, Matuail, Demra, Dania, Sarulia, Dakkhingaon, Nasirabad and Manda in the DSCC.

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NEWS ANALYSIS

SCRAPPING OF 16TH AMENDMENT

An undesirable disagreement

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The vociferous reaction of some ministers and MPs against the cancellation of the constitution's 16th amendment that had empowered the parliament to remove a Supreme Court judge on grounds of misconduct and incapacity took observers by surprise.

No such reaction was seen in the case of nullification of three other constitutional amendments in the last one decade. The Awami League has never blasted the apex court for scrapping three previous amendments—the 5th, the 7th and the 13th--to the constitution.

Ziaur Rahman's government brought the 5th amendment to the constitution to validate the first martial law regime declared in 1975. The nullification of this amendment has paved the way for restoration of the original constitution of 1972.

Taking the cue from the verdict on 5th amendment, the AL-led

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Feni AL men assault UNO

A CORRESPONDENT, Feni

Local Awami League leaders and activists allegedly assaulted the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Parshuram in Feni yesterday.

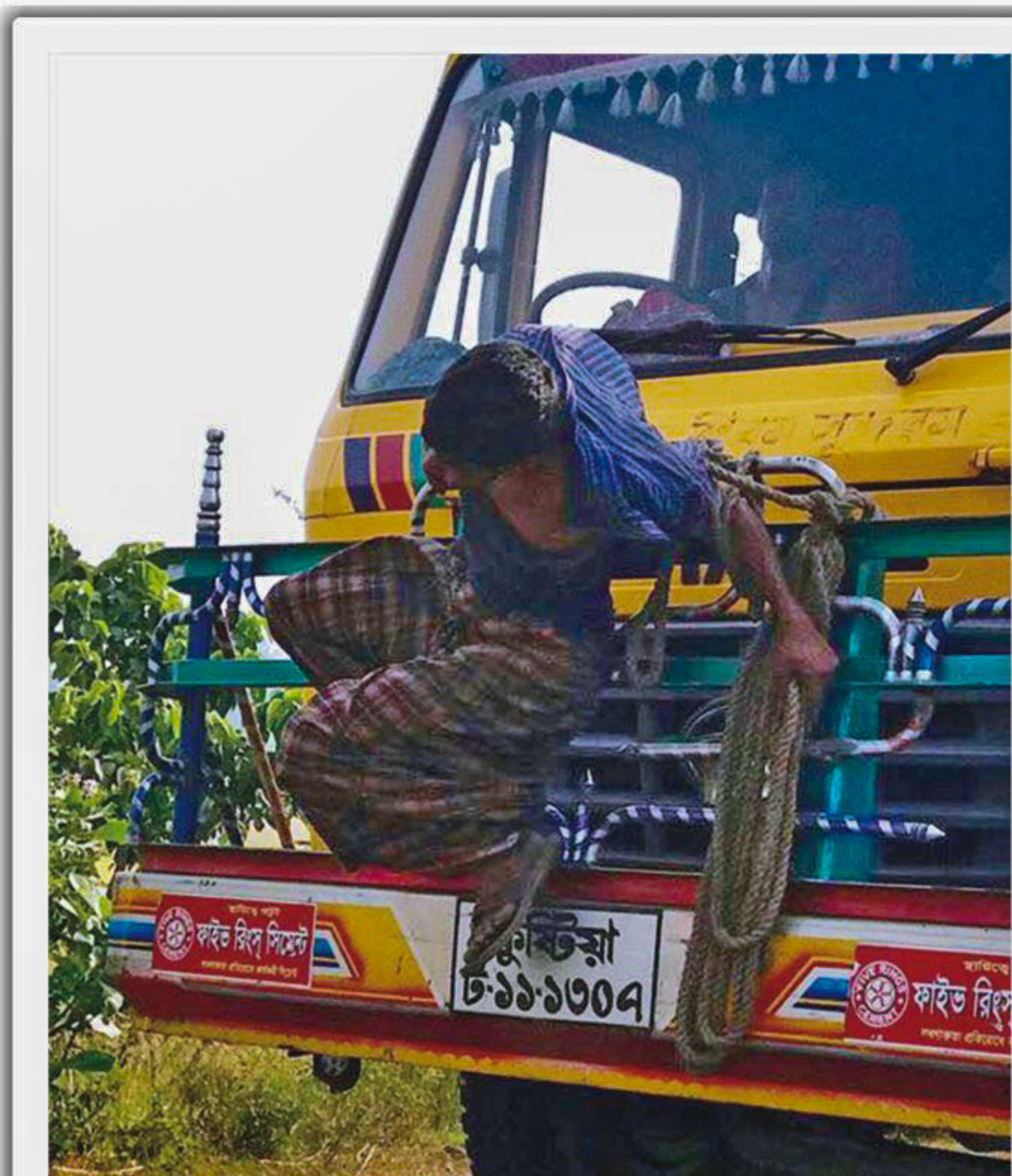
Injured UNO HM Rakib Haider was undergoing treatment at Feni Sadar Hospital.

According to police and witnesses, the UNO, the upazila chairman and local AL leaders and activists were waiting at Dhanikunda on Feni-Parshuram road around 10:30am to welcome Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan who was scheduled to visit Bilonia land port.

At that time, Mohammad Faruk, a local AL leader, asked Rakib to get introduced with district AL vice-president Khairul Bashar Majumder Tapan, witnesses said.

As the UNO did not respond to this, Tapan got into a heated argument with

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Horror on highway

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

An unidentified youth was seen tied with heavy ropes to the front bumper of a speedy truck on the Natore-Bogra highway at Sherkol in Shingra upazila of Natore yesterday.

He was screaming as loudly as he could while the truck was heading towards Natore town around 8:00am, according to a journalist of Bogra, who shot photos of his situation.

Appearing to be from a poor family, he was wearing a blue shirt, lungi and sandals. His identity could not be known yet.

Md Nazmul Huda Nasim, Bogra bureau chief of Daily Jugantor, was travelling to Rajshahi at that time by a private car along with some others to attend a diploma examination at Rajshahi University.

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UP polls: 4th phase of voting today

EC asks Whip Atik to leave constituency

PANKAG KARMAKAR

Another 703 unions of 47 districts go to polls in the fourth phase today amid tension and fear of violence as many ruling Awami League candidates are at loggerheads with party rebels over the elections.

The previous phases of the elections were marred by deadly clashes and irregularities. Over 65 people were killed, including 19 on three polling days, and several thousand

injured in violence over union parishad polls across the country, according to media reports.

Meanwhile, the Election Commission yesterday issued a letter to Sherpur-1 lawmaker Atiur Rahman Atik, also a whip, asking him to leave the constituency as it found that the MP was influencing the polls there.

Local government and election experts

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IN NUMBERS

Union Parishad	703
Chairman aspirants	3,200 (around)
Member aspirants	31,300 (around)
Chairmen elected unopposed	33
Participating political parties	15
Polling stations	7,050 (around)
Voter	1 crore (around)

The Dhaka Mercantile Co-operative Bank Ltd. advertisement with logo, branch address, and interest rates table.