



## Star-Crown Cement contest on export idea

Season 3 begins

CITY DESK

The third season of Rise High Bangladesh, a campaign jointly initiated by The Daily Star and Crown Cement, has started.

The details about the campaign and submission procedure are available on the microsite: [campaign.thedailystar.net/risehighbd/](http://campaign.thedailystar.net/risehighbd/).

Rise High Bangladesh was launched in 2016 with an objective to gather innovative export ideas from the country's university students.

Additional Managing Director of MI Cement Factory Ltd (Crown Cement) Md Alamgir Kabir said, "After successful completion of 'Rise High Bangladesh' for the last two years, we are launching the flagship campaign for the third time. It means that we are not only focused on doing business or profits, we also want to be engaged in the socio-economic development of the country."



Left, Musarrat Bhuiyan, whose son was run over by a bus six years ago, joins the student protest for justice at Shaheb Bazar Zero Point in Rajshahi city. Right, Victim of a similar tragedy, Iffat Ara Eva, also expresses solidarity with the children. A road accident took the life of her husband around 30 years back.



PHOTO: STAR

# Loss of loved ones brings them together

Two Rajshahi women join student protest

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

Iffat Ara Eva does not fit the usual profile of demonstrators taking to the streets, and nor had she done that before. That, however, changed yesterday as the development worker joined hundreds of students from schools, colleges and universities of Rajshahi at Shaheb Bazar Zero Point.

Iffat was a psychology student of Rajshahi University in the mid-1980s when she got married. Soon after celebrating the first wedding anniversary, her husband who was a banker died in a road accident at Sonargaon, Narayanganj.

"My life changed with that news 30 years ago," Iffat told The Daily Star as she was sitting on the street holding a placard that read "We want justice".

"I was at home with our two-month-old daughter. He was on a family trip with his parents. The news came in the morning," Iffat recalled.

Six people, including her husband, died on the spot in that accident. Passengers had warned the driver repeatedly, but he was recklessly driving a bus overloaded with people and goods -- inside the vehicle and on its roof, she said.

Eight years later, she remarried but her husband could not tolerate her daughter from her previous marriage. She had a son from that

marriage but eventually it ended in divorce.

"I raised my children as a single mother while working at NGOs," she said.

"Whenever I hear of any death caused by a road accident, I can feel the pain of those who have lost a loved one. I cannot make anyone understand how bitter that pain is. My daughter never saw her father; she was deprived of his love," Iffat told this correspondent.

"Most of the accidents happen because of drivers' negligence and the authorities continue to turn a blind eye to these tragedies," she said.

On Wednesday night, she heard that some students were going to demonstrate in Rajshahi.

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## SC grants bail to war criminal Abdul Quddus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Convicted war criminal Md Abdul Quddus secured six-months bail from the Supreme Court (SC) yesterday.

A four-member bench of the Appellate Division led by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain passed the order on health grounds.

"The 87-year-old has been suffering from lung cancer," his lawyer Advocate Tajul Islam said.

Following the SC order Quddus can now walk out of jail, he added.

This is the first incident that the SC granted bail to an convicted war crime accused, Advocate Tajul also said.

International Crimes Tribunal-1 on March 13 this year convicted Quddus and sentenced him to 20 years' imprisonment for committing crimes against humanity and war crimes during the country's Liberation War in 1971.

## Biman cancels five more hajj flights

UNB, Dhaka

Five hajj flights of Biman Bangladesh Airlines scheduled to fly yesterday and today have been cancelled due to shortage of passengers, said Biman General Manager (Public Relations) Shakil Meraj.

With these, a total of 10 hajj flights have been cancelled due to the same reason, he said.

Yesterday's scheduled flights -- BG 1063 at 1:55am and BG 5061 at 3:45pm -- have been cancelled and three more flights scheduled for today are also declared cancelled.

Shakil said 5,800 hajj flight tickets remain unsold so far, and Biman has been urging the hajj agencies to purchase them as soon as possible.

## Justice, not just assurance

Demand students as protests ripple across country

STAR REPORT

"We fought in '52 for language, now for lives."

"No more assurance, we want justice."

These slogans echoed the voice of students in Rajshahi city as they took to the streets demanding justice and safe roads like elsewhere in the country.

Since 10:30am yesterday, students started gathering at Shaheb Bazar Zero Point. A few hundred students from Rajshahi Collegiate School and Rajshahi Government PN Girls School formed a human chain there, while Rajshahi Cantonment Public School and College, Cantonment Board School, BGB Public School and College, Agrani School, Seroil School, Helenabad and Baliapukur Schools joined them shortly.

Rafi Muttaki Mahi, a student of Cantonment Board School, said, "We are here because we cannot rely on the assurance of some government officials."

During the protest, law enforcers encircled the spot. The students stayed on the road until 1:30pm and announced to return until fulfilment of their demands.

CTG: POLICE CAR SENT BACK TO WHERE IT CAME FROM

In Chittagong city, hundreds of students began agitation around 10:30am, and it continued till afternoon. Students took position on around 4km stretch of the major thoroughfare from Agrabad Badamtoli to Gate No. 2 of Sholoshahar. They checked driving licences and fitness papers of vehicles.

In Dampara, the protesters stopped an SUV of Bangladesh Navy when the driver failed to show his license, promoting them to hand it over to police.

## DU MCJ celebrates 56th anniversary

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka University's Mass Communication and Journalism (MCJ) Department celebrated its 56th founding anniversary yesterday through various programmes on campus.

Marking the day, teachers and students of the department brought out a colourful procession from the foot of Aporajeyo Bangla at 11:00am.

Parading main thoroughfares of the campus, the procession ended in front of social science building of the university, where a prize-giving ceremony and discussion programme were held at Muzaffar Ahmed Chowdhury Auditorium.

With DU MCJ Department chairperson Kaberi Gayen in the chair, the programme was addressed by DU Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr. Md Akhtaruzzaman as chief guest.

Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury presented a keynote paper titled "Mass Media, Social System and Liberty of Mass People" on the occasion.

The MCJ department started its journey through diploma courses on August 2, 1962 and it is now offering undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD degrees.



Students of educational institutes of Sylhet gathered at the Chowhatta intersection in the city yesterday, joining the countrywide movement for safer roads.

PHOTO: STAR

They also forced a vehicle of Detective Branch (DB) of police to return to Dampara Police Lines as the driver had no license. They wrote "no licence" on its body with non-removable ink.

Separately, the driver of another police vehicle was found without a licence. When they tried to stop it, the driver ploughed through the protesters leaving several of them injured. Students then vandalised a few glasses of the vehicle.

The protesters, however, did not stop ambulances, vehicles carrying the disabled people and goods carts.

Many guardians were also seen expressing solidarity with the protest while some of them distributed food and drinks among the students.

Saif Uddin Mohammad Mujahid, a class XI student of BAF Shaheen College, Chittagong, said, "Police are co-operating with us in checking documents of the drivers. And we are not here to hurt anyone."

Traffic Sergeant Mohammad

Kuddus Ali said police barricaded the south side of this road from Tigerpass to Gate No 2 intersection to avoid chaos. The situation returned to normalcy as the protest ended at 4:00pm.

SYLHET: 'I'M PROUD, I SHOWED MY LICENCE AT THREE POINTS'

Defying rain, thousands of students from schools, colleges and universities started gathering in front of Sylhet Central Shaheed Minar around 3:00pm.

Chowhatta, Zindabazar, Lamabazar, Bandarbazar, Sust gate and some other areas were also abuzz with the voices of the youngsters. Like Dhaka and Chittagong, they asked for licences and other papers while disciplining the traffic.

Abul Ahmed, a CNG auto-rickshaw driver, said, "I showed my licence to the students at three points, and I'm proud of them. I have a school-going son and they are doing a good thing."

The protest led to long tailbacks, causing sufferings to commuters.

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## CTG WOMAN'S DEATH Motive still unknown: cops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two days into the incident, law enforcers still could not find any motive behind the killing of a pregnant woman in the port city on Wednesday.

Rahima Bibi, 25, wife of Advocate Md Ehteshamul Haque Jewel was found dead at her residence with her hands tied from behind and a scarf around her neck.

A murder case was filed with Chandgaon Police Station by the victim's mother accusing unidentified persons. However, no one was arrested till the filing of this report.

"We suspect it was a pre-planned murder," Deputy Commissioner (DC) (North) Abdul Warish of Chittagong Metropolitan Police said.

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## Road accidents a man-made catastrophe

Duta expresses solidarity with students' protest

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) yesterday expressed solidarity with the ongoing students' protest demanding safe roads, saying that road accidents have turned into a man-made catastrophe.

The teachers' body issued a statement in which they said that irregularities, extortion in transportation sector, traffic mismanagement and lack of proper implementation of traffic laws are responsible for such accidents.

Referring to some researches, it said that at least 4,284 people were killed and 9,112 were injured in road accidents last year.

"Unfit vehicles, drivers without license, vehicle owners focusing only on profits, and transport owner-labour associations' influence have created anarchy and put the transportation sector in a deep crisis. Concerned authorities have failed to play effective roles," reads the statement.

The protest by these youngsters has brought to light these mismanagements.

"We consider their demands to be logical

and urge the government to accept them. We ask the authorities to take immediate steps and request them to act more humbly," it added.

They demanded that necessary steps be taken after finding permanent solutions to the problems, instead of taking temporary steps, adding that actions should be taken against those who are engaged in corruption and irregularities in the transportation sector.

The teachers also said that safe roads and commuting system can be ensured if the transport owners and drivers are compelled to abide by the laws through making road and transport management stricter.

They also urged the authorities concerned to generate public awareness and encourage people to use footpaths, footbridge, zebra crossing, and to abide by traffic rules.

Meanwhile, Dhaka University unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League yesterday brought out a procession demanding a safe campus. They also extended their support to the ongoing students' movement.

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