

The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION


KARUNANIDHI DIES
Thousands mourn as veteran Indian leader passes away in Tamil Nadu aged 94
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"I cannot ensure there will be absolutely no irregularities anywhere in a national-level election."
CEC KM NURUL HUDA, RESPONDING TO A QUERY ABOUT IRREGULARITIES IN FIVE RECENT CITY POLLS

"The statement is an ill attempt to poke nose into politics of Bangladesh."
INFORMATION MINISTER HASANUL HAQ INU, ABOUT US EMBASSY'S STATEMENT OVER THE ATTACKS ON STUDENT PROTESTERS

"Incidents of unlawful or disproportionate violence or action against protesters, journalists or others need to stop."
ENVOYS OF EU, 9 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES URGE GOVT IN A STATEMENT



Students sued, not attackers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaving out the alleged ruling party men involved in attacks on road safety demonstrators and journalists, police have made students accused in cases filed over the last few days' violence in the capital.

The complainants in all the 29 cases filed with 16 police stations mentioned that the attackers were unknown students, many of whom were in school and college uniforms.

The case documents also state that some of the attackers were unidentified youths believed to be the infiltrators into the student movement sparked by the killing of two of their peers in a road crash on July 29.

This correspondent went through some of the case statements and talked to police officials in this regard.

Asked why they did not sue anyone belonging to the Awami League or its front organisations, a senior official of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, wishing anonymity, said, "Does any officer has the guts to file a case against ruling party activists unless a political decision comes to that end?"

Twenty-seven cases have been filed

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Some students, arrested during Monday's clash between private university students and police, being produced before a Dhaka court in handcuffs yesterday. Such a treatment goes against the police regulations, which say the use of handcuffs or ropes is "often an unnecessary indignity". Inset, anxious relatives through Tejaago Industrial Police Station to get other arrested students freed.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN/AMRAN HOSSAIN

Stop violence on protesters, journalists

EU envoys call for probe

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The European Union has called for an immediate end to "disproportionate violence" against peaceful student protesters and journalists.

It also demanded an investigation for holding the perpetrators accountable.

"Incidents of unlawful or disproportionate violence or action against protesters, journalists or others need to stop; those that happened must be investigated and perpetrators must be held accountable," EU heads of mission in Dhaka said yesterday.

A joint statement by nine EU envoys said the school children's protests highlighted fears over road safety in Bangladesh.

"The government's recognition of the need for action is a welcome step and we, therefore, expect further government action to address this without delay," read the statement signed by the envoys of the EU, the UK, Denmark, Spain, France, Italy, Germany, Sweden and the Netherlands.

The United Nations, the US, Canada, Sweden and Norway also have voiced concerns over the crackdown which rights groups say is part of a wave of repression across Bangladesh in the run-up to the national elections likely in December.

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Arrest culprits in 72 hours

Journalists ask govt over attacks on colleagues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Journalists of different print and electronic media yesterday gave a 72-hour ultimatum to the government to arrest those who attacked their colleagues during the students' movement for road safety.

They said if action wasn't taken, they would launch tougher programmes from August 11 that would include protest rallies across the country. The ultimatum was issued during a human chain of journalists

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Inu deplors statements of UN, US embassy

Attacks on journalists regrettable, he says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Information Minister Hasnul Haq Inu yesterday rejected statements issued by the US embassy in Dhaka and the United Nations, Bangladesh, over the safety of student protesters during road safety campaign, terming those "unexpected and unwanted".

Talking to journalists at his secretariat office in the capital, the minister also urged the US embassy to withdraw its statement over the attack on the student protesters, said a press release from the ministry.

"The statement is an ill

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Owners excused, drivers alone to shoulder blame

Campaigners slam draft transport law, say prosecution of only drivers, workers won't stop deaths on roads

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The proposed Road Transport Act-2018 is rather soft on transport owners, as it holds drivers solely responsible for deaths and casualties in road crashes.

Road safety campaigners decried the draft law and said it was impossible to ensure safe roads by letting the owners off the hook and by punishing the workers or drivers alone.

"We think that transport owners have been exempted from shouldering certain liabilities because of lobbying and negotiations," said Mozammel Hoque Chowdhury, secretary general of Bangladesh Jatri Kalyan Samity, a passengers' platform.

The withdrawal of the "undeclared strike" by transport owners just hours before the draft was placed before the cabinet on Monday raises suspicions that the government struck some sort of deals with them, he added.

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Justice for Shahidul Alam

MAHFUZ ANAM

Who is this man whose arrest has sparked outrage and condemnation from global bodies and media, including Amnesty International, Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), PEN International, SAMDEN (South Asia Media Defenders Network) and publications such as the Guardian, The Washington Post and many South Asian media?

He is one of the most respected photographers in the world. Very few Bangladeshi of his profession has reached his present global stature. His pictures have been published in almost all the global newspapers and magazines in the world. He is among that elite corps of global photographers who is regularly hired by the most renowned global publications to do assignments in various parts of the world. The Guardian (London) while carrying news of

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Send Shahidul to BSMMU for treatment

HC asks govt, police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the authorities concerned of the government and police to immediately send detained photographer Shahidul Alam to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) for his treatment.

In response to a writ petition, the court also ordered the BSMMU authorities to

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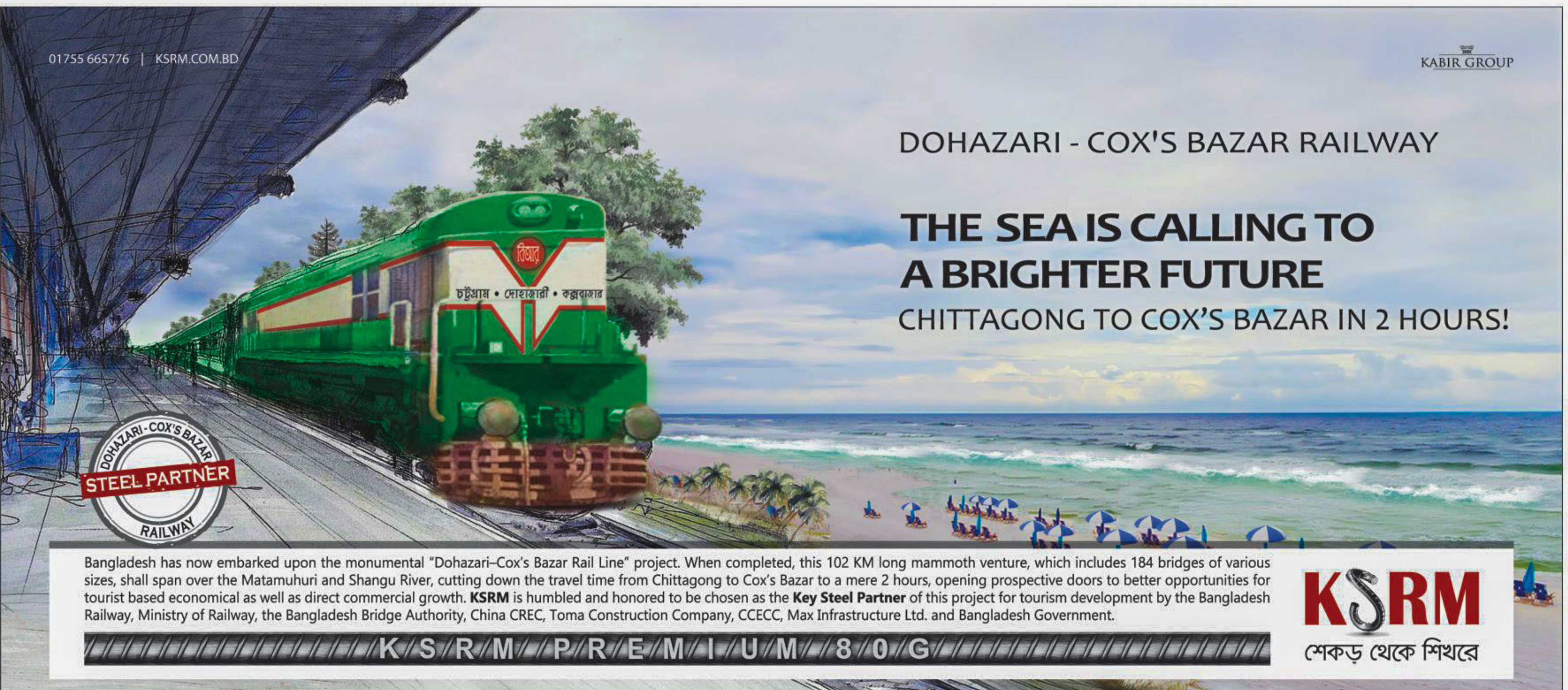
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DOHAZARI - COX'S BAZAR RAILWAY

THE SEA IS CALLING TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE

CHITTAGONG TO COX'S BAZAR IN 2 HOURS!



Bangladesh has now embarked upon the monumental "Dohazari-Cox's Bazar Rail Line" project. When completed, this 102 KM long mammoth venture, which includes 184 bridges of various sizes, shall span over the Matamuhuri and Shangu River, cutting down the travel time from Chittagong to Cox's Bazar to a mere 2 hours, opening prospective doors to better opportunities for tourist based economical as well as direct commercial growth. KSRM is humbled and honored to be chosen as the Key Steel Partner of this project for tourism development by the Bangladesh Railway, Ministry of Railway, the Bangladesh Bridge Authority, China CREC, Toma Construction Company, CCECC, Max Infrastructure Ltd. and Bangladesh Government.

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