

# Thousands flood streets

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 a large police presence outside the Western District police station.  
 "They've been telling everyone we're rioters. The march today is to show everyone we are not," said a 23-year-old named Chris, who works in marketing and was dressed all in black, including a scarf covering his face and baseball cap.  
 "It does not mean we won't keep fighting. We will do whatever is necessary to win, but today we take a break, then we reassess."  
 One protester shouted at others who were jeering at police, "Today is a peaceful march! Don't fall into the trap! The world is watching us," prompting the group to move on.  
 Anger over a now-suspended bill that would allow criminal suspects in Hong Kong to be extradited to mainland China erupted in June, but the rising unrest has been fuelled by broader worries about the erosion of freedoms guaranteed under the "one country, two systems" formula put in place after Hong Kong's return from British to Chinese rule in 1997.  
 Protesters held aloft placards with slogans including "Free Hong Kong!" and "Democracy now!" and umbrellas to shield them from the rain. The crowd in Victoria Park, where the rally started, was peaceful and included elderly people as well as the middle aged, young people and families, with some parents carrying toddlers.

Despite rally organisers not having permission to march, the park could not accommodate the crowd, which thronged the streets around the park. Many protesters headed towards the city's financial centre, chanting for the city's Beijing-backed leader, Carrie Lam, to step down.  
 It was impossible to put an exact figure on the number of protesters but Reuters journalists, reporting from around the territory, put the total at least 200,000.  
 "It's bloody hot and it's raining. It's a torture just to turn up, frankly. But we have to be here because we have no other choice," said a 24-year-old student named Jonathan who was at the rally that began in Victoria Park in the Causeway Bay district of Hong Kong island.  
 "We have to continue until the government finally shows us the respect that we deserve," he said.  
**'WE ARE HONG KONGERS'**  
 Aside from Lam's resignation, demonstrators are seeking complete withdrawal of the extradition bill, a halt to descriptions of the protests as "rioting", a waiver of charges against those arrested, an independent inquiry and resumption of political reform.  
 "When we were young, we didn't think about it. But my son tells me: After 2047, what will happen to me?," said a history teacher named Poon, referring to the year when the 50-year agreement enshrining Hong Kong's separate system will lapse.



**Pedestrians squeeze past a shop and a gaping drain on a footpath in Purana Paltan in the capital. The only warning about the drain is two bamboo poles sticking out of it, although such holes should be covered. The photo was taken yesterday.**

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

# Netanyahu dismisses Hezbollah warning

AFP, Jerusalem  
 Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Saturday he was "unimpressed" by a speech from Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah in which the Lebanese Shiite leader warned of his movement's military strength.  
 Nasrallah spoke in a TV broadcast Friday marking the anniversary of a 2006 war between Hezbollah and Israel.  
 A month of fighting killed more than 1,200 Lebanese, mostly civilians, and more than 160 Israelis, mostly soldiers.

# 13 killed in road crashes

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 Only survivor of the incident nine-year-old Rifat, youngest son Jashim, was shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital as his condition turned critical.  
 Family member of the victims took all the bodies after finishing official procedures, said Badrul Alam Talukder, officer-in-charge of Lalmai Police Station.  
 In Chattogram, an elderly man was killed and nine others were injured in a collision between a private car and a three-wheeler autorickshaw, locally known as Mahindra, on Chattogram-Cox's Bazar Highway in Lohagara upazila yesterday morning.  
 The dead is Abdul Mannan, 64, said Ahasan Habib, officer-in-charge of Dohazari Highway Police Station.  
 Locals and Highway police

personnel rescued the injured and sent them to Chattogram Medical College Hospital, the OC said, adding that police seized the two vehicles.  
 In Mymensingh, two people were killed and six others were injured in two road crashes on Mymensingh-Sherpur road in Phulpur upazila yesterday.  
 The victims are Rezia Khatun, 50, wife of Abdur Rashid from village Patilgaon in Phulpur, and Sayem, 15, son of Dudu Mia from Sherpur's Nalitabari upazila.  
 In Gopalganj, a man was killed and two others were injured in a road accident in Kashiani upazila on Dhaka-Khulna Highway around 11:30am yesterday.  
 Ahasan Habib, 18, was son of late Abu Taher Sorif from Borasur village under Kashiani Upazila.

Quoting locals, Aatur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Bhanga Highway Police Station, said, "The accident took place when a Dhaka-bound bus hit a motorbike at Dhushar bridge area."  
 Three riders on the motorcycle got seriously injured and were taken to Gopalganj General Hospital where doctors declared Ahasan dead, the OC said.  
 Police seized the bus and detained the bus driver, added OC.  
 In Noakhali, a college student was killed in an accident on JB road in Laxmipur town yesterday morning.  
 Ibrahim, 17, lost control of his motorcycle and hit a roadside ditch, said police.  
 Our correspondent from Cumilla, Mymensingh, Faridpur, Noakhali and a staff correspondent Chattogram contributed to the report

# 224 killed on roads

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 On the other hand, 102 people were killed and 624 others injured in 102 crashes from August 13 to August 17.  
 The increasing number of accidents after Eid can be attributed to drivers taking inadequate rest during the rush.  
 "We often see ministers, the Rab DG and IGP visiting the roads before Eid. But we see the opposite picture after Eid. There is no one in field to monitor after Eid," Mozammel said.  
 Ayubur Rahman, adviser of the association and former chairman of the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority, also said more crashes happened after Eid because of a lack of monitoring.  
 The number of crashes will drop once the Road Transport Act-2018 is implemented, he hoped.  
 Mozammel pointed out that 27.4 percent of the accidents involved buses, 26.33 percent motorcycles, 16.4 percent trucks, pickups, lorries and trailer trucks, and 7.82 percent cars and minibuses, 13.52 percent auto-rickshaws and other vehicles.  
 He said 52.21 percent of the accidents occurred after vehicles hit pedestrians, 21 percent were head-on collisions, 17 percent due to drivers losing control and 9.85 percent accidents happened due to unknown reasons.  
 The organisation also gave 12 recommendations including providing training to drivers,

introducing digital traffic control system, a separate cell to find out reasons behind accidents, implementing the ban on three-wheelers and slow vehicles on national highways, ban on motorbikes during Eid rush and checking vehicles before a trip.  
 Mozammel said the authorities used to deem their findings and recommendations as a "disturbance", but now the authorities' outlook have changed "a little".

# Icelanders

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 glaciers in West Antarctica, Earth's enormous masses of ice are melting fast. And though sea levels have risen and fallen throughout history, scientists say it's never happened at a rate this fast.  
 If glaciers continue to melt at the current rapid rate, it will pose a number of hazards for the planet, geologists say.  
 By 2100, up to 2 billion people -- or about a fifth of the world's population -- could be displaced from their homes and forced to move inland because of rising ocean levels, according to a 2017 study.  
 Bangladesh is particularly at risk. About 15 million people in the country could become climate refugees if sea levels rise 1 meter, or about 3 feet. And more than 10% of the country would be underwater.  
 Some of the people who are displaced might not have anywhere to go. They're not protected by international laws, so industrialized countries aren't legally obligated to grant them asylum.  
 If sea levels continue to rise at a rapid rate, some remote island nations would be at risk of disappearing, including Tuvalu, the Maldives and the Marshall Islands.  
 Millions of people depend on glaciers for drinking water, particularly in the Hindu Kush Himalayan region and the Andes Mountains.

# SC uphold

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 Earlier on March 14, a HC bench stayed the investigation into the case.  
 The HC bench also issued a rule asking the government why the continuation of probing into the case should not be declared illegal and contradictory to the Digital Security Act-2018 in the constitution.  
 On March 3, Shahidul filed a writ petition challenging the legality of the case in which he was imprisoned for 107 days.  
 On August 5 last year, Shahidul, also founder of Drik Gallery and Pathshala South Asian Media Institute, was picked up from his Dhanmondi home during a widespread demonstration for safe roads.  
 Police lodged the case against the 63-year-old under Section 57 of the ICT Act and produced him before a Dhaka court the following day.  
 On November 15 last year, the HC granted bail to Shahidul and he was released from Dhaka jail on November 20.

# How will you

FROM PAGE 16  
 and Prof Aung Tun Thet, former senior official of Unicef and also a former principal officer of UN System Staff College.  
 As a part of investigation, ICOE earlier wrote to Bangladesh seeking assistance in investigation following which yesterday's meeting was held.  
 During the meeting, Bangladesh told ICOE members that two Reuters journalists were jailed for securing classified documents of Myanmar government and asked "How would you get those classified documents, including the ones that ordered the military crackdown on the Rohingyas?"  
 The ICOE counterpart, however, could not respond properly to that question either, the diplomatic source added.  
 Bangladesh also asked why the UN's Independent Fact-Finding Mission was denied access to Myanmar for investigation into the military crackdown.  
 There was no answer from the ICOE delegation, the source said.  
 Bangladesh also asked on which court ICOE was planning to go for trial of the atrocities against the Rohingyas but the delegation kept mum.  
 Around 750,000 Rohingyas have fled military crackdown in Rakhine state since August 25, 2017 but Myanmar categorically rejected accusations of ethnic cleansing and dismissed most accounts of atrocities.  
 On top of that, it termed some of the Rohingyas "terrorists".  
 A two-member delegation of ICOE attended the meeting in Dhaka yesterday. A fully-fledged delegation of ICOE is expected to arrive soon.

# Indian FM arrives today

FROM PAGE 1  
 to Delhi in the first week of October, and following two important meetings -- one at the home minister level in Delhi on August 7 and the other at the water secretary level meeting on August 8.  
 Foreign Minister Momen recently said it was Jaishankar's courtesy visit to Dhaka. However, a foreign ministry official said the visit will involve meetings regarding water sharing of 54 common rivers (including the Teesta), Indian Line of Credit, the Rohingya crisis, and regional connectivity and trade.  
 The issues will also be priorities during Hasina's Delhi visit.  
**WATER SHARING**  
 Teesta water sharing agreement could not be signed between India and Bangladesh during the then Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to Bangladesh in 2011 due to objections from West Bengal's Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.  
 Officials at the water resources ministry told The Daily Star last week that Indian water ministry officials during the meeting in Dhaka communicated that they too felt bad as the deal could not be signed in so many years.  
 However, the meeting, led by Bangladesh's Water Resources Secretary Kabir Bin Anwar and Indian Water Resources Secretary Upendra Prasad Singh on August 8, decided to work on water sharing and basin management of seven common rivers -- Manu, Muhuri, Khowai, Feni, Gumti, Dharla and Dudhkumar.  
 "Teesta is only one of the 54 common rivers. As there are some issues with Teesta, we cannot sit on

[issues regarding] other rivers," a water resources ministry official of Bangladesh told The Daily Star.  
 The officials of the two countries also decided to conduct a feasibility study on the proposed Ganges Barrage project, especially on its impacts on the environment and people's livelihoods both in Bangladesh and India.  
**ROHINGY CRISIS**  
 Bangladesh, which is bearing the brunt of sheltering some 1.1 million Rohingyas, has repeatedly requested India to play a stronger role in the repatriation of the refugees to Myanmar.  
 Referring to a meeting with Jaishankar on the sidelines of ASEAN Regional Forum meeting in Bangkok earlier this month, Momen said India wants early repatriation of the Rohingya refugees.  
 India has been criticised for not playing a strong role internationally for the accountability of the Myanmar military, which cracked down on Rohingyas in 2017. UN investigators have described the act as having "genocidal intent".  
 A foreign ministry official said India was expanding its connectivity in Myanmar and Southeast Asia. However, if the Rohingya crisis is not solved, the regional connectivity and development would be affected.  
**ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION**  
 During the home minister-level meeting between Bangladesh and India on August 7 in Delhi, Indian Home Minister Amit Shah raised the issue of illegal movement of people across the border and urged Bangladesh to take action in this

regard.  
 Bangladesh Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal told Amit Shah that no Bangladeshi goes to India illegally as the economy of Bangladesh is in good shape.  
 Gautam Lahiri, an Indian expert on Bangladesh, urged India to handle the issue of illegal immigration carefully and to ignore domestic compulsion amidst apprehensions that Bangladesh might get closer to China, reports India's Financial Express Online on August 16.  
 Jaishankar, during his visit to Dhaka, will try to find a middle ground on this issue, Lahiri said.  
 While there may be a difference of opinion on illegal immigrants, India will fully support Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's development agenda, Lahiri adds.  
**INDIAN LINES OF CREDIT**  
 Foreign Minister Momen recently told The Daily Star that Dhaka wants speedy disbursement of Indian Lines of Credit (LoC) as projects under the three LoCs worth around \$7.5 billion are facing delays mainly due to technical and bureaucratic reasons.  
 In the last eight years, Bangladesh managed to use \$523 million of the first LoC worth \$862 million despite various steps to expedite utilisation of the funds.  
 Bangladesh has so far used \$14 million of the \$2-billion second LoC. India is yet to disburse any money from the \$4.5-billion third LoC, officials said.  
 "I have asked the officials to take stock of projects and find the bottlenecks and ways to speed up the projects," Momen said.

# DoE shuts down

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 remove sludge in an environment-friendly way."  
 Mohammed Shafiqul Alam, chief engineer of Asian Paper Mill, said they would comply with the instructions of DoE.  
 He said, "The sludge produced by our factory spill over and get into a pond because of heavy rain. We are constructing a concrete reservoir to avoid this."

# Owner held for flouting

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 Bakkar Siddiqui arrested Tasvir from the capital's Segunbagicha area around 4:00pm, said the watchdog's spokesperson Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya.  
 After his arrest, ACC kept Tasvir in the custody of Ramna Model Police Station.  
 "He will be produced to court today," said Pranab.  
 Earlier on March 31, SMHI Faruque, the land owner of FR Tower, and Tasvir were both arrested and placed on seven-day remand each.  
 The two, along with Liakat Ali Khan alias Mukul, 57, chairman of Rupayan Group -- the builder company of FR Tower, leaders of the building management committee, and some unidentified persons were charged for the death of people due to negligence.  
 Tasvir was a member of the building management committee.  
 The two were later released on bail.  
 The latest arrest comes after the ACC on June 25 filed two cases accusing 23 people for their involvement in illegally extending the building which caught fire on March 27.  
 According to the case statement, one of the accused SMHI Faruk on June 25, 1989 took lease of the over eight katha plot at Banani Commercial area from Dhaka Improvement Trust, which was renamed to Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (RAJUK).  
 On October 02, 1990 he applied to Rajuk for erecting a 15-storey building. The application was approved 28 days

later.  
 On January 25, 1996, Faruk applied to Rajuk again, but this time to revise the original plan and extend the building to 18-storied. Rajuk approved the plan illegally, reads the FIR.  
 Afterwards on April 27, 2003 Faruk signed a contract with managing director of Rupayan Housing Estate Ltd Liakat Khan Mukul, also an accused, for erecting the 18-storey building.  
 Later, both Faruk and Liakat signed another contract for extending the building to 23-storied and completed construction. According to the FIR, however, no clearance certificate was taken from the housing authority for the latest extension.  
 "Not even the design [for extension] was approved," it says.  
 On March 13, 2005, Liakat signed a contract with Tasvir to sell him office space on the three floors in level 19, 20 and 21.  
 The contract was valued at about Tk 5.65 crore. To meet the expenditure, Tasvir took out a Tk 3.6 crore mortgage from GPS Finance Company Ltd. Liakat and Tasvir, however, produced a "forged design of the building" and "misused their power" to get Rajuk's approval for the mortgage, the FIR said.  
 The fire at the 23-storey building killed 25 people and injured 73 others.  
 The former chairman of Rajuk, along with the housing authority's former and incumbent officials, was also made accused in the case.

# India restricts movement

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 Representatives in the Jammu and Kashmir government in Srinagar and the federal government in New Delhi did not immediately return calls asking about the latest clampdown or seeking an assessment of the number of injuries and clashes.  
 One of the official sources said that people pelted security forces with stones in around two dozen places across Srinagar. He said that the intensity of the stone pelting protests has increased over past few days.  
**CHILLY GRENADES**  
 The heavy overnight clashes took place mostly in Rainawari, Nowheta and Gojwara areas of the old city where Indian troops fired tear smoke, chilly grenades and pellets to disperse protesters, eyewitnesses and officials said.  
 "Chilly grenades contain very spicy chili pepper, and produce a major eye and skin irritant, as well as a pungent

smell, when they are unleashed.  
 The officials, who declined to be identified because they aren't supposed to talk to the media, said clashes also took place in other parts of the city including Soura, a hotbed of protests in the past two weeks.  
 A senior government official and hospital authorities at Srinagar's main hospital said that at least 17 people came there with pellet injuries. They said 12 were discharged while five with grievous injuries were admitted.  
 The hospital officials and a police officer told Reuters that a 65-year-old man, Mohammad Ayub of Braripora, was admitted to the hospital after he had major breathing difficulties when tear gas and chilly grenades were fired in old city area on Saturday afternoon. He died in the hospital on Saturday night and has already been buried, they said.  
 A magistrate speaking to AFP on

condition of anonymity said yesterday at least 4,000 people were arrested after New Delhi stripped the restive region of its autonomy two weeks ago.  
 They were held under the Public Safety Act (PSA), a controversial law that allows authorities to imprison someone for up to two years without charge or trial.  
 "Most of them were flown out of Kashmir because prisons here have run out of capacity," the magistrate said, adding that he had used a satellite phone allocated to him to collate the figures from colleagues across the Himalayan territory amid a communications blackout imposed by authorities.  
 A police official who asked to remain anonymous told AFP "around 6,000 people were medically examined at a couple of places in Srinagar after they were detained."  
 "They are first sent to the central jail in Srinagar and later flown out of here in military aircrafts," he added.