Kazakh president moves to allow peaceful protests

AFP, Nur-Sultan

Kazakhstan's president yesterday called for an easing of restrictions on peaceful demonstrations, three months after thousands were detained at opposition protests in the authoritarian country.

Kazakh citizens currently need to obtain official permission to hold demonstrations, a legal stipulation that rights groups say gives authorities a veto on the constitutional right to free assembly.

Taskforce

FROM PAGE 2

held at the planning ministry, sources

"Taskforce members raised questions about the basis of calculation done on the loss after graduation, and said that the report does not portray a positive side of graduating," said a taskforce member. In response, GED officials said

that they prepared the report through

various research organisations, including

Policy Research Institute, and consulting with several renowned economists. They added that the report was made after calculating the possible loss of earning from exports, which may happen after graduation due to

the phasing out of tariff benefit and price hike. The report also made several recommendations for the government to avoid any possible

loss after graduation. The meeting, attended by taskforce members who are also secretaries to different ministries, was presided over by the head of the taskforce Abul Kalam Azad, who is also the prime minister's chief coordinator on the Sustainable Development Goals.

The taskforce was formed in January last year.

Finance ministry officials said that the Committee for Development Policy (CDP), a United Nations panel, that announced the graduation, would also make an impact assessment report on Bangladesh's possible losses after graduation.

"They [the CDP] will prepare the report by 2021," ministry sources said. GED officials said they have started the process of the eighth "Five

Year Plan 2021-2025" keeping the losses after graduation in mind and chalking out possible measures to offset the losses.

SC clears way

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Deputy Attorney General KM Zahid Sarwar Kajal told this correspondent that the government would move a regular leave to appeal petition before the Appellate Division challenging the HC verdict after getting its certified copy.

During hearing on the government's stay petition earlier in the day, DAG Zahid told the apex court that Minni had connection with the killers of Rifat Sharif and she was involved in conspiracy of the killing. Minni cannot be granted bail in

the case, he argued. Meanwhile, Minni's lawyer ZI

Khan Panna told the SC that the police had illegally confined his client at Barguna police lines before arresting her.

The police forced Minni to give confessional statement to the magistrate, he argued, praying to the SC to uphold the HC verdict that granted bail to Minni.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam also represented the government during the proceedings.

On June 26, Rifat, 25, who used to provide internet services, was hacked to death in broad daylight in front of Minni. A video clip of the incident went viral on social media. In the footage, Minni was seen trying to save her husband

from the attackers. Police arrested Minni after a daylong interrogation on July 16. A Barguna court placed her on a five-day remand the following day. Three days

later, the court recorded her statement. On August 29, Minni was granted bail by the HC on conditions that she would remain in her father's custody and that she wouldn't talk to the

media. The HC on September 1 released

the full text of the verdict.

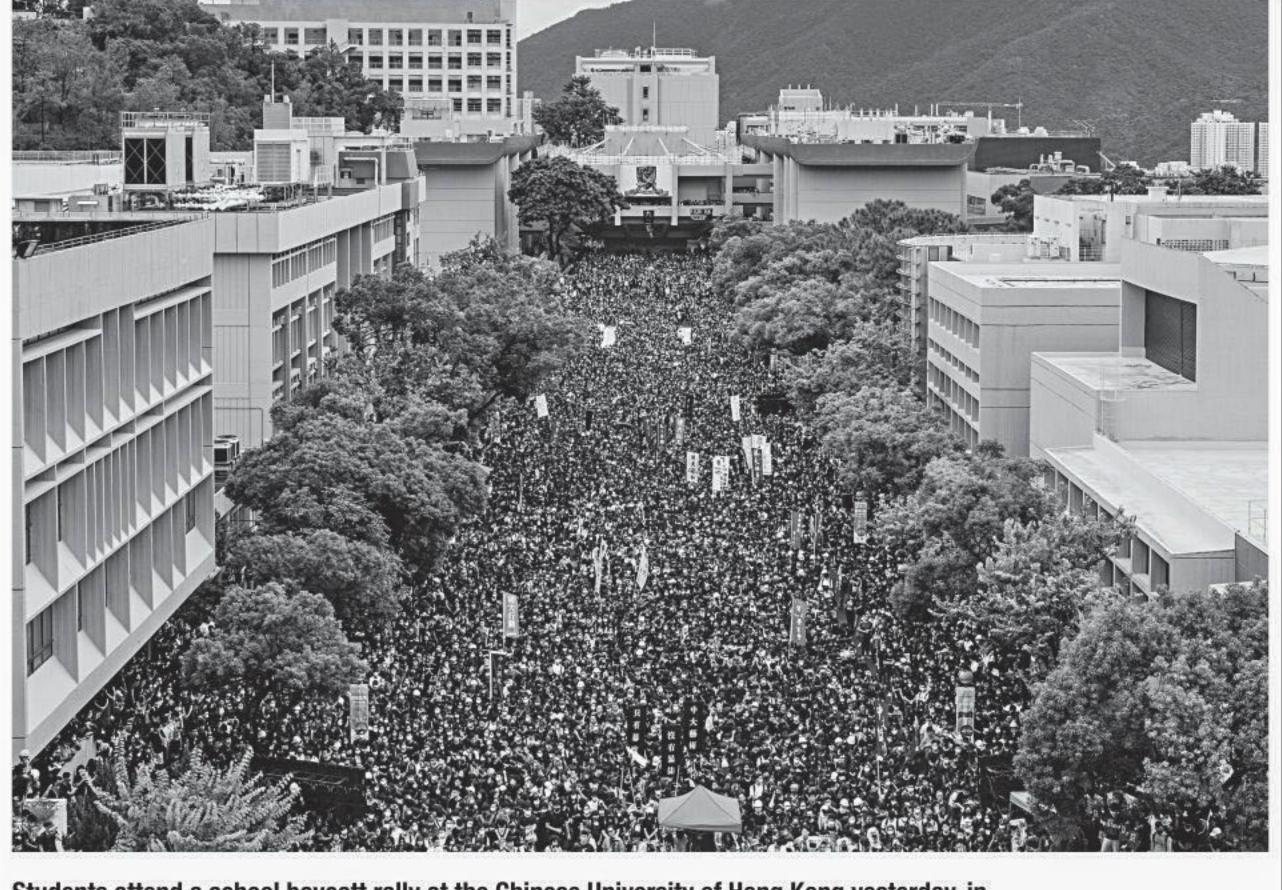
Man jailed

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"After receiving the conviction warrant from the court, I engaged an informant to find the convict Nurul Absar. We went to the house of the [mentally challenged] man on the night of August 18. When I entered the house, he tried to hide inside his bedroom with the help of his wife and sister. During his arrest, he or his family members did not inform anything about his identity," the ASI told The Daily

He added that he had talked to local union parishad chairman and

members to confirm his identity. He learnt about his mistake after he collected more information and photos of the actual convict.



Students attend a school boycott rally at the Chinese University of Hong Kong yesterday, in the latest opposition to a planned extradition law that has since morphed into a wider call for democratic rights in the semi-autonomous city.

PHOTO:

Uncertainty grips Bengali colonies

FROM PAGE 16

buzz at neighbourhood pan shops. Hari Arja, for example, had to pawn his wife's gold earrings for Rs 7,000 to attend a hearing on his NRC status in August, reported Hindustan Times online. He had submitted documents that

showed his grandfather Mahadev Das, who fled to India from then East Pakistan, was on the 1970 voter list, but failed to finally prove that he was indeed the grandson – a consequence of the family taking to the Arya Samaj faith and changing their surname. "We gave our refugee card, our voter

ID and our PAN card. We do not know if they want to throw out all Bengalis. Maybe they do not want us here," he said. His neighbours, all Bengalispeaking Hindus and supporters of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), nodded. Residents of Bengali Hindu

settlements in Barpeta, Guwahati, Hojai, and Silchar expressed similar worries.

Fifty members of one family in Ali Bhuyan. Barpeta have been excluded from the final NRC that was published on August 31. The final list has excluded

AFM Al Kibria of the cyber security

A number of police officials

who deal with militancy told this

newspaper that such a committee

was formed due to the slow progress

in the investigation into three cases

filed over three attacks on police

in Gulistan, Malibagh and Science

Laboratory intersection injuring seven

people, including five policemen.

Two more cases filed over planting

two bombs near Khamarbari and

Paltan traffic police boxes also have

told journalists that there was some

progress in the investigation, though

Police Mohammad Javed Patwary

held a meeting with the top

officials from CTTC, Anti-Terrorism

Unit, Rab, Criminal Investigation

Department, Special Branch, Police

Bureau of Investigation and DMP

at the Police Headquarters (PHQ)

Contacted, Assistant Inspector

Investigation (PBI) arrested Morshed,

35, driver of the Trust Transport Services

bus, on Sunday night, five days after the

Nitor yesterday, Krishna said she was

almost all her family expenses

since her husband Radhe Shyam

Chowdhury, a college teacher, retired

in 2008. Her family was worried

to wait more than a month after a full

my life and family. I want proper

compensation for my treatment and

rehabilitation and also for the suffering

I would have to endure throughout the

Earlier, the family refused a

compensation offer of Tk 2 lakh from the

bus owners. It filed a case with Hatirjheel

Police Station against Morshed, his

said, "It is not something that a car was

damaged in an accident and you give

some money to the car owner... we

want justice and proper compensation."

(accounts) at Bangladesh Inland Water

Transport Corporation (BIWTC), was

injured in the accident on August 27

Krishna, 55, assistant manager

Krishna's son Kaushik Chowdhury

Doctors said Krishna would have

"The accident has destroyed

whether she would recover soon.

recovery to have a prosthetic leg.

rest of my life," Krishna said.

assistant, and owners of the bus.

Speaking to this newspaper at the

She said she had been bearing

vehicle hit Krishna on a pavement.

hopeful about walking again.

However, the DMP commissioner

Meanwhile, Inspector General of

not seen remarkable progress.

he did not elaborate on this.

yesterday.

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FROM PAGE 16

and crime unit.

over 19 lakh people from the Assam this inclusion.

Fifty two-year-old Ahmad Hussain, a primary school teacher and his entire family, including 15 children, have been left out of the final list. Ahmad Hussain and his family

residents of Nichanchar village under the Baghbor assembly constituency in Barpeta. During the NRC application process, the family used their 1951 legacy data of their late father

members, including 7 brothers, are

documents. Interestingly, the entire family apart from a brother of Ahmad Hussain, had been included the earlier draft NRC list but they have now been left out of the final NRC list.

Harmuj Ali Bhuyan along with other

The excluded brother from the earlier draft NRC was Abdul Baten.

When the NRC authorities served a hearing notice to Abdul Baten, he had used 1966 legacy data of late Harmuj

Ahmad Hussain doubted that the difference of the legacy data of 1951 and 1966 is the main reason behind

General (Media) at the PHQ Sohel

Rana said the IGP instructed the

officials to complete investigation

into the cases and bring the culprits

measures to prevent the recurrence of

were self-radicalised and worked like a

had suspected that this group was

involved in planting two powerful

Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs)

constables and a community traffic

On April 29, two traffic police

In another incident, two people,

including a female police officer, were

injured after a bomb went off near a

police pickup in the capital's Malibagh

Laboratory traffic police box, two

when she was on her way to a private

bank in Banglamotor from her nearby

Following his arrest from the capital's

Kazipara area around 10:30pm Sunday,

Morshed told police that he was on his

first trip with the bus of Trust Transport

Services, PBI Inspector Jewel Mia, who

He claimed that he could not

Morshed said he had a driving

He had been an assistant of a

behind the steering wheel of the Trust

Transport bus, he used to drive a car,

the inspector said, quoting the arrestee.

pedestrians had beaten him up

after the accident. But he somehow

managed to escape and went to his

accident news on newspapers on August

28. He used to stay at his relatives'

houses at night to dodge law enforcers.

village home, but he managed to avoid

arrest. He later left his village home for

the capital, the PBI official said.

over to Hatirjheel police.

A PBI team conducted a raid at his

Yesterday, the PBI handed Morshed

He became afraid after seeing the

village home in Kishoreganj.

Morshed told police that

control the bus while trying to avoid

licence for medium-duty vehicles. He,

however, could not show the licence

led the drive, told The Daily Star.

In the latest attack at Science

Similar IEDs were recovered from

in Khamarbari and Paltan.

intersection on May 26.

policemen were injured.

Officials at that time said they

He also asked all to take necessary

to book.

such incidents.

"wolf pack".

Gulistan.

Victim's plight continues

office.

DRIVER HELD

hitting a car.

to the PBI.

The entire family is now spending

sleepless nights after their names were not listed in the final NRC, reported India Today online. Ahmad Hussain, a teacher by profession, said, "We have found that not a single member of our family has been listed in the final NRC. There are

50 members in our family. We had

used our father's legacy data of 1951.

Our family members' names were

listed in the earlier draft NRC but one of brother's name was not included When he applied a second time, he used the 1966 legacy data." "For that, we were served several notices. We appeared in hearings four times. But our names were not listed in the final NRC. We are now frustrated. We are worried about it.

government instructions." Several families across Assam have been facing similar issues of partial inclusion and partial exclusion in the

We will apply again following the

NRC. For them, the wait is now to get a

notice so that they can take the next possible step forward.

DMP forms body to help investigate

Khamarbari and Paltan on July 23.

Hours after the attacks and planting

bombs, US-based SITE Intelligence

Group reported that the Islamic State

(IS) had claimed responsibility for the

attacks. CTTC chief Monirul said they were so-called IS. We did not find On August 8, the CTTC unit any evidence that they have any

arrested five "Neo JMB" members who organisational link with the IS. "We sought help from our international partner organisations, they too did not find any connection of IS in carrying out the attacks," he

In each of the recent incidents, more than one person were involved, he said, adding that policemen were becoming targets of attacks for various policeman were injured in a blast in reasons.

Many Jamaat-Shibir activists have joined the militant group "Neo-JMB" and they are infuriated with police as most of their leaders and operatives were either arrested or killed in police action, Monirul said.

Besides, international militant outfits are also instructing their followers to carry out attacks on law enforcers, he also said.

15 dead in Mali building collapse

AFP, Bamako

Fifteen people were killed on Sunday when a three-storey building under construction collapsed "like a house of cards" in the Mali capital Bamako, the government and local media reports said. Twenty-six people were rescued

alive from the partially occupied building after it collapsed just before dawn. "Thanks to the determination

of the emergency services, a young girl of around four years has just bus driver for long. Before sitting been pulled out of the rubble "Another survivor (a woman)

has just, happily, been extracted by rescuers," the civil protection ministry

The ministry later said an investigation into the building's owner had been opened. According to local media reports,

the top floor collapsed onto the rest of the building which was already occupied, resulting in the entire structure "collapsing like a house of cards".

Such collapses are common in Mali where buildings are often constructed without planning

permission.

2 killed in 'gunfights'

FROM PAGE 2

them. Rab men retaliated with gunfire which triggered a gunfight, Satyajit claimed

After the "gunfight", Rab men members opened fire on them, found Fajar's injured body on the spot, he claimed, adding they took him to a hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Two Rab men -- Assistant Subinspector (ASI) Sekandar and Constable Pandit -- were injured in the incident, the Rab official claimed. He also claimed that Rab recovered

a pistol, 2,800 yaba tablets, and some

marijuana and used ammunitions. Abdul Ahad, officer-in-charge of Gowainghat Police Station, said Fajar was accused in several cases filed with different police stations in Sylhet.

The Daily Star could not contact Fajar's family and independently verify Rab's claims.

In Mymensingh, Khalil, a resident of Bakchala village in Phulbaria upazila, was a member of an interdistrict auto-rickshaw stealing gang, said detectives.

Shah Kamal Akanda, officer-incharge of the detective branch (DB) of police in Mymensingh, said acting on a tip-off that some auto-rickshaw thieves are involved in the trading of

stolen auto-rickshaws in Bade Kolpa area of Mymensingh city, detectives raided the area.

Sensing their presence, the gang

triggering a gunfight around 1:00am, claimed the OC, who led the team. After the other gang members fled, police found bullet-hit Khalil on the spot, he claimed, adding they rushed him to Mymensingh Medical College

Hospital where he was declared dead around 3:00am. Detectives recovered a pipe gun and two stolen auto-rickshaws from the spot, the OC claimed.

Two DB men -- ASI Md Amir

Hamza and Constable Jahangir Alam

-- were injured during the incident, he said. They were given treatment at Mymensingh Police Lines Hospital. The OC said Khalil was accused in some 10 cases including eight for

stealing auto-rickshaws with different police stations in Mymensingh, Jamalpur and Sherpur. Police sent the body to

Mymensingh Medical College morgue for autopsy while a case was filed over the incident, he said. [Our Sylhet and Mymensingh

correspondents contributed to this report.

Commissioner for refugees

said he had been thinking of seeking a transfer due to his health condition. He was appointed as the RRRC in

mammoth rally in Kutupalong of Cox's Bazar, marking the second anniversary of the influx of Rohingyas into Bangladesh. They urged the international

the atrocities committed against them by the Myanmar military. They also reiterated their demands for guaranteed citizenship and safe return to their homes in Rakhine. government's approval.

meeting. were not informed beforehand about the Rohingya rally," Foreign Minister AK Abdul

Kalam yesterday said they formed

The three-member committee was formed on August 27, and it

was asked to submit a report in seven working days, said an RRRC Meanwhile, another circular of the public administration ministry

yesterday said Mahbub Alam Talukder, director of the Department of Disaster Management, would replace Kalam as RRRC. Thousands of Rohingyas had fled Rakhine in phases escaping

targeted violence. In the latest spells, over 743,000 fled military atrocities, including killing, rape, torture, and burning of houses in The rally was held without the Rakhine, since August 25, 2017. They joined around 300,000 others who had reached Bangladesh before. Almost all Rohingyas have taken

shelter in refugee camps in Cox's Bazar. They have been living on humanitarian assistances provided by the Bangladesh government and international and national aid groups.

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roads under the department.

Overloading, a common practice in the country, is considered to be a major reason behind early damages to roads and bridges, said Abul Kalam Azad, RHD superintendent engineer (maintenance circle).

AK Mohammad Fazlul Karim, a superintendent engineer of RHD's road design and safety circle, said carrying goods 40 percent more than the approved limit could reduce the lifespan of a road by 5 years.

The four-lane highway, touted as the economic lifeline of the country,

Chattogram highway with 98 million standard axel load capacity for 10 years, but the limit crossed within three years," he said.

weighbridges are situated at two country's busiest highway.

set up the [21] weighbridges to check overloading to save our roads and bridges."

Last year, the Road Transport and Bridges Ministry sent the proposal to the planning ministry. Later, an inter-ministerial committee formed to examine the feasibility gave go-ahead to the project following field visits, road transport and bridges ministry sources said.

The weighbridges will be set up at

Gazipur, Rohitpur in Munshiganj, Bhanga in Faridpur, Sitakunda in Chattogram and Sutarkandi in Sylhet. **QUESTION OVER EFFECTIVENESS** Prominent transport expert Prof

off its responsibility," he said.

"So the government cannot shrug

a probe committee in this regard.

February 2017. The government decision came source. eight days after Rohingyas held a

community to ensure justice for

NGOs were blamed for helping the Rohingyas organise such a big

Momen told journalists in the capital on August 26.

Highways to get

"This also increases road and bridge maintenance costs," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Speaking on how overloading causes damage to roads, he talked Dhaka-Chattogram about the highway.

was formally opened in July 2016. "We designed the Dhaka-

Two of the three existing

points of the road, which is the Nazrul Islam said, "We are going to

Jagadishpur in Habiganj, Mynamati in Cumilla, Deepraj in Bagerhat, Koilabari in Chapainawabganj, Keranihat in Chattogram, Tura in Kurigram, Bhajanpur in Panchagarh, Hili in Dinajpur, Shimultala in Sherpur, Gobrakura in Mymensingh, Naobadkathi in Satkhira, Kazirbazar in Nilphamari, Baro Ichapur in Tangail, Belonia in Feni, Darshana in Chuadanga, Bandar Connectivity Road in Chattogram, Masterbari in

Shamsul Haque yesterday said the government ignored the international standards while fixing weight limits on highways and it resulted in early damages to roads.

several Southeast Asian countries over islands in the South China Sea.

dispatch of coastguard ships to waters Relations between Japan and China

"nationalised" some of the islets.

The uninhabited islets are at the centre of a festering row between Tokyo and Beijing, which is also involved in a widening dispute with

surrounding the islands.

in saving the roads due to the "flawed limits". He also said many truck and lorry owners illegally modify their vehicles to carry goods beyond the permissible

fitness certificates in exchange for bribes. "In this situation, the new weighbridges might not give you the expected results," Prof Shamsul, also a former director of Buet's Accident

Research Centre, told The Daily Star

level, but the authorities give them

yesterday. Asked, Secretary Nazrul Islam said the maximum weight limit was increased in a "special situation". He said vehicles carrying even 40 tonnes of goods had operated on roads, but

now the highest limit is 22 tonnes. "But it is not for an indefinite period. We will maintain the international standards once the new weighbridges are established. We will also bring down the maximum limits to 16 tonnes for the existing ones," he added.

Japan 'to set up police unit' for disputed islands

helicopters to patrol disputed isles in the East China Sea -- a source of tension between Tokyo and Beijing, according to police and media. The deployment near the tiny islands known as the "Senkakus" in

Japan will launch a special police unit

equipped with submachine guns and

Japanese and the "Diaoyu" in Chinese could take place early next year, public broadcaster NHK reported yesterday. The National Police Agency said it had put in a budget request for an

additional 159 officers to head off "ilegal landings on remote islands by armed groups". NHK said it was the first time police had stepped up patrols near the disputed islands. However, extra jets from the Japan Coastguard were deployed in 2018 to

patrol the islands, where a Chinese nuclear-powered submarine was spotted earlier last year.

The Japanese government has long complained about China's routine

He said the existing three weighing deteriorated in 2012 when Tokyo machines appeared to be ineffective