



DEAL BETWEEN PM AND MILITARY
Thousands of Sudanese protest in Khartoum, other cities
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THE DAILY

SECOND EDITION
Star

ON FRIDAY

www.thedailystar.net

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XXXI No. 305

AGRAHAYAN 11, 1428 BS

Your Right to

RABIUS SANI 20, 1443 HJRI

16 PAGES PLUS TOGGLE PRICE : Tk12.00



“How did this happen to me? What will happen to our children?”

NADIRA PARVIN

Wife of Ahsan Kabir Khan, who was run over and killed by a garbage truck yesterday



A student of Holy Cross College chants slogans yesterday during the students' demonstration at the capital's Farmgate demanding justice for Notre Dame College student Nayeem Hasan who died after being hit by a garbage truck of Dhaka South City Corporation on Wednesday.



DANGER ON ROAD guaranteed

Broken pledges, non-fulfillment of just demands result in rising accidents, casualties

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The number of road crashes and casualties continues to rise in the country as promises by government bodies to ensure road safety remain unfulfilled, said road safety campaigners.

Moreover, most of the demands raised by students during their unprecedented road safety movement in 2018 have not been met.

In this situation, the country yesterday saw another student agitation in the capital for road safety after the death of Notre Dame College student Nayeem Hasan on Wednesday.

Mozammel Hoque Chowdhury, secretary general of Bangladesh Jatri Kalyan Samity, a platform working for passengers' welfare, said most of the rules made after the 2018 movement were not enforced. Road Transport Act was

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“The people and the government are hostages to transport sector leaders... They think the government has to meet their every demand and the people have to accept them.”

ILIAS KANCHAN

Road safety campaigner

Protests on, deaths too

Students rock the city as another killed, this time by DNCC garbage truck; 3 students die on way to college in Chandpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As school and college students poured onto the streets in a repeat act of the 2018 road safety protests after Wednesday's accident, another city corporation garbage truck hit and killed a commuter yesterday.

The accident on Wednesday was caused by a garbage truck of Dhaka South City Corporation, while yesterday's truck belonged to Dhaka North City Corporation.

In both cases, those driving the trucks were not registered drivers but cleaners working for the corporations.

Meanwhile, in a separate incident, three college students were killed when a CNG-run auto-rickshaw was hit by a BRTC bus in Chandpur.

In Dhaka, Ahsan Kabir Khan, a graphic designer of Dainik Sangbad, was killed when

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ROAD CRASH DATA

YEAR	ACCIDENT	DEATH	INJURY
2021 (up to August)	3,701	3,502	3,479
2020	4,198	3,918	3,826
2019	4,147	4,138	4,411
2018	2,609	2,635	1,920

SOURCE: BANGLADESH POLICE

KHALEDA'S TREATMENT

Next few days 'very critical'

Says her physician

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia is “still in critical” condition, doctors said yesterday, adding that they were yet to find all the sources of her bleeding.

They said some sources were identified and bleeding from those was stopped temporarily. Some blood clots were also removed.

“We [physicians] are trying our best to keep her vital organs working. She should be sent to a multispecialty medical centre for advanced treatment,” AZM Zahid Hossain, personal physician of Khaleda, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Suffering from multiple

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Zahangir loses post of mayor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Local Government Division temporarily suspended Mohammad Zahangir Alam from his mayoral post of Gazipur City Corporation yesterday.

He was suspended from the mayor post over allegations of graft, power abuse and rules violation.

Seven days ago, he was expelled for life from the Awami League for making derogatory comments on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

After his suspension from the mayoral post, the Local Government Division (LGD) appointed a three-member mayoral panel with two councillors from general seats and one from reserved seats.

Zahangir was asked to hand over his responsibilities to the panel in three days, said LGD officials.

In a press briefing, Tazul Islam, minister for the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, yesterday said, “There are allegations of land grabbing, involvement in activists against the public interest, misuse of power and public money.”

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Exciting ride ahead

Experts see both challenges and opportunities as the country on way to graduation from LDC

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA and JAGARAN CHAKMA

A cocktail of challenges and opportunities await Bangladesh as it enters the developing nation bracket in 2026 after the United Nations General Assembly on November 24 gave its graduation the final approval.

While the EU and the UK would continue their preferential trade benefits until 2029, the others would withdraw them, meaning the local exporters, businesses and traders will face severe competition in the global value chain.

“Bangladesh will have to do some homework religiously to turn those challenges into opportunities,” said Mustafizur Rahman, distinguished fellow of the Centre for Policy Dialogue.

Different estimates suggest a loss of more than \$4 billion worth of trade only from the EU in a year.

The graduation implication will be felt in four important areas: erosion of preferential market access, special and differential trade benefit, ensuring stringent globally standard compliance and erosion of non-reciprocal trade benefit, Rahman said.

“We do not want aid but trade -- LDC graduation a matter of pride for us,” said Faruque

Hassan, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

The country's image has brightened as it has fulfilled all three necessary conditions for graduation: human development, economic vulnerability and per capita income, Rahman said.

The brightened image will bring better prices from the international clothing retailers, according to Hassan.

“Graduation has challenges but the sector is also ready to face those challenges -- we have a lot of time to prepare.”

For instance, the primary textile sector is building its capacity to be able to supply more and more raw materials to domestic apparel manufacturers, Hassan added.

“We wanted to graduate and finally we got it. We are happy,” said Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi, adding that his government is taking preparation to face the graduation challenges.

Already a high-powered committee with seven sub-committees are working under the prime minister's office to face the challenges of LDC graduation, Munshi said.

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DSCC, DNCC VEHICLES

Chaos-driven

Proxy drivers, lack of registration common for both corporations

HELEMLUL ALAM

Almost 60 percent garbage collecting vehicles of Dhaka South City Corporation are driven by contractual or proxy drivers, said a DSCC source.

Besides, most of the DSCC vehicles are not registered with the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA). Similar situation also prevails in Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC), the source added.

The sorry picture of the two city corporations came to the fore following the tragic death of Nayeem Hasan, a 17-year-old student of Notre Dame College, on Wednesday. A DSCC garbage truck hit him in the city's Gulistan area.

After arresting Russel Khan, who was driving the vehicle at that time, police said he was not a designated DSCC driver.

According to a DSCC press release, Iran

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DEMOCRACY SUMMIT

US possibly invited 'weak democracies'

Says foreign minister

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The US has perhaps invited the “weak democracies” to the first phase of Summit for Democracy and that is why Bangladesh is not in the invitation list, said Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen.

He made the comment while talking to journalists after attending a discussion on climate change on Dhaka University campus yesterday.

The minister said, “Bangladesh has a stable and transparent democracy for the last several years. Citizens can vote here in a free and fair manner.”

In addition, he said he did not believe that Bangladesh was excluded.

“They [the US] will hold the summit in two phases -- one in this year and another the next... Maybe we will be invited to the second phase.”

As it was mentioned that the US was a valued partner in development,

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Boatmen waiting for passengers on the banks of the Buriganga in the capital's Keraniganj area. While the High Court has passed many orders for the protection of the country's rivers, the Buriganga continues to be a victim of pollution as dyeing factories in the area dump their toxic wastes right into the river. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

BHASHAN CHAR RELOCATION

UN looking to plug the gaps

UN Resident Coordinator Mia Seppo says in interview with The Daily Star

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The UN is looking to strengthen the operations of national NGOs that have been providing support to the Rohingyas on Bhasan Char, said outgoing UN Resident Coordinator Mia Seppo.

“We will build on what national NGOs are doing on the island -- we can complement the critical work that is being undertaken by bringing in technical expertise, facilitating coordination between humanitarian actors, and addressing protection gaps to safeguard the Rohingyas,” she told The Daily Star in a recent interview.

In her four-year stay in Bangladesh, she led the UN Country Team's response to the Rohingya crisis and the coronavirus pandemic. She will soon join her new assignment in Zimbabwe.

“We are also working with the government to make sure that the next round of relocations, planned before the next monsoon season, will be peaceful. There is no need to create panic and fear.”

The government has so far relocated nearly 20,000 Rohingyas to Bhasan Char from the crowded camps in Cox's Bazar where security concerns have risen after the killing of Rohingya leader Mohib Ullah last month.

SEE FULL TEXT ONLINE

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