



A man shows off his bike-riding and football-balancing prowess on a street in front of the High Court in the capital yesterday. He has no safety gear on. A small mistake could end in tragedy not only for him but also for other road users.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



## A spontaneous movement

Kazi Golam Mahbub

In January 1952, I was the vice-president of the East Pakistan Muslim Chattr League. After Nazimuddin's speech at Paltan Maidan (January 27, 1952), I called a meeting of the representatives of all political parties and student organisations at the Dhaka Bar Library. Maolana Bhasani presided over the meeting. All Party State Language Action Committee was formed at that meeting. The Committee called a strike at all educational institutions in Dhaka on February 4, 1952. We observed Flag Day on February 10. This was done for raising funds and ensuring mass publicity. Most likely, it was in preparation for the general strike to be held on February 21. The session of the East Pakistan Provincial Assembly was scheduled to begin on the same date and the date for a strike was fixed keeping that in view. After the promulgation of Section 144 (February 20, 1952), an emergency meeting of the All Party State Language Action Committee was called on the evening of February 20. The question of breaking section 144 the next day was the main topic of the discussion. Abul Hashim presided over the meeting. Opinions on the violation of Section 144 were sharply divided. The kind of argument I and a few others made was that whether we should break Section 144 depends on the strength of the movement, not just in Dhaka, but

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## Road-crash tragedies stalk his family

RU student Himel laid to rest; truck driver arrested; acting proctor removed

ARAFAT RAHAMAN and BULBUL AHMED with ANWAR ALI

Munira Akter, mother of Rajshahi University student Mahmud Habib Himel, could not shed any tears seeing the coffin of her only son, but her blank eyes made everyone around her choke up.

The body of road crash victim Himel, a fourth-year student of graphic design, crafts and history of arts department, was taken to his home in Natore town for burial yesterday.

The life of Munira is full of tragedies.

Before her son, she lost her husband Ahsan Habib and mother-in-law Amena Bewa to road accidents.

"Munira's entire family has been devastated by road accidents," her uncle Abdus Sobur, a government employee, told The Daily Star at their house in Natore town's Kapuriapatty area.

He said a road crash left Munira and her husband injured in Bogura's Sherpur four years ago. Munira survived, but her husband Habib died from injuries a year later.

The year when her husband died, another road accident claimed the life of her mother-in-law.

"She became a psychiatric patient after her husband's death. Now, we don't know how we will console her," said Sobur.

While crossing a construction site near Martyred Prof Habibur Rahman Hall on Tuesday night, a truck hit Himel's motorcycle and ran over his head, killing him on the spot.

Another fourth-year student, Rayhan Rimel, of ceramics and sculpture department, was also injured in the accident.

Angry students went berserk on the campus torching five vehicles and damaging properties in and outside the campus.

Yesterday, Himel was buried at Garikhana central graveyard in Natore town after Zohar prayers.

Earlier, his body was kept in front of the Fine Arts Building for teachers and students to pay homage before his namaz-e-janaza on the RU

campus.

Later, RU VC Prof Golam Sabbir Sattar with some administrative officers went to Natore to hand over the body to Himel's family.

The university authorities also handed over a cheque of Tk 5 lakh to his family as financial support.



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## 20 journos hurt as UP chair's men attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

At least 20 journalists on duty were injured during an attack on the district court premises in Barishal yesterday.

The relatives and associates of Darial Union Parishad Chairman Shahidul Islam Hawlader attacked the journalists as they were gathering information on the chairman being sent to jail in a fraud case.

Around 200 people, including the chairman's relatives, associates and his lawyers' assistants, attacked the journalists and vandalised their cameras and motorcycles, said witnesses.

The attackers hurled bricks at the journalists, leaving one critically injured. Some 13 more were hospitalised with injuries.

Azimul Haque, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Model Police Station, went to the spot and brought the situation under control as the deployed policemen on the court premises fell short to revive the crisis.

The law enforcers, however, did not arrest anyone in connection with the attack.

They will take legal actions after a proper investigation if a complaint is filed in this regard, the police official said.

According to the court sources, a Barishal court sent five people, including the chairman, to jail on charges of land fraud in their area.

The journalists took positions on the court premises to collect the news, but the police did not allow them first. As they continued their work defying the restrictions, they were attacked.

## ICJ GENOCIDE CASE Myanmar NUG drops objections

REUTERS

Myanmar's shadow government, set up after last year's military coup, said it accepts the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to hear allegations that the country committed genocide against its Rohingya minority.

Before the military seized power last year, Myanmar's government led by the now-ousted Aung San Suu Kyi had filed preliminary objections to the ICJ over the case brought by Gambia in a move to delay proceedings.

The National Unity Government (NUG), a parallel administration including deposed lawmakers in exile, said in a statement issued on Tuesday that it had withdrawn all preliminary objections to the case.

Still, it is not clear whether this would affect the legal process since the NUG said that through a "bureaucratic idiosyncrasy" the ICJ has been communicating with Myanmar diplomats in Brussels who were under the control of the junta.

"Should the ICJ recognise the military, it would embolden the junta to continue and escalate its daily atrocity crimes," the NUG said.

It urged the ICJ to deal with Myanmar's permanent representative to the United Nations, Kyaw Moe Tun.

The ICJ did not immediately respond to a request for comment and a spokesman for Myanmar's junta did not answer a telephone call seeking comment.

## US trying to lure Russia into war Says Putin amid Ukraine crisis

AFP, Moscow

Nato leaders pursued diplomatic efforts on the Ukraine crisis yesterday after President Vladimir Putin accused the West of trying to draw Russia into a war but left the door open to further talks.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson was to talk by phone to Putin a day after visiting Kyiv, where Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte was the latest Nato leader to visit in shows of solidarity with Ukraine.

Recent weeks have seen a flurry of diplomacy to avert a feared Russian invasion of Ukraine, after Moscow amassed troops on the pro-Western country's borders.

Western leaders have warned that any attack would be met with "severe consequences" including wide-ranging economic sanctions.

In his first major remarks on the crisis in weeks, Putin on late Tuesday accused the West of ignoring Russia's demands and suggested Washington was using Ukraine as an instrument to potentially draw Moscow into a conflict.

"Ukraine itself is just a tool to achieve this goal" of containing Russia, Putin said at a press conference with the Hungarian leader.



People brandish arms during a clash between two factions of the Awami League over occupying an illegal sand trading station on the Jamuna in Tangail's Bhupur upazila yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Man dies by suicide on Facebook live

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 58-year-old man died by suicide on Facebook live in the capital's Dhanmondi last night.

Md Abu Mohasin Khan shot himself in the head around 9:00pm with his licensed gun, said Officer-in-Charge Ikram Ali Miah of Dhanmondi Police Station.

Sister-in-law of the deceased told The Daily Star that Mohasin's daughter was married to actor Riaz.

She said Mohasin attended a funeral in the afternoon where he drove himself to and back.

"He used to live alone in a house on Dhanmondi Road-7," said the OC.

Shajjadur Rahman, deputy commissioner of

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