

# Global solidarity key to beat challenges

## State minister for foreign affairs makes call

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has called for strengthening global solidarity and adopting a well-coordinated response to address and overcome the ongoing challenges emanating from climate change, pandemic and the Ukraine war.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam made the call at the ministerial roundtable titled "Accelerating achievement of the SDGs by 2030: addressing on-going crises and overcoming challenges" at the High-Level Political Forum 2022 at the UN Headquarters in New York yesterday.

He urged the UN, other development partners, and the private sector to come forward to support national efforts -- especially of the most vulnerable countries -- to put the countries back on a sustainable, resilient, and inclusive recovery track, by providing additional financial and technological support.

"As a member of the Champions of the Global Crisis Response Group, my Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is working with other global leaders to chart a global response commensurate with the scale and gravity of the crises," he added.

Bangladesh's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Rabab Fatima and high-level officials were present at the event.

Highlighting the impacts of multiple and overlapping crises, such as the pandemic, climate change, and war in Ukraine, along with other protracted conflicts, Shahriar Alam said Bangladesh has been able to show strong resilience to tackle the impacts of these crises.

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When Jewel had set off for his village home in Magura, his pet cat Laltu of course was his trusted companion for the journey. Now that vacation's almost over, Jewel started his journey back to the capital's Jatrabari around 6:00am yesterday on his motorbike -- carrying Laltu in a ventilated bag made for pets. This photo was taken in front of Bangla Academy around 11:00am.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

# Ensure justice for minorities

## Demands Sammilito Samajik Andolon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sammilito Samajik Andolon, a citizens' platform, demanded the arrest of those involved in the attack on Rongdajan Tripura, a Bandarban-based activist involved in the land protection movement for ethnic minority groups.

In a statement, Saleh Ahmed, the platform's general secretary condemned the incident and demanded justice.

The statement read Rongdajan was attacked on Wednesday due to his involvement with the land protection movement.

"A rubber industry in Bandarban's Lama upazila has been trying to occupy around 400 acres of indigenous land illegally. Minority groups have been protesting against the industry for a long time. Rongdajan Tripura, was one of the activists working for the land protection movement there."

"Due to Rongdajan's

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# Kazi Ebadul Hoque passes away

UNB, Dhaka

Former Supreme Court judge and Language Movement activist Kazi Ebadul Hoque passed away due to age-related ailments at a hospital in the capital on Thursday night.

He was 82. Ebadul is survived by his wife and four daughters.

Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddiqui and Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday expressed their condolences for the former judge of the Appellate Division.

Ebadul Hoque was born on January 1, 1936, in Feni. He played an active role in organising the Language Movement.

He entered the legal profession in Feni after obtaining a law degree from Dhaka University. He enrolled as an advocate at the High Court in 1966.

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PRAYER  
TIMING

JULY 16

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4:15 12:45 5:00 6:54 8:15

JAMAA 4:50 1:15 5:15 6:58 8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

# The ungovernable garbage trucks

16 deaths in 6 years by the city corporation vehicles; recommendations remain unimplemented

DIPAN NANDY

On November 24, 2021, Naeem Hasnat, a student of Notre Dame College, was run over by a Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) garbage truck in Gulistan. It was later known that the truck was being driven by a cleaner in the driver's absence.

Students of the capital took to the streets protesting the killing and negligence on the authority's part.

Just the next day, when the streets were still fuelled by the protesting students, Ahsan Kabir Khan, another pedestrian, was hit by a Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) garbage truck in Panthapath.

However, the death count by city corporation trucks has not stopped even after these two incidents. On Wednesday, another student named Sabbir Ahmed Rocky died after being hit by a DNCC garbage truck in Kafrul area.

Understaffed drivers' pool, allowing people to drive without training and licence, unfit vehicles and reckless driving make city corporations' garbage trucks into unstoppable death trucks, unleashing a perpetual terror on the streets of Dhaka. Since 2016, at least 16 people lost their lives to accidents caused by these trucks.

After the accidents, the city corporation took some initiatives in the face of protests. However, not much benefit has been reaped from those initiatives.

**16 DEATHS IN 6 YEARS**

When asked, neither city

corporation authorities nor road safety organisations could provide any specific number of deaths caused by the trucks.

However, according to various media reports, from 2016 to July 14, 2022, at least 16 people have been killed by these garbage trucks. Of the victims, six people died in 2021 alone, making it the highest number of deaths by the trucks in a year.

this year.

On November 24, 2021, Notre Dame College's student Naeem Hasan was killed in a collision with a DSCC garbage truck in Gulistan area. The next day, Ahsan Kabir Khan was killed after being hit by a DNCC truck in Panthapath area.

On April 16 of the same year, rickshaw-puller Mostafa was killed after being hit by a DNCC

DEATH BY CITY CORPORATION'S GARBAGE TRUCKS	
YEAR	NUMBER OF DEATHS
2022	4
2021	6
2019	2
2017	2
2016	2

SOURCE: MEDIA REPORTS

NUMBER OF VEHICLES AND DRIVERS		
CITY CORP	VEHICLES	REGISTERED DRIVERS
DSCC	337	135
DNCC	145	113



garbage truck in Jatrabari.

On May 2, Swapan Ahmed, a bank employee, was killed in a garbage truck accident at Titipara. On May 13, Mira Arfim was killed in Savar after her motorbike was hit by a DNCC truck.

On January 17, Khalid (50), a journalist at Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS), was killed after being hit by a garbage truck at Dayaganj intersection.

On December 6, 2019, Abdul Khaleq, a mobile drink seller, was

killed in a collision with a garbage truck in Mirpur. On the November 24, Nurjahan Begum was killed in a collision in Bangshal.

On September 6, 2017, two cousins -- Rimon (25) and Sharin (22) -- were killed in an accident in front of Sabujbagh Buddhist Temple.

On March 4, 2016, businessman Abul Kalam Azad died after being hit by a truck in House Building area of Uttara. On September 30 of the same year, BGB soldier Abu Taher was killed after being hit by a DSCC truck.

**WHAT MAKES THE DEATH TRUCKS UNSTOPPABLE?**

Both city corporations have a human resource crisis when it comes to the drivers' pool.

DSCC has 337 heavy vehicles. However, there are only 135 drivers to drive them. The rest are being driven by staffers, helpers, assistants or MLSS, who have a light car licence and are not qualified to drive heavy trucks.

There are 145 heavy vehicles carrying waste under the mechanical department of DNCC. However, there are only 113 drivers for these heavy vehicles in the department.

Apart from this, there are hundreds of other cars under the waste management department. The ratio of cars and drivers in the department is more or less the same as in the mechanical department.

Moreover, on multiple occasions, it was found that drivers who have specific cars allocated for them choose to

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# Country sees two more Covid deaths

UNB, Dhaka

Two more people have died from Covid, while 1,051 patients tested positive for the virus in 24 hours till yesterday.

While the country's total fatalities reached 29,225, the new number took its caseload to 1,994,433, according to Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

However, the daily case positivity rate fell to 11.55 percent from Thursday's 11.89, with 9,130 samples tested.

The mortality rate remained unchanged at 1.47 percent. The recovery rate rose to 96.32 percent from Thursday's 96.28.

In June, the country reported 18 Covid-related deaths and 20,201 new cases, according to DGHS data.

Bangladesh for the first time reported zero Covid death on November 20 last year since the pandemic broke out in March 2020.

The country registered its highest daily caseload of 16,230 on July 28 last year and daily fatalities of 264 on August 10 in the same year.

# Momen in Cambodia on two-day visit

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen is now in Cambodia on a two-day official visit.

He was received at Phnom Penh International Airport by Koy Kuong, secretary of state at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia, on Thursday.

During his visit, Momen will meet Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Prak Sokhonn.

He will discuss issues of mutual interest and exchange views on strengthening bilateral relations with Cambodia and regional cooperation with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Cambodia is the current Asean chair.

Momen is also scheduled to deliver a lecture at National Institute of Diplomacy and International Relations on Padma Bridge and regional connectivity.

# 31 new dengue patients hospitalised

UNB, Dhaka

Thirty-one more dengue patients were hospitalised in 24 hours till yesterday morning, according to Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Among them, 30 are from Dhaka.

As many as 186 dengue patients, including 145 in the capital, are now receiving treatment at hospitals across the country.

This year, DGHS has recorded 1,610 dengue cases and 1,423 recoveries so far.

On June 21, DGHS reported the first death of the season from the mosquito-borne viral disease.

A total of 105 dengue patients, including 95 in Dhaka division, died in 2021.

Every year, up to 400 million people get infected with dengue, while 40,000 die from severe dengue, according to US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"There is no specific treatment for dengue. Early detection of disease progression associated with severe dengue, and access to proper medical care lowers fatality rates of severe dengue to below 1 percent," according to World Health Organization.



Traditionally, when it rains in the city, a rickshaw passenger remains protected from the rain -- with a plastic sheet on the lap and hood on top -- while the rickshaw puller gets drenched. But this puller spotted on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue yesterday, seemed rather prepared for the weather, as he was seen riding his rickshaw holding an umbrella.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN