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Ignoring a footbridge located just a few steps away, a man tries to jump over the iron barricades of a median on the Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue. Such action may save a few moments but is risky, especially on busy roads. The photo was taken in the capital's Farmgate area recently.

A dream cut short
Hit by train, HSC examinee dies
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

Momith Hasan Tonu woke up excited, because he knew he would be reunited with his family in Cumilla by nightfall. He had not gone home for nearly a month and a half as he was sitting for his HSC exams in a different city.

The 19-year-old was scheduled to take part in the final practical exam yesterday at Narsingdi Abdul Kadir Mollah City College.

Around 9:30am, he was walking near the rail track on his way to the exam centre.

At that moment, he was hit by a Chattogram-bound train, leaving him dead on the spot, police said.

Hearing the news, his family from Cumilla's Debidwar upazila rushed

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DHAKA AIRPORT 3RD TERMINAL

A possible game changer

Final preparations underway for partial opening on Oct 7

RASHIDUL HASAN

Final preparations are underway for the soft inauguration of the third terminal of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport -- a possible game changer in the country's aviation sector.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to inaugurate the terminal building on October 7, said Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh Chairman Air Vice Marshal M Mafidur Rahman.

The new terminal is expected to provide world class service to the air travellers. However, they will have to wait till the end of the next year when this terminal will become operational. This time will be required due to the necessary calibration and preparation of the equipment used in terminal operations, he said.

Airlines, however, will be able to use the new parking apron and taxiway of the third terminal after the partial opening. The two old terminals' aprons can accommodate 29 aircraft at present.



MAIN FEATURES	T-3 FACILITIES
Passenger Handling Capacity	16 million
Area of Terminal	2.30 lakh sq metres
Boarding Bridge	26
Conveyor Belts for Arrival	16
Car parking capacity	1,230 lots
Check-in-counters	115
Immigration Counters	128
Cabin Baggage x-ray machine	40
Baggage x-ray machine	27
Body Scanner	11

SOURCE: CAAB

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Mafidur Rahman said a total of 37 aircraft can be parked at a time, once the terminal, with an area of 5,42,000 square metres, is fully opened.

"Almost 90 percent of the work of the mega project is completed. Structure of the terminal is ready, and work is going on at present for interior decorations and to install necessary equipment and technology," he added.

Ahead of the third terminal's full operation, different foreign airlines are eyeing to start their operation from Dhaka Airport, which will play a great role to take the country's aviation sector forward, experts said.

According to sources at the Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministry, at least 15 new foreign carriers -- including Swiss Air, Air Canada, Air France -- have already expressed their interest to operate flights to and from Dhaka.

The new terminal will accommodate a baggage handling system, an arrival

No talks held on visa policy

Says acting foreign secy after meeting with US assistant secretary

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The US has assured Bangladesh of completing visa processing of Bangladeshis in six months, said acting Foreign Secretary Khurshed Alam.

The assurance came during a meeting between US Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs Rena Bitter and Alam at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday.

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US Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs Rena Bitter at a meeting with acting Foreign Secretary Khurshed Alam at the ministry yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Govt can stop puja violence if it wants

Says Oikya Parishad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

If the government wants, it can prevent attacks and vandalism during Durga Puja, Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Oikya Parishad's General Secretary Rana Dasgupta said yesterday.

"The year 2022 did not witness any attacks or vandalism following the violence during 2021 Durga Puja. It serves as evidence that if the government wants to prevent such incidents, they are capable of doing so," Dasgupta said at a press conference at Jatiya Press Club.

He said, "Our political parties must come together for the greater interest of the nation's democracy, keeping aside divisive sectarian interests. They must unite to build resistance against incidents like vandalism of idols."

Before this statement, Dasgupta announced they would hold the mass rally on November 4 instead of October 6 based on the assurance from the government that it would form the national commission for minority affairs before its tenure expires.

The act for forming the commission would be passed in the next parliament session in October. In a written statement, Dasgupta said the EC has already announced that the 12th national

parliamentary elections will be held in the first week of January next year.

"We hope that all the political parties in our country will come forward with a greater commitment to keeping the interests of the country and the nation intact, and will play a more responsible role in ensuring the continuity of democracy and development for the future."

'ENSURE SAFETY OF HINDUS AHEAD OF DURGA PUJA, POLLS'

Leaders of the Bangladesh Hindu Association (BHA) UK have urged the government to ensure the safety of their fellow members and relatives in Bangladesh during the Durga Puja and the upcoming election.

Raising concerns over the welfare of the minority group in Bangladesh, they handed over a petition to the Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen while calling on him in London on Saturday, a foreign ministry statement said yesterday.

Foreign Minister Momen said strict precautionary measures and necessary steps would be taken during the puja and election to protect the Hindus. He said the government is committed to ensuring religious peace, harmony, and security.

The association chairman Proshanta Datta Purokayastha led the group.



Arrays of illegally parked lorries and covered vans take up a significant portion of the busy Kamalapur-Bashabo road, making it difficult for vehicles to ply through. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN