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## SUFFERINGS ALL AROUND

People, especially patients and the elderly, bear the brunt of nationwide blockades

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

The ongoing student protest against the quota system in government jobs caused severe disruptions in Dhaka and other parts of the country, leaving people in severe misery.

Students have taken to the streets in at least eight districts, blocking roads and train routes.

**DHAKA**

With public transport at a standstill in many areas in the capital, people resorted to walking long distances. Commuters and office-goers faced challenges at key intersections, as buses could not ply through them.

Key intersections, such as Gulistan, Shahbagh, Banglamotor, Karwan Bazar, Farmgate, Science Lab, Agargaon, and Mohakhali, were blocked, which particularly affected the elderly and patients.

Jahanara Begum, who had just received treatment at a government hospital in Tejgaon, was returning with her mother when they got stuck at the Karwan Bazar rail gate area and had to walk to the intersection.

**Nusrat Jahan, stuck at Panthapath intersection, said, "I had urgent work. But the jam has extended to Dhanmondi. People are suffering a lot. I've been sitting on the road since 11:00am, and it's now 2:00pm."**

Bus driver Salam Hossain said he got stuck around 11:30am at Farmgate. "All the passengers got off. There's no way to turn the bus around. My day's earnings are lost."

At Kalshi intersection in Mirpur, Soniya Akhter waited over an hour for a bus but couldn't find any public transport. "Even when a bus came after a long time, there were so many passengers that I couldn't get on. I don't know how I'll get to the office," she added.

Nusrat Jahan, stuck at Panthapath intersection, said, "I had urgent work. But the jam has extended to Dhanmondi. People are suffering a lot. I've been sitting on the road since 11:00am, and it's now 2:00pm."

Students of Dhaka College blocked the Science Lab intersection, affecting patients and people on their way to various hospitals at Green Road and Dhanmondi.

Mehedi Hasan was caught in the blockade while taking his mother to Labaid Hospital in Dhanmondi from Old Dhaka. "I was taking my mother to the hospital for her chemotherapy," Mehedi told The Daily Star.

"No one let us through, even though I showed the students the medical papers," he said, adding, "I don't have any problem with the students' protest. However,

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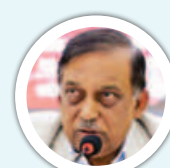
PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN, ANISUR RAHMAN, PALASH KHAN

People, especially patients and the elderly, suffered immensely as students continued their nationwide "Bangla Blockade" yesterday, protesting quota system in government jobs. Since morning, they blocked major intersections, highways and expressways in the capital, forcing many to walk to their destinations. Protesters also blocked rail lines, mounting sufferings for many who had to wait hours for trains.



The court's decision is final. I request students to stop programmes that cause public suffering.

**OBAIDUL QUADER**  
Road transport and bridges minister



Be patient, accept the court's directive. People will suffer if you [students] keep blocking movement of transport.

**ASADUZZAMAN KHAN KAMAL**  
Home Minister



The Supreme Court's Appellate Division ordered status quo maintaining the 2018 government circular on the issue.

**MOHAMMAD ALI ARAFAT**  
State Minister for Information

## Govt taking country towards destruction

Says Fakhrul

UNB, Dhaka



BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday alleged that the government is "taking the country to destruction with its misrule".

Speaking at a milad mahfil at the Maulana Bhasani Auditorium in the capital, he called upon the country's people to unite and intensify the anti-

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## Don't change CHT regulations

Speakers tell human chain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students from the country's indigenous communities and civil society members yesterday formed a human chain demanding an end to conspiracy against the Chittagong Hill Tracts Regulations, 1900, also known as CHT manual.

The regulation ensures traditional indigenous

institutions and upholds customary laws, conventions and practices relating to lands, territories, resources and the family laws of the indigenous communities.

The programme was held at Raju Memorial sculpture on the Dhaka University campus in the capital.

There are separate systems and development arrangements

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

## HC starts hearing on Yunus' petition

Cases may represent misuse of labour laws, says US

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday started hearing on a petition filed by Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus and six others of Grameen Telecom, challenging a Dhaka court's order that framed charges against them.

After concluding yesterday's hearing, the bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Kazi Ebadoth Hossain also fixed today for resuming the hearing.

During the hearing, petitioners' lawyer Abdul Haq Al-Mamun told the court that there was no question of embezzlement in running Grameen Telecom, which has been established as a non-profitable and charitable organisation under Section 28 of the Companies Act, 1994.

All the transactions of the organisation have been done properly under the

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## PRAYER TIMING

JULY 11

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-10 12-45 5-00 6-55 8-17

JAMAAT 4-45 1-15 5-15 7-00 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## 16 hurt as councillor's men, harijans clash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 16 people were injured as supporters of the local ward councillor clashed with harijans in Dhaka's Bangshal area yesterday afternoon.

The people of Miranzilla Harijan Colony alleged that Md Awal Hossain, councillor of Dhaka South City Corporation's ward-33, and his supporters went there to evict them violating a court order.

As they were prevented from entering the colony, they threw brick chunks at the colony people, who then retaliated, triggering the clash, said locals.

Sima Datta, president of rights body Nari Mukti Kendra, who was

present during the incident, said when the DSCC magistrate entered the colony, the councillor and his supporters tried to get it, but they faced obstruction.

The injured took first aid at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said Bacchu Miah, an inspector of the hospital's police outpost.

On June 10, the DSCC tried to evict the harijans from the colony saying that many of them are living there illegally. But the DSCC retreated in the face of protest by the harijan people.

The harijans have been living in the colony for generations, a refuge built by their ancestors during the British era.

The DSCC wants to expand its existing kitchen market in the

place.

Community leaders claimed that DSCC Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh assured them that only 20 families would be evicted. However, they later learnt from DSCC officials that over 87 families would be evicted.

DSCC Executive Magistrate Md Moniruzzaman told The Daily Star on the spot that they did not have any eviction drive yesterday and they did not inform anybody about it.

He along with contractors and engineers of newly constructed buildings in the colony went there to learn about the problem of utility services of the buildings and solve those.

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