



**Why do they [students] talk about the executive department? Any decision of the executive department can be challenged in court. The court's door is always open for them.**

OBAIDUL HASSAN  
Chief Justice



**BNP wants to turn the anti-quota protests into anti-government agitations. If anyone tries to give the protests a political shape, we'll face it politically.**

OBAIDUL QUADER  
Road Transport and Bridges Minister



**We have instructed our security forces to listen to their [students] demands. However, there is a limit to listening, and it appears that they are crossing it.**

ASADUZZAMAN  
KHAN KAMAL  
Home Minister



**The [Supreme Court's] Appellate Division order restored the 2018 government circular on quota system... refrain from carrying out any activity that causes public sufferings.**

MOHAMMAD  
ALI ARAFAT  
State Minister for Information

## Awareness key to reduce C-section

Says health minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Health and Family Welfare Minister Samanta Lal Sen yesterday said the number of caesarean operation is increasing in the country. The more we can reduce the number of C-section, the better, he added.

He said this at a programme at Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Convention Hall in the capital, marking World Population Day.

Sen also said, "The number of C-section in private clinics and hospitals is very high. We want to reduce this number."

He emphasised the government's commitment to reducing the number of caesarean operation and said, "My humble request to those of you who work at the village level, explain to the people [pregnant mothers] that they should undergo health check-ups at community clinics and

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Passengers stand inside a cramped carriage as continued road blockades have left commuters with no other option but to turn to the metro rail. As a result, metro usage has soared, with crowds accumulating at the stations. The photo was taken in the Shahbagh metro rail station yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## Lost in Kerala, found in Kamrangirchar

Police recover 207 smuggled smartphones; 2 siblings held

MUNTAKIM SAAD

Nearly four months back, an Indian medical student, Shaheen Rawshan, lost his iPhone 15 Pro Max in Kerala. After about three months, he tracked its location to the East Rasulpur area of Kamrangirchar in Bangladesh.

As he contacted a police official of Lalbagh Division of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, a team of Kamrangirchar police recovered his iPhone from a house in East Rasulpur and arrested two siblings in this connection.

Police also recovered 207 smartphones -- including 138 iPhones smuggled from neighbouring countries, including India, by evading customs duty -- one MacBook and Tk 94,000 during a drive on July 3, Imran Hossain Molla, assistant commissioner of Lalbagh Zone, told The Daily Star.

The matter came to the fore yesterday after the DMP provided a press release in this regard.

The arrestees are -- Shakil, 24, and his brother Shahin, 21.

"They [Shahin and Shakil] used to buy these stolen mobile phones from different people in different cities of India like Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad and Kerala and smuggled them into Bangladesh illegally by evading customs duty and would sell them," the police official said.

Such smuggling of stolen smartphones has become frequent

nowadays, with several incidents reported of recovered stolen smartphones in both India and Bangladesh.

On June 30, a team of Shahjahanpur police recovered a stolen iPhone belonging to a Kolkata resident from Keraniganj, which she lost in the Park Circus area nearly a year ago.

On November 7 last year,

**There are transnational rackets active in Bangladesh and India that are smuggling stolen and unauthorised mobile phones between the two countries, law enforcers found.**

Ferdous Miah, a deputy jailer from Dinajpur, was robbed in Dhaka's Dhanmondi area, losing his Samsung S23 Ultra mobile phone.

After filing a GD and using a tracking app, he located the phone months later in Gujarat, India.

There are transnational rackets active in Bangladesh and India that are smuggling stolen and unauthorised mobile phones between the two countries, law enforcers found.

High-end phones like iPhones, known for their hard-to-alter IMEI numbers, are risky to sell locally, so criminals smuggle them in a different country, according to law enforcers.

Besides, there is a significant demand in Bangladesh for unauthorised mobile phones that evade customs duties and taxes upon entry.

Imran said Shaheen, an Indian citizen of Kerala, lost his iPhone on March 27. Later on July 2, he contacted him for recovery of the phone.

On July 3, Kamrangirchar police raided the East Rasulpur house and recovered 190 smartphones including 138 iPhones. Based on their information, they raided a shop in Orchard Point shopping mall in Dhanmondi and recovered 17 more smartphones.

A case was filed with Kamrangirchar Police Station under the Special Powers Act following the drive.

The police official said the arrestees maintained communications with multiple contacts in different countries, including India, exchanging information and smuggling smartphones from neighbouring countries.

The investigation uncovered videos, photographs of parcels containing smartphones, and various details related to the illegal sale of stolen mobile phones, he added.

## HC order on Yunus' petition July 21

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court will deliver on July 21 its order on a petition, filed by Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus and six other officials of Grameen Telecom, challenging a Dhaka court's order that framed charges against them.

The bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Kazi Ebadath Hossain yesterday fixed July 21 for passing the order after conducting hearing on the petition.

Abdullah-Al-Mamun appeared for Prof Yunus, while Khurshid Alam Khan and Additional Attorney General Sk Md Morshed and Deputy Attorney General AKM Amin Uddin Manik represented the ACC and the state respectively.

Prof Yunus and six others of Grameen Telecom on Monday submitted the petition seeking an HC order to scrap the case's trial proceedings.

The case was filed by the ACC on the charge of misappropriating about Tk 25.22 crore of Grameen Telecom Workers' Profit Participation Fund.

On June 12, a Dhaka court framed charges against Yunus and 13 others.

## SOUTHERN DEV INITIATIVE

# China supports Bangladesh's plan

Says joint statement

UNB, Dhaka

China has supported Bangladesh's plan to implement the Southern Integrated Development Initiatives (SIDI) under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative to help this region achieve balanced and sustainable development.

Chinese enterprises will be encouraged to take an active part in the construction of subways, metro rail and roads, oil and gas exploration, hospitals and water resources and sewage management projects in Bangladesh in a proper way, according to a joint statement issued after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's July 8-10 official visit to Beijing.

Bangladesh and China will accelerate existing cooperation projects, continue to expand areas of cooperation, and work towards more fruitful outcomes in practical cooperation between the two countries.

The two sides agreed to advance projects such as the Burn Unit in Chattogram Medical College Hospital, the No. 6 Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge Renovation, the No. 9 Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge and the National Emergency Operation Center in Bangladesh.

The Chinese side will continue to provide support for training programmes on human resources development of Bangladesh under the framework of "China Aid".

The two sides agreed to step up experience sharing on development planning and economic development policies, and further deepen high-quality Belt and Road cooperation under the principle of planning together, building together and benefiting together.

Bangladesh and China also have agreed to enhance

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## Hazaribagh and Lalbagh to become green hotspots

\$105 million project taken by Rajuk, GIZ

MD ABBAS

Hazaribagh was once surrounded by tanneries for which untreated waste was dumped into the Buriganga river, polluting the environment.

Considering the environmental threat, the government relocated the tanneries to Savar in 2017.

Now, dilapidated buildings and abandoned machinery prevail on the site, but long-term tannery operations have accumulated dangerous levels of chromium in the soil.

**We only talk about the plan, but in reality, the decision to relocate the tanneries in Hazaribagh has not been fully implemented. If a plan is not implemented properly, there is no point in just planning.**

RAM OBAIDUL MUKTADIR CHOWDHURY  
Housing and Public Works Minister

To make the area sustainably liveable for residents, a plan titled "Climate Resilient and Green Action Plan (CRGAP)", prepared by Rajuk and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) with the support of the City Climate Finance Gap Fund, has been finalised to transform Hazaribagh and Lalbagh into a green hotspot.

Under the project, contaminated soil will be cleaned up, and new environment-friendly block-based structures will be built in the Hazaribagh area, Md Ashrafur Islam, chief town planner of Rajuk, told The Daily Star.

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## MIRANZILLA HARIJAN COLONY SC extends status quo on eviction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday extended its order that on Wednesday directed Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) to maintain status quo on eviction proceedings at Miranzilla Harijan Colony in Dhaka's Bangshal area till further order.

The apex court also asked the High Court to dispose of the writ petition that was filed challenging the eviction move at the colony in two months.

A five-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan passed the order after hearing a petition filed by the DSCC that sought a stay on an HC order.

On June 13, the HC issued one-month status quo on the eviction proceedings in the colony and ordered the DSCC to arrange accommodation for the affected residents.

Following yesterday's SC order, the authorities cannot conduct any eviction at Miranzilla Harijan Colony, Barrister Manoj Kumar Bhowmik, one of the writ petitioners, told The Daily Star.

Barrister Sara Hossain and Barrister Aneek R Haque appeared for the writ petitioners while Advocate Murad Reza argued for the DSCC during the hearing yesterday.

**Following the SC order, the authorities cannot conduct any eviction at Miranzilla Harijan Colony.**



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

While there are no laws against enjoying a rainy afternoon, there is definitely one against riding bikes without helmets. These students cruise through the Mirpur Road in Dhanmondi amid the rain, taking selfies, while the risk of accidents loom. The photo was taken yesterday.