

# 'Please don't break rules'

Students continue managing traffic, cleaning streets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students remained in the roads of Dhaka for a third day in a row yesterday to manage traffic and collect wastes in absence of law enforcement and conservatory workers, following the upheaval that led to Sheikh Hasina's fall.

From Panthapath to Gulistan, Shahbagh to Banglamotor, young volunteers have stepped up to restore order and safety in the city.

Around 1:30pm in Panthapath, rickshaw puller Amjad Hossain was attempting to overtake a line of vehicles when a female student intervened, saying, "Please don't break the rules."

Hossain, who has been using the road for nearly two years, happily complied. The student, Sadia Amreen, a private university student, along with her peers, took it upon themselves to guide drivers and ensure adherence to traffic rules.

"A dozen of us are here controlling traffic. We work in a roster system. It's encouraging to see people actually listening to us," Sadia told The Daily Star.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Amjad expressed his approval of the initiative.

"Today, a young girl approached me and told me it was wrong. This change is positive, and I'm following their directions," he said.

This scene was replicated across the city. Students from various educational institutions were seen managing traffic at major intersections, including Gulistan, Paltan, Shahbagh, and Banglamotor. Working in shifts,

sometimes joined by Ansar members, they filled the void left by absent traffic police.

Students were also engaged in cleaning efforts.

Arif Hossain, a private university student managing traffic at Farmgate, said, "With traffic police not fulfilling their duties, we, as students, stepped in to control the situation. I've been here since 8:00am, and despite the long hours, I'm enjoying it because I love this work."

Rafiqul Islam, a Dhaka College student stationed in Dhanmondi, shared a similar sentiment.

"It's our responsibility to step in when things aren't being managed properly. People are actually responding well to us, and it's a great feeling," he said.

Maria Rahman, a high school student managing traffic at Bijoy Sarani, added, "At first, I was nervous about confronting drivers, but they have been surprisingly cooperative."

In Moghbazar, student volunteer Nafis Ahmed said, "We're just doing our

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## Tarique, BNP leaders laud Yunus, advisers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman has congratulated Prof Mohammad Yunus and his advisers on forming the interim government.



"The BNP supports the formation of an elected government with a public mandate, an accountable parliament serving the people, and the restoration of people's rights and freedoms, thereby establishing the rule of law and good governance," Tarique stated on his verified Facebook account yesterday.

"With the fall of the regime, the people of Bangladesh now expect the interim government to create an environment where they can vote freely, reflecting their democratic aspirations and enabling fair and credible national elections," he added.

Meanwhile, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir hoped that Prof Yunus would be successful in leading the interim government.

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## Asaduzzaman new AG

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Md Asaduzzaman, a senior lawyer of the Supreme Court and a BNP leader, has been appointed as new attorney general of Bangladesh.



President Mohammed Shahabuddin appointed him as the 15th top law officer of the state since the post fell vacant after previous attorney general AM Amin Uddin resigned on August 7 citing personal difficulties.

Law Secretary Md Golam Sarwar issued a gazette notification to this effect yesterday.

The attorney general has been appointed even before the formation of the interim government, which was sworn in last night.

Advocate Asaduzzaman, hailing from Shailakupa in Jhenidah, is the human rights affairs secretary of BNP. He was a student of 17th batch of law faculty of Dhaka University.

He was a candidate for the post of a lawmaker of Jhenidah Shailakupa constituency from BNP ticket in national election held in 2018.

## Not all heroes wear capes

7-year-old Araf Mahin manages traffic, cleans street in Bagerhat

PARITHA CHAKRABORTTY, Bagerhat

In times of chaos, heroes often emerge from the most unexpected places. They don't always wear capes — in fact, some show up wearing a raincoat, armed with nothing more than a stick and a whistle.

A seven-year old hero has emerged in Bagerhat in the aftermath of a complete breakdown in law and order following a power vacuum triggered by the fall of Sheikh Hasina and absence of police.

Araf Mahin, a first grader, has been managing traffic and cleaning streets in front of the Police Line



School in Bagerhat for the last two days.

He uses his whistle, which he bought for Tk 30, to direct vehicles and maintain separate lanes.

Yesterday morning, Araf was seen organising separate lanes for rickshaws, motorcycles, and auto-



rickshaws all alone.

His mother Laili Anjuman shared her pride, saying, "Araf asked for 30 taka for a snack, but instead, he bought a whistle to manage traffic. When I came to take him home, he asked for one

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## Artists repair damaged Zainul sculpture

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A group of artists repaired the damaged sculpture of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin at Mymensingh city's Zainul Park area yesterday.

They worked for four hours and repaired the damaged sculpture, said Mohammad Rajon, president of Mymensingh Bibhagio Charushilpi Parishad.

Artistes Joyanto Kumar Talukder Shibu, Hossain Farook, Hasan Masud, Gautom Kumar Debnath, and Biswajit Karmakar Tapu took part in the repair work, said Rajon.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

A woman and her son walk inside New Market in the capital while army personnel stand guard.

## INTERIM GOVERNMENT

# An opportunity for a new start

Says ICG, gives set of recommendations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crisis Group (ICG), a global NGO and think tank, on Wednesday night published a set of recommendations for the army and the interim government in Bangladesh in the wake of the fall of Sheikh Hasina after week-long protests that engulfed the country in violence.

"The army should prevent reprisal killings, and the soon-to-be-formed interim government should investigate abuses and begin rebuilding democracy," the statement said.

The statement stresses upon the challenges of forming an interim government and the constitutional challenges it faces.

The ICG says the key will be to ensure that the protest movement is capably represented. If calm is to be restored, the statement read, those who risked and sacrificed the most to compel Hasina to resign — namely, the students who

initiated the protest movement — should have a meaningful voice in the government's counsels, rather than finding themselves sidelined by conservative generals and opportunistic politicians.

The ICG recommended that the army and the interim government need to ensure "security and stability, including staying off reprisal attacks on Awami League members."

Ensuring justice for the violence of recent weeks and compensating victims are going to be equally important to this process, according to the ICG. Stability is also going to be important to avoid the short-term economic crisis, the ICG said.

In the statement, ICG said, "The bigger challenge for the interim government will be to put Bangladesh back on the path of genuine democracy."

The think tank recommended

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## Hasina will return once democracy is restored: Joy

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League President and former prime minister Sheikh Hasina will return to Bangladesh once democracy is restored, her son Sajeeb Wazed Joy told PTL, an Indian news agency.

He also alleged that Pakistan's ISI fuelled the unrest in Bangladesh.

He said the Indian government must "build up international pressure" for swift restoration of democracy in Bangladesh, PTL reported.


Joy said although 76-year-old Hasina would definitely return to Bangladesh, it is not yet decided whether she will be back as a "retired or active" politician.

He also asserted that the members of the Sheikh Mujibur Rahman family will neither abandon the people of Bangladesh nor leave the Awami League in the lurch.

He expressed gratitude to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his government for protecting his mother and appealed to India to

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বৈষম্যবিরোধী ছাত্র আন্দোলনের সকল শহীদ এবং অকুতোভয় ছাত্র-জনতার ত্যাগের বিনিময়ে  
অর্জিত নতুন বাংলাদেশের অন্তর্ভুক্তিকালীন সরকারের প্রধান,  
নোবেল বিজয়ী ড. মুহাম্মদ ইউনুস এবং উপদেষ্টামন্ডলীকে ইসলামী ব্যাংকের পক্ষ থেকে  
**তান্ত্রিক শুভেচ্ছা ও অভিনন্দনা**

