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DHAKA-CTG HIGHWAY Flood water recedes, traffic resumes

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN

Vehicular movement on the Dhaka-Chattogram highway, often referred to as the lifeline of the country, fully resumed on Sunday night after floodwaters receded from various sections in Feni and Mirsarai upazila of Chattogram.

However, traffic remains slow due to numerous potholes and large ditches that have formed after the highway was submerged for an extended period.

The Dhaka-Chattogram highway is crucial for the nation, facilitating the movement of goods and passengers between the capital and the country's largest port.

The recent floods had brought this key artery to a standstill, with trucks, buses, and other vehicles stranded on the Feni portion of the highway for three days, creating a dire humanitarian situation.

Drivers and passengers endured significant hardships during the standstill, with limited access to food, water, and basic amenities. "It was a nightmare," said one truck driver who had been stranded for 72 hours.

"We ran out of food, and the heat was unbearable. Many of us had no choice but to sleep in our vehicles."

The floodwaters receded enough by Sunday night to allow the resumption of traffic, but the road remains in poor condition.

Numerous potholes and large ditches have formed, particularly in Feni, making travel slow and hazardous.

Md Khairul Islam, Superintendent of Police (SP) of



Vehicles ply in front of the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum on Dhanmondi 32, as the road was opened for vehicle movement yesterday after more than 15 years. The museum, however, remains in a damaged state as it was vandalised following the fall of Sheikh Hasina on August 5.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Red Cross China donates \$100,000 for flood victims

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Red Cross Society of China has donated \$100,000 to support victims of the devastating floods that have affected millions in Bangladesh's eastern and southeastern regions.

The donation was handed over by Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh, Yao Wen, during a meeting with Prof Dr M U Kabir Chowdhury, Chairman of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, at their headquarters yesterday.

During the ceremony, Ambassador Yao Wen expressed deep concern and sympathy on behalf of the Chinese government and people for the loss of lives and property in Bangladesh.

"China, which also frequently suffers from natural disasters, extends its sincere sympathies to the people of Bangladesh."

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A budding philanthropist gone too soon 24-year-old Omar was shot by law enforcers in Dhaka

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Omar Faruq, 24, a third-year honours student of the Bengali Department at Kabi Nazrul Government College, was fatally shot when law enforcers opened fire on protesters in Dhaka's Laxmibazar area on the afternoon of July 19.

Omar sustained multiple bullet wounds and was immediately rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared him dead upon arrival.

His body was taken to his home village, Singha, in Netrakona's Durgapur upazila and was buried in the family graveyard on July 22.

Omar, who aspired to become a



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More than just NUMBERS

A 24-year-old was fatally shot in Dhaka's Laxmibazar. A 10th-grader was gunned down in a similar manner in Savar. A 20-year-old was shot in the chest in Narayanganj. At least 400 lives (the actual number could be much higher) were lost when law enforcers opened fire on protesters during the recent unrest. But these victims are not just statistics; they are children, parents, and friends. In this report, we try to know the stories of three such names among these tragic numbers.

'Has Hasina fallen yet?'

Sajan died in peace knowing the 'dictator' was gone, claims his brother

SAURAV HOSSAIN SIAM, Narayanganj

Abul Hossain Sajan, 20, had just regained consciousness lying in the Intensive Care Unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital after a seven-hour-long surgery at 3:00am on August 6.

Finding his elder brother Md Anik, beside the bed, he asked, "Has the Hasina government fallen yet?"

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'Mother let me go, if I die, I'll become a martyr'

10th grader Siam was gunned down by cops on August 5

AKLAKUR RAHMAN AKASH, Savar

Alif Ahmed Siam, a 10th grader at Savar Dairy Farm High School, had aspirations of becoming a pilot and joining the aviation sector. But his dreams were cut short when he was gunned down by police in Savar on August 5.

Siam, who lived with his parents and younger sister in a rented house in Savar's Islamnagar area, left home that morning with three friends to join the Long March to Dhaka organised by the Anti-discriminatory Students' Movement.

Despite his mother's hesitation, Siam was determined to join the protest.

"Mother, let me go. If I die, you will be filled with pride knowing your son died a



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Hajj registration to begin Sept 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The primary registration for the 2025 hajj will begin on September 1 and continue till November 30 through both public and private channels, the religious affairs ministry said yesterday.

The deadline for the registration will not be extended, said a ministry press release.

Any previous or new pre-registered person can do primary registration by depositing Tk 3 lakh. The remaining amount of the hajj package price must be paid within the time specified in the package.

The pre-registration fee for both public and private channels is Tk 30,000.

The quota for pilgrims from Bangladesh is 1.27 lakh. When this quota is filled, the primary registration process will automatically close.

This year's hajj package price will be subject to the costs at the Saudi end and airfare.

However, efforts will be made to reduce the price of general hajj packages compared to last year.

In the normal hajj package, a maximum of six seats will be in a room at a home or hotel. However, a package upgradation facility will be available.

Hajj agencies can send pilgrims with special package facilities. The list of agencies initially qualified to conduct hajj activities is available at www.hajj.gov.bd. Moreover, any hajj-related information can be known by calling 16136.

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Pedal rickshaw pullers block Shahbagh

Demand a ban on battery-operated rickshaws

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pedal rickshaw pullers blocked the Shahbagh intersection yesterday morning, demanding a ban on battery-operated rickshaws on main roads.

They said battery-operated rickshaws should be restricted to feeder roads, as was the practice in the past.

Witnesses reported that several hundred rickshaw pullers began arriving in Shahbagh around 8:00am and blocked the road with their rickshaws around 9:00am.

The intersection was completely blocked, and around 11:30am vehicles going to the southern parts of the city could be seen diverting through Hare Road.

Abdur Rashid, a rickshaw puller from



Devotees offer prayers at Dhakeshwari Temple in the capital on the occasion of Janmashtami, marking the birth of Lord Krishna. While Janmashtami, one of the biggest Hindu festivals, was celebrated yesterday with due religious fervour, the temple authority cancelled the festive procession this year, as they cut the cost and donated the money to help flood-affected people in the country.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Ban on Jamaat-Shibir may be withdrawn today

Says the party's lawyer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government may issue a circular today revoking the former Awami League government's decree to ban Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir, said lawyers of Jamaat yesterday.

"As this is a legal issue, Jamaat-appointed lawyers held a series of discussions with the high-ups of the government department and advisers concerned. At one stage, we requested the home ministry and talked about the legal steps that can be taken to solve the issue," said Shishir Manir, a lawyer for Jamaat-e-Islami, while talking to reporters on Supreme Court premises.

"Following the request, they told us all the administrative work is complete... The order to ban Jamaat-Shibir will be withdrawn within the quickest possible time, or even by tomorrow (today)," he added.

Asked on which ground they demanded the withdrawal of the ban, Shishir Manir said the AL government banned Jamaat-Shibir, saying the parties are involved in terrorist activities.

But it did not specify or give any explanation about the criminal activities, he added.

Contacted, a top home ministry official told The Daily Star that a process is underway to withdraw the order, which need some time.

"We will send a proposal to the law ministry and later the final decision will come from there," he said.

On August 1, the then government banned Jamaat-e-

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