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## POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTES

# People suffer as students block road

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students from Polytechnic Institute and other technical institutions blocked Satrasta Mor in Dhaka's Tejgaon for six hours yesterday, causing severe traffic congestion and immense sufferings to commuters.

Hundreds of students of the Bangladesh Technical Education Board gathered at the intersection around 11:30am under the banner of "Karigori Chhatra Andolon".

Their six-point demand include reserving the designation of deputy assistant engineer solely for diploma engineers, ensuring four-year courses for diploma engineering, limiting each semester to six months, and calling for 100 percent seat allocation for diploma engineering students in the four proposed engineering colleges to expand higher education opportunities.

The blockade in the Tejgaon industrial area caused significant traffic disruption, with many people stranded on the road for more than five hours.

Major thoroughfares, including the Motijheel-Gulistan route to Uttara, were closed until 6:00pm due to the protests.

Vehicular movement on the Bijoy Sarani flyover and areas surrounding Satrasta came to a complete standstill.

Severe traffic jams were seen in Rampura, Hatirjheel, Kakrail, Hare Road, Shahbagh, Moghbazar, Karwan Bazar, Farmgate, Bijoy Sarani, Mohakhali, Banani, and other areas.

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President Mohammed Shahabuddin and Chief of Army Staff General Waker-Uz-Zaman in a meeting at Bangabhaban yesterday.

PHOTO: BSS

## Army chief calls on president

BSS, Dhaka

Chief of Army Staff General Waker-Uz Zaman yesterday called on President Mohammed Shahabuddin at Bangabhaban in Dhaka.

During the meeting, the president was briefed by the army chief regarding overall activities of the army, President's Press Secretary Md Joynal Abedin told BSS.

Besides, he also highlighted the activities of the army to maintain the law and order as well as peaceful situation across the country.

The president appreciated the role of the army in maintaining the overall law and order situation in the country and providing security to the people.

President Shahabuddin also appreciated the armed forces for their timely measures in providing relief goods to the flood victims and carrying out rescue operation during the floods in the country's north and south-eastern parts.

## TRANSBOUNDARY RIVERS

# Sign UN treaty, ensure fair water agreements

## Speakers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday called on the government to sign the 1997 UN Watercourses Convention and ensure equitable usage agreements for transboundary rivers.

They also urged the removal of barriers from shared rivers.

The seminar, titled Transboundary Rivers and Rights of Bangladesh, was organised by the Nongor Trust Bangladesh and held at Jatiya Press Club.

The organisers put forward a set of nine demands, including the establishment of a ministry of river resources.

Sumon Shams, founder of the Nongor Trust, presented an article during the seminar outlining the key demands which include preservation of all rivers, canals, ponds, and reservoirs, in line with the court's directives under relevant laws.

He emphasised the need for strict enforcement of laws against encroachment and pollution.

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# 'Return our missing relatives in 48 hours'

## Families of enforced disappearance victims issue ultimatum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of families of victims of enforced disappearances has given a 48-hour ultimatum for the return of their missing relatives, allegedly abducted during the Awami League regime.

At a press conference held at the Crime Reporters Association auditorium at 11:30am yesterday, relatives of the victims demanded immediate action.

Bellal Hossain, chief coordinator of the platform, "Bangladesh Families of the Disappeared" and Chairman of Lexus Group, recounted his own harrowing experience.

Bellal said he was picked up by a team from Rab-1 on October 10, 2016, and subjected to torture for over a month.

"It's unimaginable how humans could treat others so cruelly. The place echoed with constant cries, broken only by

the chirping of insects. The tiny rooms were filled with unimaginable suffering. After

**The place echoed with constant cries, broken only by the chirping of insects. The tiny rooms were filled with unimaginable suffering. After enduring brutal conditions, I was released, but only after paying a large sum and meeting strict conditions.**

BELLAL HOSSAIN  
A victim

enduring brutal conditions, I was released, but only after paying a large sum and

meeting strict conditions," he said.

Bellal expressed frustration at the slow progress of the interim government's investigation into these incidents.

He said on August 27, a five-member investigation committee was formed with 45 days to submit a report, but 15 days in, there has been no transparency about their progress.

"We do not know where the torture cells, referred to as 'Aynaghar', are located or how many such cells exist in Bangladesh," he added.

"If these secret prisons are not revealed within 48 hours, we will surround all suspected detention centres, including those run by the DGFI and Rab, and demolish them," Bellal warned.

Bellal said 70-80 percent of disappearances, killings,

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## DU teachers

# propose new recruitment process

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University Shikkhok Samaj (DU Teachers' Society) has proposed a new two-step recruitment process for university teachers, replacing the current system.

The draft proposal was presented yesterday at a programme titled "Dhaka University: Reformation of Education System" held at the Muzaffar Ahmed Chowdhury Auditorium of the DU Social Sciences Faculty building.

Under the proposed procedure, candidates will first be selected by an academic committee based on their qualifications and experience, including higher degrees such as MPhil, PhD, and post-doctoral fellowships.

In the second stage, shortlisted candidates will be invited to the campus to undergo a

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# ACC sees major reshuffle

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission has carried out a major reshuffle in the organisation with the transfer of 10 directors and 42 deputy directors, according to an office order issued yesterday.

They have been transferred to various offices in Dhaka, Rajshahi, Mymensingh, Sylhet, Narayanganj, Comilla, Kurigram, Dinajpur, Naogaon, Khulna, and Chandpur districts.

# Vatican envoy meets Yunus

## They discuss inter-faith dialogue, Rohingya crisis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Vatican Ambassador to Bangladesh Kevin S Randall paid a courtesy call on Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus at the State Guest House Jamuna in Dhaka yesterday.

During the meeting, the chief adviser and the Vatican envoy discussed key issues concerning Bangladesh's religious minorities, interfaith dialogue, and the ongoing Rohingya crisis.

They also discussed Yunus's address at the United Nations General Assembly later this month.

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## Syed Jamil Ahmed new Shilpakala DG

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Syed Jamil Ahmed, a scholar, theatre director, and the founding chair of the Department of Theatre and Music at Dhaka University, was appointed as the director general of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy yesterday.

Hasan Mahmud, chief coordinator of the ICT and Innovation Cell, and assistant director at BSA, confirmed the news.

His appointment letter, dated September 9, marks the start of a two-year contract. During this period, Ahmed will need to sever ties with any other organisations in which he is currently involved.

Following the fall of the former AL government, Liaquat Ali Lucky, who served as director general of the academy for over a decade, stepped down from his position on August 12.

## Committee soon for police reform

## Says home adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A committee will soon be formed for police reform, said Home Adviser Lt Gen (ret'd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury yesterday.

He made this announcement during a meeting at his office, where an eight-member delegation led by Stefan Liller, resident representative of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Bangladesh, met him.

Regarding police reform, the adviser mentioned that it is still in the preliminary stage.

"No committee has been formed yet, but a primary committee for police reform will be established soon. This committee will determine the process, how the reform will be conducted, and who will be included," he said.

The adviser further said the process will move forward based on the recommendations and opinions of the primary committee, and future actions will be determined accordingly.

Stefan Liller said police reform should be conducted in such a way that the public can gain trust and confidence in the force, avoiding any criticism.

Earlier at an event, the home adviser said most of the problems in jails could be solved by stopping bribery and corruption.

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Motorcycles parked in a single line by workers and customers of shops in Dhaka's Chawkbazar create an artificial divider in the middle of the already narrow road. This leaves minimal space for vehicles and pedestrians. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## DCs asked to provide security to student coordinators

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Police Headquarters issued an order yesterday, instructing deputy commissioners (DCs) to provide security for the coordinators of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement during their divisional and district-level tours.

The circular, signed by Nassian Wazed, additional deputy inspector general of police (Overseas and UN Operations), directed the DCs to work with local coordinators to ensure the safety of the central coordinators during their visits.

Julfikar Ali Haider, commissioner of Khulna Metropolitan Police, and Aminul Islam, commissioner of Barishal Metropolitan Police, confirmed to The Daily Star that they had received the orders.

They said they would take necessary steps to ensure the coordinators' security.