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Commuters suffer as polytechnic 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.

Frustrated after being stuck for hours, some drivers and motorcyclists were seen protesting in front of Dhaka

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Chief of Army Staff General Waker-Uz-Zaman at a meeting with President Mohammed Shahabuddin 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.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

'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 10 October 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

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

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

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Vatican envoy calls on Yunus They discuss inter-faith dialogue, Rohingya crisis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Vatican Ambassador to Bangladesh Kevin S Randell 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.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

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.

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.



JULY-AUG MOVEMENT Letters sent to hospitals, graveyards for death count Says ICT chief prosecutor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The chief prosecutor of International Crimes Tribunal yesterday said they have started work to gather information on the number of deaths during the recent student-led mass protests.

Chief Prosecutor Md Tajul Islam said they were sending letters to district commissioners, superintendents of police, civil surgeons, authorities of public and private hospitals, large graveyards and university vice-chancellors.

He said, "Through letters we are requesting hospital authorities to give information about how many people went to hospitals, took medication and how many died."

"We are sending letters to the authorities of large graveyards as well. Letters were also sent to the vice-chancellors of universities to know what happened there," he added.

According to a health ministry report, at least 631 people lost their lives and over 19,200 were injured during the anti-discrimination students' movement from July 15 to August 5.

Security forces and AL activists opened fire on protesters during the movement that started out demanding reform to the quota system for government jobs and escalated into a mass uprising that toppled the Awami League government.



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