



After a long wait, a man manages to purchase daily essentials from a TCB truck in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday. As market prices remain high, hundreds of individuals flock to these trucks daily, hoping to buy essentials at subsidised prices.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Have full support for the youth  
Farhad Mazhar tells event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Poet and writer Farhad Mazhar has expressed his support for the programme organised by students and citizens at Dhaka's Central Shaheed Minar tomorrow.

Speaking at an event titled "Honouring and Rehabilitating Those Injured during the Uprising in Chattogram" yesterday afternoon, he said, "The youth will present a charter on December 31. I fully support the youth's leadership in building a new Bangladesh."

The event, held at the District Shilpakala Academy auditorium in Chattogram, was jointly organised by the Conscious Citizen Society, Chattogram, and the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, Chattogram.

Farhad Mazhar asked the injured activists at the event, "A declaration is coming on December 31. Do you know what the declaration will be? Have you discussed it?"

The injured activists replied that they were unaware. To this, Mazhar responded, "This lack

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SURGE IN ROAD CRASHES

## Patient overflow pushes NITOR beyond capacity

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and NILIMA JAHAN

The National Institute of Traumatology & Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (NITOR) is struggling to manage an overwhelming number of patients, far exceeding its 1,000-bed capacity, leaving many to receive treatment on the floor or in overcrowded corridors.

As of Saturday, the hospital reported over 1,100 patients, an increase from 1,069 on Friday.

Most cases involve road accident victims, alongside others injured in falls or various accidents.

During a visit yesterday, 70-year-old Ahsan Ullah, a grocery shop owner from Narayanganj, was found lying on the floor near the emergency operation theatre.

He was hit by a motorcycle last Monday while crossing the road, resulting in a fractured left leg and injuries to his right arm.

Despite arriving at the hospital the same night, he remains on the floor awaiting surgery. "We came here immediately, but there's no space," said his daughter, Khadija Begum.



Yasmin Begum, 35, from Sunamganj, suffered a severe injury to her right leg after being run over by a bus near Jamuna Future Park yesterday while attempting to board. She was seen waiting on a stretcher near the emergency room, awaiting surgery.

On Saturday, 55-year-old Babul Hossain, a vegetable vendor from Lakshmipur, was found lying on the floor.

He suffered a broken leg after being hit by a motorcycle on December 18 and came to NITOR on December 26. Despite requiring surgery, he remains on

the floor after receiving primary treatment due to the severe bed shortage.

"I've begged the staff for help, but they told me there's none. How long can we wait like this?" said his wife, Sajeda Begum.

Similarly, Mohammad Nannu, a 35-year-old battery-driven auto-rickshaw driver from Kurmitola Bihari Camp, sustained a left leg fracture in a road accident on December 26.

He was being treated on the floor, but on Friday, he received a bed and underwent surgery to insert a rod in his leg.

However, he was told to leave the hospital due to the bed crisis. "They told me I had to go home because others needed the space more. However, I've been asked

to come back every three days to dress my wounds," he said.

One-year-old Mohammad Rafi from Narsingdi fractured his left leg on December 25. Despite being admitted, he has been lying on the floor near the emergency operation theatre.

"We brought him here immediately, but there were no beds available. It breaks my heart to see him on the floor, but we have no option but to wait," said Tania Akter, Rafi's mother.

Seven-year-old Al Amin, a madrassa student from Netrokona, fractured both arms and his left leg after falling from a tree.

He is in critical condition. His mother, Shahida Begum, pleaded for a bed but was told to be grateful for the floor treatment.

"We came all the way from Madan, Netrokona, hoping he'd get proper care. But dust is entering his wounds while he lies on the floor. I don't know anyone here, and I feel so helpless," she said.

Seventy-year-old Arifa Begum fractured her hip in a fall inside the bathroom on October 7 and was brought to the hospital by her family from Gazipur's Kaliganj.

Initially unable to afford the surgery, they had to return home untreated. With her condition worsening, they returned to the hospital, and now her daughter

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## Road blockades at 2 points leave commuters stranded

Postgrad doctors block Shahbagh for stipend raise while dismissed armed forces members protest at Jahangir Gate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Roadblocks at two key points of Dhaka led to severe traffic congestion across major areas of the city yesterday morning.

Trainee doctors blocked Shahbagh intersection, while armed forces members who were dismissed or forced to retire during the previous government's regime staged a sit-in in front of Jahangir Gate, leaving commuters stuck in long tailbacks for hours.

Areas including Mohakhali, Banani, Tejgaon, Bijoy Sarani, and Dhaka University experienced significant disruption.

The Shahbagh protest began around 11:45am when trainee doctors affiliated with BSMU and BCPS postgraduate private programmes blocked the intersection, demanding an increase in their monthly allowance to Tk 50,000.

Currently, the allowance stands at Tk 30,000 following a recent government revision

from Tk 25,000 for those who passed the FCPS Part I exam.

Despite staging a similar demonstration last Sunday, the doctors vowed to continue their protest until their demands are met. As of 5:30pm, the blockade at Shahbagh remained, exacerbating traffic woes in the



Shahbagh

surrounding areas.

Shahbagh Police Station Officer-in-Charge AKM Shahabuddin Shahin said efforts were underway to manage traffic by rerouting vehicles, but congestion persisted.

Around 3:45pm, Mehedi Hasan, an employee at a private

organisation, was travelling by motorcycle from Shyamoli to Karwan Bazar. Speaking to Prothom Alo, he said the entire route from Khamarbari to Karwan Bazar was clogged with traffic. "It took me nearly 25 minutes to cover this stretch, which usually takes about seven



Jahangir Gate

minutes. Vehicles are moving very slowly," he added.

Meanwhile, earlier in the day, forcibly retired and sacked armed forces personnel blocked the road near Dhaka Cantonment's Jahangir Gate around 11:00am.

Demonstrating under the

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## 'Saiful murder probe not being conducted properly' Says Gonotantrik Odhikar Committee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Gonotantrik Odhikar Committee yesterday at a briefing expressed concern, saying the investigation into the murder of lawyer Saiful Islam (Alif) is not being conducted properly.

Saiful was hacked to death on the premises of a Chattogram court on November 26.

The organisation claimed that vested sections aiming to profit from mass arrests and communal tensions are actively exploiting the case.

The organisation presented its findings in a press conference titled "Post-Murder Situation of Lawyer Alif in Chattogram: Observations and Recommendations" held at the Jatiya Press Club.

Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari, spokesperson for the Bangladesh Sammilito Sanatani Jagaran Jote, was arrested on November 25 in Dhaka.

The following day, while he was being produced in a Chattogram court, his followers engaged in a clash with police and lawyers.

Saiful was hacked to death at the time. A delegation from the Gonotantrik Odhikar Committee visited Chattogram on December 23 to observe the situation firsthand. Based on this visit, the committee shared its observations and proposals at the briefing.

According to the committee, six cases have been filed so far related to the murder of lawyer Saiful and subsequent clashes. These cases have accused 390 named individuals and over 2,400 unnamed persons.

Allegations of "arrest-trade" have surfaced

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We are witnessing activities aimed at creating divisions in the name of religion. These provocative actions are alarming.

Prof Anu Muhammad

## 18,000 DENIED ENTRY TO MALAYSIA

### Workers demand refunds after missing deadline



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Workers who paid hefty amounts of money to go to Malaysia but couldn't leave within the specified time frame held a human chain yesterday in front of the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment in Eskaton.

They raised a seven-point demand at the human chain, including a refund of their money.

The aspiring migrants began the protest programme around noon and ended around 6:30pm.

The protesters alleged that, although the deadline for entering Malaysia expired on May 31, the agencies failed to send them there for unknown reasons.

Despite multiple assurances from the government about refunding their

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### Bangladesh calls for swift resolution

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh has urged for a swift resolution to the issue of 18,000 Bangladeshi workers unable to enter Malaysia by the deadline of May 31, 2024.

This call was made during a meeting between Chief Adviser's Special Envoy on International Affairs, Lutfe Siddiqi, and Malaysian High Commissioner Mohd Shuhada Othman yesterday at the Foreign Service Academy in Dhaka.

Siddiqi called for a possible solution on this issue at the earliest. Both the dignitaries assured to work together to eliminate the corruption caused by recruitment syndicates involving Bangladeshi and Malaysian nationals and loopholes in the system that allow for the mistreatment of workers, causing harm and losses for both nations.

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Piles of cardboard -- abandoned on the roadside after the truck that was carrying them had an accident a couple of days ago -- occupy part of the footpath and road in front of the Bangabandhu National Stadium in the capital's Gulistan area. Despite the truck being removed, the cardboard remains, causing inconvenience to pedestrians and traffic movement. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## Monsur Ahmed new chair of TIB trustee board



Monsur Ahmed

Tahera Yasmin

Manzoor Hasan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent rights activist and founder trustee of Impact Foundation Bangladesh, Monsur Ahmed Choudhuri, has been elected chairperson of the trustee board of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB).

He will succeed outgoing chairperson Sultana Kamal, TIB announced in a media release yesterday.

TIB's founding executive director Barrister Manzoor Hasan and women's empowerment and governance expert Tahera Yasmin have been appointed as new members of the trustee board.

Additionally, TIB trustee board member Faruque Ahmed has been named chairman of the TIB audit committee, while former controller general of Defence Finance Motaahar Hossain has been appointed as another member of the committee.

Choudhuri is the founder of the renowned floating hospital "Jibon Tori".

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