



Titumir College students blocked Airport Road in Mohakhali area last night.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

# Daily struggle of Dhaka dwellers

## A protest here, a gridlock there

MUNTAKIM SAAD and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Dhaka has worn many titles: the city of mosques, the Venice of the east, the rickshaw Capital of the World.

It's about time the metropolis gets a new moniker: the city of protests.

But Dhaka's protests are mostly a commuter's nightmare, as it amplifies the city's infamous traffic woes.

Since August 5 last year, following the fall of Sheikh Hasina through a popular

university status for their institution.

On January 30, both sides of the road were obstructed, resulting in hours-long traffic congestion. Commuters could do little but watch the clock tick.

The same group had previously blocked roads and railways in Mohakhali on November 18.

Meanwhile, injured protesters from the mass uprising took to Mirpur Road to demand better medical treatment and compensation. This caused significant

state guesthouse) to voice their demands. Over time, Shahbagh became another preferred protest site.

Protests have erupted in various areas, including Uttara, Mohakhali, Mirpur Road, Jatiya Press Club, Secretariat, Rampura, and Kakrail, blocking key roads.

Demands have varied widely. There have been protests against not taking the HSC exams, as well as movements demanding the exams to be held again. On

reinstatement.

On August 13, Ansar members demonstrated for job regularisation, which escalated on August 25 when they surrounded the Secretariat.

Besides, garment workers, tea labourers, families of ex-BDR members, minority rights groups, and various other groups demonstrated on the streets.

In an attempt to address this crisis, the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) recently launched a partial traffic update



PHOTO: STAR

uprising, it seems all 24.65 million [estimated] residents of this city have at least one demand each.

And they want them all addressed – everything, everywhere, all at once.

Grievances, aspirations, and frustrations accumulated over the past 15 years are now flooding the streets of the capital.

From the logical to ludicrous, Dhaka's streets have become the stage for everything under the sun.

If you're navigating Dhaka's streets, consider this fair warning: the question isn't whether you'll encounter a protest, but when.

Take the recent Titumir College protests as an example. Yesterday, for the fourth day straight, students blocked the roads in front of their campus and at the Gulshan-1 intersection, demanding

disruptions on one of Dhaka's key arteries.

Simultaneously, "Inquilab Mancha" led a protest march to the home ministry, calling for the resignation of the home affairs adviser and denouncing the "safe exit" granted to individuals allegedly involved in the July killings.

January 22 saw two separate protests in Karwan Bazar and Shahbagh, while days earlier, four different protests erupted across the city – in Mohakhali, Shikha Bhaban, Agargaon, and Shaheed Minar.

People have taken to the streets for multiple other reasons – some demanding job regularisation, others seeking to curb corruption, and some claiming to be victims of discrimination or deprived of their rights.

Many even gathered in front of the chief adviser's residence at Jamuna (the

multiple occasions, protesters have even forced their way into the Secretariat.

On August 26 last year, hundreds of pedal rickshaw drivers blocked roads in Shahbagh, demanding a ban on battery-operated rickshaws. However, on November 19, battery rickshaw drivers launched counter-protests after a High Court ruling restricted their movement.

Other major protests include demands for raising the government job entry age to 35 and dismissed workers seeking

service via the national emergency helpline 999.

Introduced on January 28, the service provides real-time updates on road closures due to protests, construction, or accidents.

DMP Commissioner SM Sazzat Ali said, "I urge them [protesters] to stay on the sidewalk, but unfortunately, road blockades have become the preferred method of protest."

A traffic constable from DMP's Ramna division said the main reasons for increasing traffic congestion at key intersections like Shahbagh and Farmgate

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## 205 women, girls faced violence in January

### Says Mahila Parishad report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 205 women and girls were subjected to violence in January 2025, up from 163 cases in December 2024, according to a media monitoring report by Bangladesh Mahila Parishad.

The report, based on data from 16 national dailies, shows that 67 females, including 42 girls, were raped last month.

Among them, 20 were gang raped, while one woman and one girl were killed after being raped. Two others faced attempted rape.

Additionally, eight females, including four girls, were victims of sexual violence, while three women, including one girl, were sexually harassed.

Two women suffered acid attacks in January, one of whom succumbed to her injuries. Two domestic workers were tortured and two women faced dowry-related abuse.

The report also recorded 21 cases of physical abuse, including two children.

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## First phase of Ijtema ends with 'Akheri Munajat'

STAR REPORT

The first phase of Bishwa Ijtema concluded yesterday through "Akheri Munajat" seeking divine blessings for peace and prosperity of the Muslim Ummah.

The final prayer was conducted by Maulana Zubair, top spiritual leader of Shura-e-Nizam, Bangladesh.

Maulana Kefayet Ullah, another senior leader, said the prayer began at 9:00am and ended around 9:35am.

Nearly four million devotees joined the concluding prayers.

Habibullah Raihan, media coordinator of the Ijtema's Shura-e-Nizam, said around 3,050 delegates from 76 countries took part in the gathering.

The first phase, attended by followers of Maulana Zubair Ahmed, began on January 31 and is divided into two sessions. The Akheri Munajat

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## HC summons cop over student's torture in custody

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday summoned a police officer for allegedly torturing a college student in custody in 2014.

Sahidul Biswas, then a sub-inspector at Dhanmondi Police Station, has been ordered to appear before the HC on February 9.

Inzamamul Islam alias Zisan, a student of Dhaka City College, was allegedly tortured during remand in a case filed for the murder of Ayaz Haq, a student of Government Laboratory High School, in 2014.

The HC bench of Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam and Justice Nasreen Akter issued the order during the hearing of an appeal filed by Inzamamul, now in jail, challenging the trial court's verdict in the murder case.

A Dhaka court on December 10, 2020, sentenced Inzamamul to imprisonment until

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ডাচ-বাংলা ব্যাংকের

কার্ড ও রকেট দিয়ে

ই-কমার্স বা অনলাইনে

বিভিন্ন ধরনের

ফি প্রদান করা যায়

যখন খুশি তখন

যে ধরনের ফি দেওয়া যায় :

- কেনাকাটা • ইউটিলিটি বিল (পানি, গ্যাস, বিদ্যুৎ)
- খাজনা ও হোল্ডিং ট্যাক্স • ইনকাম ট্যাক্স
- রেলওয়ে টিকেট • মোবাইল রিচার্জ • বীমার প্রিমিয়াম
- টিউশন ফি • ইন্টারনেট বিল
- ক্যাবল অপারেটরের বিল ইত্যাদি

ডাচ-বাংলা ব্যাংক

আপনার বিশ্বস্ত সহযোগী

প্রয়োজনে, ডাচ-বাংলা ব্যাংকের যে কোন শাখা, উপশাখা ও ফান্ড ট্রাস্টকে যোগাযোগ করুন অথবা ডায়াল করুন

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