

ক্রম ও নিরাপত্তা রেজিস্ট্রেশন পাঠান  
প্রিয়জনদের প্রয়োজনে...

যেকোনো শাখা থেকে রেজিস্ট্রেশন গ্রহণ করলেই  
পাবেন সরকার নির্ধারিত ২.৫% প্রমোদনা

সাপ্তে আত্রও আত্রে নিশ্চিত আকর্ষণীয় পুরস্কার  
\* শর্ত প্রযোজ্য



পূবালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি  
PUBALI BANK PLC.

Best Financial Institution  
DHL-The Daily Star Business Awards.



ঘরে বসেই  
ব্যাংক  
অ্যাকাউন্ট  
খুলুন

পাই ব্যাংকিং (PI Banking) -  
একটি পূবালী ব্যাংক আপস



ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং সেবা প্রদানে 'ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং কর্ণার' পূবালী ব্যাংকের প্রায় সকল শাখা এবং উপশাখায়

## Separate secretariat for judiciary in progress

Says chief justice  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed yesterday said the process for establishing a separate secretariat for the judiciary is ongoing.

"The structural organogram and concept note are being scrutinised. If there is any constitutional and legal hurdle for its implementation, that will be resolved," he said at the Supreme Court.

On October 27 last year, the SC administration forwarded a proposal, along with a concept paper describing the necessity and objectives of a separate secretariat for the judiciary, to the law ministry.

A draft organogram of the secretariat was annexed to the proposal written by the chief justice. At present, the law ministry acts as the secretariat for the judiciary.



The FDC intersection in the capital experienced severe traffic congestion yesterday, along with other areas such as Farmgate, Bijoy Sarani, Karwan Bazar, Moghbazar, Malibagh, Mouchak, Hatirjheel and Gulshan. This happened due to students of polytechnic institutes starting blockades across the country to press home their six-point demand. Commuters found themselves stuck in traffic for several hours, with many being forced to walk to their destinations.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## ROAD ACCIDENTS IN 2023

### Hit-and-runs dominate DNCC crash data

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 123 people were killed in 117 fatal road crashes in 2023 within the Dhaka North City Corporation area, with pedestrians making up the majority of victims, according to a new road safety report jointly prepared by DNCC and Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Pedestrians accounted for 61 percent of the fatalities. The report said 87 percent of these fatal crashes were hit-and-run incidents. Motorcyclists were the second-largest group affected, comprising 24 percent of the total deaths.

**Pedestrians accounted for 61 percent of the fatalities. The report said 87 percent of these fatal crashes were hit-and-run incidents. Motorcyclists were the second-largest group affected, comprising 24 percent of the total deaths.**

The findings were presented at a road safety meeting held at a hotel in the capital yesterday, organised by the Road Transport and Highways Division and the Bloomberg Philanthropies Initiative for Global Road Safety (BIGRS), with support from DNCC, DMP, Chattogram City Corporation, and Chattogram Metropolitan Police.

The data was compiled from FIRs and written complaints filed for each fatal crash in the 25 police stations under DNCC's jurisdiction throughout 2023.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

## Sufferings mount as blockades paralyse country

Polytechnic students block roads, railways over six-point demand; announce countrywide rail blockade today

STAR REPORT

Students of polytechnic institutes have announced a rail blockade across the country today to press home their six-point demand.

The new programme was announced more than eight hours after they staged blockades across the country yesterday, halting road and rail communication in more than a dozen districts as part of a coordinated movement.

An organiser of the protest announced the programme yesterday evening in Dhaka's Tejgaon area.

The students said they will continue their movement until their demands are met. They left the area around 6:30pm, ending yesterday's protest programme in the city.

The students' demands include the removal of "controversial craft instructors" recruited after 2021, restructuring the diploma engineering programme into a four-year course with six-month semesters, and reserving 10th-

grade engineering posts — such as deputy assistant engineer — exclusively for diploma graduates.

The protests caused widespread disruptions to public transport, leaving commuters stranded in long tailbacks and causing delays or suspensions of several train services.

**The capital experienced severe traffic congestion in areas such as Farmgate, Bijoy Sarani, Karwan Bazar, Moghbazar, Malibagh, Mouchak, Hatirjheel, Gulshan, and the FDC intersection.**

In Dhaka, over 1,000 students from Dhaka Polytechnic Institute blocked the Satrasta intersection in Tejgaon for nearly eight hours, starting at 10:30am.

The capital experienced severe traffic congestion in areas such as

Farmgate, Bijoy Sarani, Karwan Bazar, Moghbazar, Malibagh, Mouchak, Hatirjheel, Gulshan, and the FDC intersection. The incoming lanes of the Elevated Expressway, especially around Tejgaon and Mohakhali, were also gridlocked.

Siam Almas, a private job holder, said, "I had to get off my vehicle near Hatirjheel and walk all the way to Farmgate amid rain."

Many others echoed him. Traffic only began to ease after 6:00pm when students left the area, according to a statement from the Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Gulshan Traffic Division.

In Cumilla, over 500 students blocked the Dhaka-Chattogram highway at Kotbari Nandanpur from 11:40am to 1:35pm, resulting in an 8-kilometre tailback and stranding passengers in the intense heat.

Police and highway officials failed to disperse the crowd. The students withdrew after army personnel arrived and fired blank shots. Several students were

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## TK 1,000CR BOND SCAM Salman F Rahman, Shibli Rubaiyat among 30 sued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ACC has filed a case against 30 individuals over allegations of embezzling Tk 1,000 crore through fraudulent bond issuance.

The accused include Salman F Rahman, former private industry and investment adviser to then prime minister, his son Ahmed Shayan Fazlur Rahman, and Shibli Rubaiyat-Ul-Islam, former chairman of the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission, said ACC Director General Md Akhtar Hossain yesterday.

The accused facilitated issuance of bonds worth Tk 1,000 crore for a newly registered company — Shripur Township Limited — without acquiring a Credit Information Bureau report or assessing the mortgaged land.

Meanwhile, ACC is planning to seek assistance from international agencies to bring British lawmaker Tulip Siddiq, who has been accused of corruption, to Bangladesh so that she can place her statement over alleged plot forgery before a court.

Akhtar Hossain said due legal processes will be followed in cooperation with relevant global organisations to ensure her appearance in court.

## Dedicated hospital for expats soon

Says Asif Nazrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Asif Nazrul, adviser to the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, yesterday announced that a dedicated hospital for expatriates will soon be established in Dhaka's Gulshan.

The hospital will be run by returnee expatriates, and its ownership will also be granted to expatriates through share purchases, he said while speaking at a programme organised by the Wage Earners' Welfare Board in Probashi Kalyan Bhaban.

The event included distribution of cheques for disability allowances, medical aid for ailing expatriates, and financial assistance and compensation to families of deceased expatriates.

## European lawyers' body condemns Tureen's arrest

STAR REPORT

The Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE), representing over 1 million lawyers across 46 countries, has voiced concern over the recent arrest and alleged mistreatment of Barrister Tureen Afroz.

In a letter dated April 15 addressed to the chief adviser, CCBE President Thierry Wickers wrote, "The CCBE wishes to express its concerns over the arbitrary arrest and inhumane treatment of Barrister Tureen Afroz."

The CCBE also referenced a prior incident in August 2024, where she was reportedly subjected to a violent and degrading physical assault by unidentified attackers, allegedly in retaliation for her work at the ICT.

## 'A political group trying to delay Ducusu polls'

Alleges Chhatra Odhikar Parishad

DU CORRESPONDENT

A political group is trying to delay the Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducusu) election until after the national polls in a bid to control students and misuse power, similar to the previous regime, alleged Chhatra Odhikar Parishad yesterday.

Bin Yamin Mollah, president of the organisation's central committee, made the remarks at a press conference at Ducusu building.

The organisation demanded that an acceptable, participatory Ducusu election be held by June.

The timing of Ducusu elections has always been manipulated to serve the interests of the political parties, he added.

## Part of poet Rafiq Azad's Dhanmondi house demolished



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A part of the house of Ekushey Padak winning poet Rafiq Azad was demolished by the National Housing Authority yesterday morning in the presence of police.

Confirming the matter, the poet's wife, Professor Dilara Hafiz, said, "Without serving any prior notice, police arrived in the morning and demolished the western part of our house. Afterwards, they instructed us to quickly remove our furniture and essential belongings before temporarily suspending the eviction drive."

However, Tayeb-Ur-Rahman Ashik, executive magistrate of the National Housing Authority's Mirpur division-2, said the house of poet Rafiq Azad was not demolished during their operation.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



Covered vans remain parked haphazardly, covering a majority of a footpath on Satrasta. As a result, pedestrians have little space to no space to cross. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON