

## Chaotic crowding at HSIA arrival, departure zones

### Relatives swarm Dhaka airport despite entry restrictions, disrupting passenger movement

RASHIDUL HASAN

The arrival canopy and departure driveway areas at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) have turned chaotic as large numbers of people crowd the spaces to see off or welcome relatives, disrupting passenger movement and creating traffic congestion.

In August, the airport authorities instructed that a maximum of two people would be allowed to accompany passengers at the departure driveway and arrival canopy. But during recent visits to Terminal 1 and Terminal 2, it was seen that no one followed the rule.

The situation worsens when several flights land within a short time, as many visitors flock to the canopy area, often crossing the security fence. Despite signboards at both entrances prohibiting the entry of co-passengers and visitors, few pay attention.

Security personnel were seen making repeated announcements, urging visitors to give way to passengers and vehicles, but people rarely moved until they had received or seen off relatives.



Visitors swarmed the areas like bees after flights landed, with some even waiting at the departure driveway until planes took off. Many arriving passengers boarded waiting vehicles directly from the canopy, but the overflow of visitors often turned the space into a marketplace, disrupting smooth exit and adding to congestion.

Syed Ali, who came from Pabna with five relatives to receive his uncle, said he felt it was necessary to be there.

Another visitor, Rabeya Shimu from Rajshahi, who also came with four relatives, said relatives from abroad feel displeased if no one comes to receive them, though she admitted the environment would improve if visitor numbers were controlled.

On average, 160 to 165 international flights operate daily from HSIA, which has a capacity of eight million passengers a year but handled 12.5 million last year.

Around 30,000 passengers travel through the airport daily. "It means nearly 1,250 passengers travel per hour. If at least two persons accompany

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Visitors continue to swarm the arrival and departure canopy areas at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, hindering smooth passenger movement. Although the airport authorities have instructed that only two persons may accompany a passenger, most people ignore the rule. The photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

### Asia's top editors in Seoul for ANN meet, HIT Forum

THE KOREA HERALD

Top editors and publishers from 20 media outlets across 19 Asian countries are convening in Seoul this week for the annual board meeting of the Asia News Network, which will be held in conjunction with Today's 2025 Korea Herald HIT Forum.

Founded in 1999, ANN has worked to amplify Asia's voice in global discourse through joint reporting and closer cooperation among member newsrooms.

Its annual board meeting rotates among member countries, and this year's session takes place in Seoul against the backdrop of President Lee Jae Myung's new administration and the upcoming Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Gyeongju, North Gyeongsang Province.

### ASIA 2025 HIT FORUM DIALOGUE

Ahead of the meeting, visiting editors toured the headquarters of Hybe, the K-pop agency behind global sensation BTS, and the Samsung Innovation Museum yesterday to gain firsthand insight into Korean companies' innovation strategies and the global appeal of K-culture.

Today, ANN delegates will also join the 2025 Korea Herald HIT Forum as speakers. Under the theme "Asia Dialogue: Shifting Trade Order and Regional Solidarity," they will discuss pressing trade and security challenges, as well as the significance of Korea hosting this year's APEC summit.

"At a time when many nations are grappling with trade frictions, it is highly meaningful that Asia's leading editors are coming together in Seoul to seek solidarity," said Choi Jin-young, CEO of Herald Media Group.

"We hope this forum will help elevate regional attention on the APEC summit."

### PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 2

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4:45 12:45 4:15 5:53 7:30  
JAMAT 5:20 1:15 4:30 5:56 8:00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## Playground lost to seized vehicles

### Section of Mirpur's Golartek field remains occupied by police for over a decade

DIPAN NANDY

Years go by, vehicles come and go, and assurances are made one after another. Yet the Golartek playground in Mirpur 1 has not been freed from occupation.

For more than a decade, Darus Salam Police Station has occupied part of the field with seized vehicles.

Covering four acres, this is the largest playground under Dhaka North City Corporation and is locally known as "Golartek Math".

On August 23, 2008, seven new police stations, including Darus Salam Police Station, were formed by breaking up Mirpur Police Station.

Residents complain that two years after the Darus Salam station was established, seized vehicles began filling the Golartek field, a process that has continued for over a decade.

Although DNCC administration and locals have repeatedly demanded that the field be freed of vehicles, the police have only given assurances without implementation.

Police officials say the vehicles are stored there as case exhibits. Since the station has no space of its own, the vehicles will be removed once alternative land is found. They said they have written to the city corporation requesting land, but no space has been allocated.

A recent visit showed the

southwest section of the field occupied by more than 10 trucks, about a dozen buses, along with CNG-run auto rickshaws, minibuses, private cars, pickup vans, human haulers, motorcycles, and rickshaws -- totalling over 50 vehicles.

On the other side are the GBHB Club and the office of Suchana Cooperative Society. Next to them, a large portion has been taken up by a permanent badminton court fenced with nets.

Amrita Roy, a local, said, "No one comes to play on that side because of the vehicles. I've been seeing these cars for six to seven years. Who should we complain to? What's the use?"

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people, but if they occupy our spaces, where will people go? We want a field to play on."

Altaf Hossain, a student at St Joseph Higher Secondary School, said, "After the police station was set up, cars started entering this field one after another. This is a playground, not police property."

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## Prioritise road safety in election manifestos

### Nirapad Sarak Chai urges political parties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nirapad Sarak Chai (Nischa) yesterday urged all political parties to prioritise road safety in their upcoming election manifestos to ensure long-term national commitment.

At a press conference at Jatiya Press Club, the organisation also called for forming a separate Road Safety Unit in every educational institution, similar to Girl Guides or Scouts, so students can be educated on safe road use and take part in awareness activities.

Founded in 1993, Nischa is a non-political, voluntary social movement advocating safer roads across the country.

In the absence of Ilias Kanchan, veteran actor and founder of Nischa, who is now in the UK for treatment, the demands were read out by founding member Liton Ershad.

Liton said road safety challenges are too complex for the government alone to solve and require the involvement of national and international organisations, institutions and experts.

While the Road Transport Act 2018

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## No possibility of lifting ban on AL activities soon

### Says law adviser

BSS, Barishal

Law Adviser Asif Nazrul yesterday ruled out the possibility of lifting the ban on activities of Awami League anytime soon.

Speaking to journalists after visiting a puja mandap at Sankar



Math in Barishal city, the adviser said, "When a party's activities are banned, the question arises whether the ban is permanent or temporary. I don't see any possibility that the ban on Awami League activities will be lifted soon."

He also confirmed that the next national elections are scheduled to be held in the first half of February 2026. Addressing questions on the recent incidents in the Chattogram Hill Tracts, Nazrul said the government would take stern action against those responsible.

## CHT unrest part of national, int'l conspiracies: Rizvi

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi yesterday said the ongoing unrest in the CHT is part of a "national and international conspiracy" aimed at destabilising Bangladesh.

"Some countries want to keep Hasina in power so they can keep Bangladesh under their control forever. They are still trying to do that. Why is there unrest in the hills at the border during Puja? There are many Hindu communities there too. Why has the unrest suddenly been created there? This is a planned move at this time of the festival," he said.

He made the remarks while speaking to reporters after visiting a puja mandap at Paltan Community Centre. Rizvi said people of all parties and religions were coming together on the occasion of puja beyond political divisions. "But there are still attempts to break this harmony."

## Govt to return occupied ground to Alia Madrasa

### Says education adviser

BSS, Dhaka

Education Adviser Prof CR Abrar yesterday said the ground of Govt Madrasah-e-Alia in Dhaka's Bakhshibazar area, occupied during the tenure of the former government, will be returned to the madrasa authorities.

"The process of returning the ground to its rightful authorities has already begun. The ground was taken over during the previous regime to set up a special court. It will be removed following due procedure," he said while addressing the madrasa's 246th founding anniversary celebration.

He said development projects have been taken up for three Alia madrasas to improve their infrastructure and academic environment.



Metal rods protrude hazardously from a road divider as a car drives by. Dhaka South City Corporation has demolished the divider to build a U-turn under the Swamibag section of the Mayor Hanif Flyover, without taking any precautionary measures to shield the area from vehicles or pedestrians. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

