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Commuters left to suffer

Gridlocks go from bad to worse as traffic regulated for VVIP movement

M RAHMAN

Zihan Saba was sobbing as she entered her school at 2:18pm yesterday. A student of class two, she was 18 minutes late for her second-term exam.

Saba's mother, who accompanied her to Siddheswari Girls High School on Bailey Road in the capital, said their rickshaw got stuck in apparently a never-ending traffic gridlock at Malibagh intersection.

They waited there for half an hour before starting to walk fast down the road. The kid had already been suffering from nerves.

Cab driver Elias at Sonargaon intersection of Karwan Bazaar said it took him around four hours from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport to Dholaipar in Old Dhaka.

"I started at 9:30am and reached Dholaipar at about 2:00pm--usually a trip of around one and a half hours," he said.

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Vehicles stuck in a tail-back on Dhanmondi road-8 in the capital around 11:00am yesterday. City dwellers suffered severe congestion as many roads were off-limit to regular traffic yesterday for at least two hours during the movements of VVIPs.

PHOTO:
RASHED SHUMON

SI indicted for bribery

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charge against Rakibul Hasan, a sub-inspector of Mirpur Police Station, in a case filed against him for taking Tk 5,000 bribe from a complainant.

Judge Mohammad Mozammel Hossain of the Special Judge's Court-3 framed the charge after rejecting Rakibul's discharge petition.

The SI claimed himself innocent and demanded

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

Metro rail project ready to roll

Loan negotiations, detailed design next month

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

After a hiccup over a partial change in the route, the \$1.7 billion metro rail project has gained momentum as its major financier Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) is set to start loan negotiations with the government next month.

Experts will begin an exercise

next month to prepare a detailed design for the project. It will be completed before signing of the loan agreement in December, Jica officials in Dhaka said.

A three-member team of Jica visited the capital recently to see the progress of the project and prepare grounds for loan negotiations. They held meetings with the officials of

communications ministry and External Resources Division.

The Japanese governmental agency is ready to finance 80 percent of the project cost as soft loan to construct the metro rail, considered the most viable option for transporting thousands of passengers in a densely populated city like Dhaka.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

MONEY LAUNDERING CASE Tarique asked to appear in court on Aug 8

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday asked Tarique Rahman, senior vice-chairman of BNP, to appear before it on August 8 in a money laundering case.

On failure to appear, charge will be framed against Tarique in his absence, said the court.

Judge Mohammad Mozammel Hossain of the Special Judge's Court-3 passed the order as the BNP leader did not appear before the court for a single day in the case.

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AWARD FOR INDIRA
Khaleda absent at ceremony

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia was absent in the award ceremony hosted at Bangabhaban yesterday to confer Bangladesh Freedom Honour posthumously on late Indian premier Indira Gandhi.

Indian National Congress President Sonia Gandhi received the award on behalf of her

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

'UNDERMINING' SC Jamaat leader Azharul summoned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday summoned ATM Azharul Islam, acting secretary general of Jamaat-e-Islami, to appear before it on August 8 to explain his remark "undermining" the Supreme Court.

The HC order came after Prof Wahiduzzaman Chan, a teacher of Dhaka University, yesterday filed a writ petition seeking directives on the government to take legal action

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

Worker dies falling from rooftop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A worker died falling from the rooftop of an under-construction building at Bashundhara in the capital yesterday morning.

The deceased, identified as Mohammad Miraz, 24, hails from Boalmari, Faridpur.

Workers at the construction site blamed the death on lack of safety gears.

A fellow worker, Zakir Mollah, said four

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4



Dhaka City Corporation yesterday in a drive knocks down illegal structures at the city's Karwan Bazar. Inset, an office of a ruling party-backed organisation occupying a footpath in the area, however, remains untouched.

PHOTO:
PALASH KHAN

HOARDING
339 sacks of sugar seized, later released

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Thakurgaon

A government market monitoring team yesterday gave approval to sell 339 sacks of sugar which it had seized earlier from godowns of three traders at Thakurgaon Station Road on charges of illegal hoarding.

The team led by Additional District Magistrate Abdul Khaleq seized 146 sacks from the godown of Shahjahan Khan, 159 sacks from Mokbul Hossain's godown and 34 sacks from Yakub Ali's godown on Sunday.

Magistrate Khaleq told The Daily Star the three sugar traders failed to show any valid document of approval for stocking the sugar.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

Manmohan had knowledge of it

Claims Indian ex-minister accused in 2G scam, denies charges in telecom trial

AFP, New Delhi

India's former telecom minister, accused in a mammoth fraud case, insisted yesterday that he was innocent and that Premier Manmohan Singh had been aware of his actions as he began his court defence.

South Indian politician A Raja is on trial in New Delhi along with 15 others including company executives over the allegedly corrupt sale of telecom licences in 2008 that

COURT HEARING
Breivik claims to have accomplices

BBC ONLINE

Norwegian police are investigating claims by Anders Behring Breivik, who has admitted carrying out Friday's twin attacks in Norway, that he has "two more cells" working with him.

Breivik made the claim at his first court hearing since the bombing in Oslo and massacre at an island youth camp.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 3

Fanatic answers his questions

TIME ONLINE

After Friday's dual attacks in Norway, more than 1,500 pages of the writings of the shooter Anders Behring Breivik have emerged -- a manifesto of madness if ever there was one.

The 32-year-old gunman is a Nordic ideal, and for at least nine years, he meticulously crafted his plan to root out anyone different. Breivik's rambling writings, grandly titled 2083: A European Declaration of Independence,



Breivik

present him as a right-wing nationalist fueled by a combined hatred of Muslims, Marxists and multiculturalists.

As part of the manifesto, Breivik interviews himself, offering a highly personal Q&A in which he throws himself admiring questions and answers them with disturbing calm. This abridged version of Breivik's interview is translated from Norwegian newspaper Bergens Tidende.

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The Daily Star



ONLINE POLL

Do you think the sugar crisis in the market is result of government's total failure in controlling the market?

Yes (88.9%)

No (10.2%)

No Comments (0.9%)

TOTAL VOTES: 470

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think Bangladesh will benefit very little from giving transit to India?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net