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MEGHNA BRIDGES CLOSURE Thousands suffer on highway

STAR REPORT

Vehicles were moving slowly through the alternative Brahmanbaria-Moinamati highway after a four-day repair work of two key bridges on Dhaka-Chittagong highway began early yesterday.

A long queue of vehicles plying the Dhaka-Chittagong highway clogged the diversion route as their speed came down to 30 to 50 kilometres per hour.

Hundreds of people suffered heavily as their vehicles remained stuck on the road for hours while police were grappling with heavy traffic in a bid to ease commuters' sufferings.

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The repair work of Meghna and Gumti bridges that started from yesterday causes immense suffering for passengers. People are now crossing the rivers on overloaded boats putting their lives on the line. Inset, Bangladesh Army repairing the Meghna bridge.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH



PREPARATIONS FOR NEXT POLLS AL plans recast of all local units

Hasan Jahid Tusher

The ruling Awami League has decided to recast the entire grassroots level units within the next couple of months keeping the next parliamentary election in mind. The party will divide the Dhaka city

unit into four organisational districts to create more leadership in the capital. The city happens to be one district unit of the party's total 73 organisational districts. "We may split the Dhaka city unit into

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Jamaat men attack cops in Jessore 5 injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and its student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir attacked law enforcers at Monirampur in Jessore, leaving five policemen injured yesterday.

The incident happened at Gangra intersection when a police team went there to disperse a procession of Jamaat-Shibir men who were equipped with sticks and brickbats. Two of the injured policemen -- Sub-inspector (SI) Shoriful Islam and constable Gonzil Ali -- were taken to Monirampur Upazila Health Complex where their conditions were stated to be critical. Monirul Islam, SI of Monirampur Police Station, said around 150-200 leaders and activists of Jamaat-Shibir gathered at the intersection around 11:30 am. As a five-member police team led by SI Shoriful reached the spot, the activists threw brick

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Exotic birds, monkeys seized at airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered 10 monkeys and 160 birds of rare species from Shahjalal International Airport in the capital after those were illegally imported from South Africa Thursday night. The police said they had arrested Clearing and Forwarding agent Mostafizur Rahman, 45, in this connection. The birds and animals were brought by Nazmul Huda Manzur, a resident of Savar, they added.

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Controversy over Neil Armstrong's moon quote

SPACE.COM

The famous first words uttered by the first person on the moon, Neil Armstrong, may not have been as spontaneous as commonly thought, according to Armstrong's

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8



A colourful procession marking the 65th founding anniversary of Bangladesh Chhatra League in front of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh in the capital yesterday.

RAPE ROW IN INDIA New Delhi to have more policewomen

BBC ONLINE

More women police will be recruited soon in the Indian capital, Delhi, after a national outcry over the gang rape of a young woman last month, officials said yesterday. Five men have been charged with raping and murdering the 23-year-old who died of her injuries at the weekend. The men will be tried in a fast-track court, where they could be handed the death penalty. A sixth suspect is likely to

be tried in a juvenile court. Meanwhile, the home minister has called a meeting of officials from all states. Sushil Kumar Shinde was scheduled to talks yesterday with state chief secretaries and police chiefs on how to stop crimes against women, officials said. On Thursday, the five accused, who include the driver of the bus, were charged before a magistrate but the case will be transferred to a specially launched

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited
ONLINE POLL

Don't you think men should change their attitude to ensure women's safety?

Yes (87%)
No (9%)
No Comments (4%)

TOTAL VOTES: 224

TODAY'S POLL
Do you support the BNP-led 18-party alliance's countrywide daylong hartal on Sunday protesting the latest increase in fuel prices?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT
www.thedailystar.net
YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT
facebook.com/dailystarnews

PRAYER TIMING January 5

Asan	Jamaat
Fajr 5-30	6-05
Zohr 12-45	1-15
Asr 4-00	4-15
Maghrib 5-30	5-35
Esha 7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Regulations Relating to Foreign Exchange Transactions [Recent Liberalization]

- Wage earners' remittances can be received by branches of Bangladesh Post Office, approved branch offices of NGOs and authorized agents of mobile operators in addition to bank branches.
- Annual travel quota limit has been enhanced to USD 5000 or equivalent to visit the countries other than SARRC region & Myanmar while the limit has been enhanced to USD 2000 or equivalent to visit SARRC region & Myanmar in a calendar year.
- Fees related to application, registration, admission, examination (TOEFL, SAT etc.) in connection with admission into foreign educational institutions can be sent through international card or virtual card. Moreover, students who went abroad for study without opening student file in Bangladesh can also open such files through their local guardians.
- Exporters can remit upto USD 10,000 in advance from their balances of exporters' retention quota accounts for importing essential inputs to meet their emergency requirements.
- Registration fees of the officials of government/semi-government/autonomous/private sector bodies/banks/NGOs may be remitted through Authorized Dealer (AD) bank for participating training, seminar, workshop, etc. abroad to the foreign organizer.
- Foreign currency upto an amount of USD5000 or equivalent may be received from abroad without declaring in 'Form C'. However, receipt of wage earners' remittance of Bangladesh nationals need not be declared in 'Form C' irrespective of any amount.
- Any amount of foreign currency can be brought into Bangladesh; but amount exceeding USD 5000 or equivalent shall have to be declared to the Customs Authority in 'Form FMJ'. Bangladesh Taka upto 2000 can be taken out/brought in while going to/coming from abroad.
- Proceeds from export of services of invisible items (software, data processing, data entry, business services, consultancy, research works, freelancing etc.) can be received from abroad easily and quickly through authorized dealer bank branches.
- Proceeds against export of services including business process outsourcing/freelancing/overseas IT services using internet can be received through online payment gateway (presently available at Bank Asia Ltd.) besides TT or draft.
- Information Technology/software firms can sell their products to foreign buyers through internet/web portal and can receive proceeds instantly through international cards of foreign buyers.
- Service exporters including exporters of software and IT related services can retain upto 50% of their repatriated proceeds from exports in foreign currency in exporters' retention quota (ERQ) accounts. Balances of such accounts can be taken during foreign visit, can be sent to meet any bonafide current need or can be converted into local currency at any time.
- To meet various business needs, a software/IT firm (who is a member of BASIS) can remit foreign currency upto USD 10,000 abroad in a calendar year in addition to their ERQ account facility.
- Expatriate Bangladeshis including wage earners can buy US Dollar Investment Bond and/or US Dollar Premium Bond even without opening any Foreign Currency Account (FC A/c).

[For details, please visit Bangladesh Bank website (www.bb.org.bd). For further information please contact Foreign Exchange Policy Department, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka, phone-0088-02-9530298, 0088-02-9530142, email: gm.fepd@bb.org.bd or Financial Integrity and Customer Services Department, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka, phone-16236, Fax: 0088-02-9530273, email: bb.cipc@bb.org.bd]

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