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# Tailbacks, all the time

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

An unplanned bus terminal at Patgudam intersection near the China-Bangladesh Friendship Bridge is causing perennial traffic congestion in the district town, as the local administration stays oblivious to the problem.

Every day, up to 2,500 buses use the terminal on the southern side of the bridge, locally known as Shambhuganj bridge. People traveling to and from the northern districts, Netrakona and Kishoreganj through Mymensingh suffer for hours due to tailbacks in the terminal area.

Passengers, drivers, transport workers and traffic personnel say the problem would worsen unless the terminal is relocated outside the town.

Md Montaz Uddin, president of District Transport Owners Association, said the terminal must be shifted to the other side of the bridge at Moilakandi in Kalibari area.

Traffic Inspector Syed Mahbubur Rahman who along with four of his colleagues tries to control traffic at the site every day, said the traffic department had written to the higher authorities concerned about the gridlock.

"Our pleas have been ignored and the situation is getting worse every day," noted Mahbubur.

The terminal has been set up on a six-acre plot. Surprisingly enough, none among the district administration, municipality or the Roads and Highways Department claims ownership of or responsibility for the terminal.

Contacted, Mayor of Mymensingh Municipality Ekramul Haque Titu said they could not make any move to end the problem unless the authorities concerned handed over the terminal to the municipality.

On relocating the terminal to Moilakanda, he said as the site was designated only for dumping wastes, it could not be converted into a bus terminal.

Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh Mukhtakim Billah Faruqui said the administration had asked the police authorities and the RHD to make an effective plan to ease traffic jam in the area.



A long queue of buses near a terminal close to Shambhuganj bridge in Mymensingh. Locals say such jams are a regular phenomenon and sometimes last an entire day. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: AMINUL ISLAM

# Cops or criminals?

Businessman picked up, freed in exchange for Tk 1cr bribe

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and TAMANNA KHAN

Two officials of the Detective Branch of police were closed yesterday for allegedly detaining a businessman without any charges in the capital early April 7 and releasing him hours later in exchange for Tk 1 crore.

Sub-Inspector Hasnat and Inspector Azhar led a team of DB men and picked up businessman Syed Abidul Islam, 42, from his house at Gulshan-1 around 3:00am on April 7. They later released him in exchange for Tk 1 crore, alleged Kabirul Haque Mukti, lawmaker of Narail-1 and a

friend of Abidul.

But both SI Hasnat and Azhar denied any involvement in the incident. Hasnat, however, told The Daily Star, "Azhar and I have been closed."

In a letter to the home ministry on April 24, lawmaker Mukti alleged the two officials led the illegal operation on instructions from Molla Nazrul Islam, deputy police commissioner, DB (north).

Refuting the allegations against him, Nazrul, who was transferred to Protection and Protocol Division on Saturday, said

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BCC MAYOR POLLS

## All candidates promise to accept results

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

All three mayoral candidates of Barisal City Corporation (BCC) yesterday promised to help the conduct of a free and fair election and accept the results.

They made the promise at a programme of interaction

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

# Remarkable day in Pakistan

New parliament members sworn in; Sharif to take oath as PM on Wednesday

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan's new parliament was sworn-in yesterday, completing the country's first-ever democratic transition of power in a country ruled for half its history by the military.

Newly-elected lawmakers came to the parliament building for the oath-taking ceremony amid tight security around the

"Red Zone" of the capital Islamabad where key government buildings are located, an AFP photographer said.

Speaker of the national assembly Fehmida Mirza administered the oath to lawmakers, with the ceremony broadcast live on television. The session began with the playing of national anthem and the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## Teenager dies in police custody

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A teenager died mysteriously while in custody at Khilkhet Police Station in the capital yesterday.

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PRAYER TIMING June 2			
Fajr	Azan	Jamaat	
Zohr	12-45	1-15	
Asr	5-00	5-15	
Maghrib	6-45	6-50	
Esha	8-15	8-45	

Source: Islamic Foundation



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Boats moored on a canal at Nandipara in the capital's Basabo area with shades pitched up to protect passengers from sweltering heat.



## Crippled lion is dog's best friend

LAURA MOSS, MOTHER NATURE NETWORK

A 500-pound lion and an 11-pound dog have formed an unlikely friendship, proving that cats and dogs really can get along.

Bonedigger the lion and Milo the dachshund live together at Garold Wayne Exotic Animal Park in

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with the Election Commission that there is no need for army deployment during the city corporation polls?

Yes (19%)

No (81%)

TOTAL VOTES: 131

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think Bangladesh Cricket Board will be able to properly investigate match fixing allegations?

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