



Tailbacks, thanks to PM's reception

STAR REPORT

Thousands of commuters remained stuck in tailbacks for hours in the capital yesterday, as ruling party leaders and activists thronged the airport from different areas to welcome the prime minister on her return from the USA.

Flouting traffic rules, leaders and activists of the Awami League and its associate bodies occupied busy roads and intersections from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport to Gono Bhaban to greet Sheikh Hasina.

They started heading for the airport in small processions and in buses, trucks and pick-ups from around 3:00pm. Many others stood with placards, banners and festoons on both sides of the road from the airport to Gono Bhaban.

Several groups of ruling party activists played musical instruments and danced in joy on busy roads and intersections, creating traffic jams much before Hasina and her entourage landed at the airport around 5:30pm.

The AL accorded a reception to Hasina at the airport on her winning the International Organisation for South-South Cooperation Award for her role in reducing poverty. She was on an eight-day official visit to the US to attend the UN General Assembly.

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Commuters at the capital's Farmgate wait for vehicles, which were hard to come by because of massive gridlock yesterday evening. Traffic on the thoroughfares between the airport and the Gono Bhaban plunged into chaos as ruling Awami League men flocked to greet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on her return from the US.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Honour for 60 more foreign friends today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will honour 60 foreign friends and organisations from different countries for their outstanding contributions to the 1971 Liberation War.

The list includes former Indian president late Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed and ex-prime minister late Gulzarilal Nanda.

The state accolades will be given in two categories, titled "Bangladesh Liberation War Honour" and "Friends of Liberation War Honour" at a reception at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre today.

President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will hand over medals, crests and citations to the awardees or their representatives.

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SQ Chy verdict today

BNP leaders uncomfortable about talking on war trial outcome

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 is set to deliver today the verdict in the crimes against humanity case against BNP standing committee member Salauddin Quader Chowdhury.

Also an opposition lawmaker, Salauddin is facing 23 charges including genocide, abduction, confinement, torture, looting and setting fire to houses during Bangladesh's Liberation War in 1971.

Forty-seven days after the completion of the case proceedings, tribunal Chairman Justice ATM Fazle Kabir yesterday announced the date of the

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SQ Chowdhury

This honour is for all

PM on South-South Award for poverty reduction

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday sought cooperation from all in upholding the honour that the country has received through the South-South Award for its stellar performance in poverty reduction.

"I seek cooperation from all in upholding the honour," she told a civic reception given

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MUEEN UDDIN, ASHRAFUZZAMAN Verdict any day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 will deliver any day the verdict in war crimes case against alleged Al-Badr leaders Chowdhury Mueen Uddin and Ashrafuzzaman Khan.

The prosecution and the defence yesterday completed their closing arguments and the case has been shelved for the verdict.

"We are keeping the case as a CAV [Curia



Mueen Uddin



Ashrafuzzaman

Tribunal-2, yesterday.

Mueen and Ashraf, who are now on the run, are facing 11 charges for allegedly killing nine Dhaka University teachers, six

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Police patrol a road in Raozan of Chittagong, the constituency of Salauddin Quader Chowdhury. Security in the area has been beefed up as a war crimes tribunal is set to deliver today the verdict in a case against the BNP leader.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Raozan uneasy, tense

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, back from Raozan

They are still haunted by memories of the atrocities the Pakistani army committed with the help of Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury during the Liberation War in 1971.

As the news spread in Raozan yesterday morning that a special tribunal would deliver verdict in the war crimes case against Salahuddin, anxiety again gripped the victim families and those who testified against him.

Even forty-two years after independence, Hindu families in Jagatmallapara and Kundeshwary villages of Gahira and Unasatturpara of Pahartali union still fear a backlash from the war crimes accused.

On April 13, 1971, Pakistani soldiers aided by local collaborators killed 32 Hindus, including seven of a family, at Jagatmallapara and 79 Hindus at Unasatturpara, witnesses told war crimes investigators.

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RANA PLAZA COMPENSATION Tk 20 lakh for each dead, missing

RASHAD AHAMAD, SAVAR

A high-powered committee yesterday recommended Tk 19.51 lakh in compensation for each of the apparel workers who died or went missing in the Rana Plaza collapse on April 24.

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