



Roads at several points where vehicles enter or leave the capital have been witnessing huge snarl-ups for one or the other reason ahead of the Eid-ul-Azha. From left, traffic negotiates potholes at Gazipur intersection on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway; a cattle market occupies almost half the busy thoroughfare at Jatrabari; dredging goes on in the Daulatdia channel to ensure smooth operation of ferries carrying vehicles to and from Dhaka.

PHOTO:
STAR

Yusuf seeks bail on health grounds

Tribunal asks for report from jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday directed the Kashimpur Jail authorities to submit a report on the health of war crimes accused AKM Yusuf by October 22 as he sought bail on grounds of poor health.

The 87-year-old Jamaat-Islami leader, known as the founder of the infamous Razakar force, is facing 13 charges for his alleged involvement in crimes against humanity and genocide committed during the Liberation War.

Arrested on May 12, Yusuf was denied bail two days later.

The tribunal had directed the jail authorities on July 24 to report on his health when Yusuf sought bail again.

As the jail authorities described his health as "stable", the court on August 1 neither granted nor denied him bail but kept his petition on record.

The court yesterday ordered his health report submitted again when Abdur Razzak, chief of the defence counsels for the Jamaat leader, said his client's condition had deteriorated recently.

The tribunal set October 23 for passing further order in this regard.

Meanwhile, the court exonerated Zahir Uddin Jalal, a prosecution witness in the case against Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed, from the charge of assaulting a lawyer of Mojaheed.

The three-member tribunal, led by Justice Obaidul Hassan, with members Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Md Shahinur Islam, cleared him of the charge following an inquiry report on the alleged attack.

On May 28, the tribunal had asked Jalal to explain why contempt of court proceedings should not be initiated against him for assaulting the lawyer, Munshi Ahsan Kabir, two days before.

The court on July 29 directed the chief metropolitan magistrate of Dhaka to submit a probe report on the allegation by September 5, as Jalal had denied it.

According to the report, the tribunal said yesterday, no such incident had occurred at the time and place specified and, therefore, there was no question of Jalal's involvement in the assault.

One more held over Ctg blast

Hefajat says it was an accident caused by IPS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police arrested another person yesterday for his suspected link with the blast at Jamiatul Uloom Al Islamia Madrasa, run by Hefajat leader Mufti Izharul Islam, in the city's Lalkhan Bazar on Monday.

Acting on a tip off, police intercepted a Dhaka-bound bus at the City Gate around 7:00am and rounded up Shakhawat alias Salauddin, aged about 22, said AFM Nizam Uddin, additional superintendent of Hathazari police.

The arrestee had several injury marks on his body, which police suspected were sustained during the blast.

The youth claimed himself to be a student of Mekhal Madrasa in Hathazari, but police after primary investigation found that the information was wrong, added Nizam.

Law enforcers have so far arrested 11 people in connection with the blast at the madrasa that left two students dead and several injured.

Three cases have been filed in this regard.

IT'S AN 'ACCIDENT'

The explosion at Jamiatul Uloom Al Islamia Madrasa was merely an accident, Hefajat-e-Islam claimed yesterday.

Leaders of the Qawmi madrasa-based organisation made the claim at a press conference at a community centre in Hathazari upazila of Chittagong.

The press conference was organised protesting conspiracy to shut down the madrasa; fabricated media reports on the incident; sufferings of students and teachers during police search and hindering the education environment at the madrasa.

The leaders asserted that the blast occurred from an IPS (instant power supply) unit at the madrasa.

They demanded a neutral and transparent investigation into the incident.

Hefajat-e-Islam Organising Secretary Azizul Haque Islamabadi read out a written statement at the conference. Its Senior Naye-e-Ameer Allama Shamsul Alam and Maulana Tajul Islam were present.

BNP plans Dhaka rally on Oct 25

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP has planned to hold a rally in the capital on October 25, in which its Chairperson Khaleda Zia may announce the party's next course of action to realise the demand for caretaker government.

Dhaka city BNP yesterday sought permission from the authorities for holding the rally either at the Suhrawardy Udyan or the Paltan ground or in front of the party office, said Abdus Salam, member secretary of the unit.

Khaleda has been holding rallies since September 8 demanding the restoration of caretaker government to oversee the next general polls.

She has already addressed rallies in Narsingdi, Rangpur, Rajshahi, Khulna and Sylhet and will hold a rally in Barisal on October 22. Another rally will be organised in Chittagong but the date has not been finalised yet.

The day October 25 is significant because the present parliament is supposed to be dissolved the day before.

The opposition chief in the recent rallies asked the partymen to wage an anti-government movement from October 25.

The ruling party leaders have already declared that they will be on the streets from the day.

Rough ride home

FROM PAGE 1

set up a control room to maintain order at Paturia and Daulatdia ferry terminals," Masud Karim, deputy commissioner of Manikganj, told our district correspondent.

Sirajul Islam, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority manager (commerce) at Mawa, said 13 ferries could carry 1,700-1,800 vehicles every day. "The number of vehicles rises up to 4,000 a day from a few days before Eid. We will engage four more ferries to handle the extra pressure."

The condition of Dhaka-Chittagong highway is the worst, partly because it is rather narrow and partly because of its expansion work-related hazards. Potholes, waterlogging and dumping of dirt along the highway will make the journey even more difficult.

The highway is known as the economic lifeline of the country, but that does not prevent long tailbacks from slowing down movement on it. A single accident can create a jam several kilometres long on both sides. A six-hour journey sometimes takes more than 14 hours.

Night time highway robbery rises alarmingly during Eid holidays, thanks to slackened patrol by law enforcement agencies. Hijacking of cattle-carrying trucks, too, becomes almost a daily matter.

Contacted, Asiquzzaman

Akhter, additional superintendent of highway police, said police patrol would be increased to check such menace on the highway.

Potholes are a problem on Dhaka-Mymensingh and Dhaka-Sylhet highways as well. Dhaka-Rajshahi and Dhaka-Rangpur highways, however, are in better condition, according to the Roads and Highways Department.

The department, under the communications ministry, looks after 21,481 kilometres of roads across the country.

"Potholes develop regularly on these highways, but we try to repair them quickly," said a senior RHD official, adding, "But the problem is we can't repair the damaged roads when it rains."

Saleh Md Tanveer, superintendent of police in Tangail, said he had requested RHD officials to immediately repair even the small potholes at some places on the Dhaka-Tangail highway, which often sees long tailbacks.

"We will deploy additional police teams to ease traffic movement on this road," he added.

Although roads under Rangpur and Rajshahi divisions are in fairly good shape, the picture in Barisal, Khulna and Jessore is just the opposite, sources said.

Rajshahi bypass road and about one-kilometre stretch of a road in Puthia upazila are in bad shape while repair on Rajshahi-Chapainawabganj highway

is nearly complete, reports our Rajshahi correspondent.

A four km stretch of Kushtia-Bheramara road has been in dilapidated condition for two years. The RHD executive engineer in Kushtia blames fund crunch, but locals say RHD officials' negligence and misappropriation of funds are to blame for this.

A quarter of the Jessore-Khulna highway is in also bad shape. Potholes have developed at Noapara Bazar, Bashundia and Rupdia points. Several kilometres of the 60km Khulna-Satkhira road is also riddled with potholes and cracks.

Dhaka-Mawa road is in rather good condition, but 55km of the Mostaphapur-Barisal road is in poor shape.

Barisal-Patharghata, Barisal-Pirojpur-Khulna and Barisal-Mirzaganj roads are in poor condition and they have not been repaired in years.

There are no potholes on the Dhaka-Paturia highway and engineers were giving the final touches to their repair work on Chandra-Elenga road, which is very narrow and often experiences congestion, RHD officials told The Daily Star a few days ago.

Survey records at the RHD show that the condition of major roads and highways improved in the past few years, but many inter-district and upazila roads are still in poor shape.

200 and over

FROM PAGE 1

and 18,426 runs with 49 tons at 44.83. That he reserved particular brilliance for the best team of the day and the best bowling attack -- Australia -- only underscores his genius. Two years ago, he fulfilled his long-cherished dream of winning a World Cup. The only thing the man did not achieve was a Test triple hundred -- the only omission from a career which saw him hitting triple hundreds as a 14-year-old schoolboy.

"All my life, I have had a dream of playing cricket for India. I have been living this dream every day for the last 24 years," Tendulkar said in an official statement which, while emotional, was as precise as his legendary footwork. "It's hard for me to imagine a life without playing cricket because it's all I have ever done since I was 11 years old. It's been a huge honour to have represented my country and played all over the world. I look forward to playing my 200th Test match on home soil, as I call it a day."

And there perhaps lies his greatest achievement -- 200 Test matches stretched over 24 years. No cricketer has ever been able to maintain their fitness, ability and appetite for as long and at such high levels. On top of such excellence, when one considers that he has spent the entirety of that time without controversy, the picture of a once-in-a-lifetime sportsman emerges.

When Tendulkar walks off an international cricket field for the last time sometime between November 14 and 18, the cricketing world will be witnessing the end of an era. He has been at the top of the cricket world ever since making his Test debut in November 1989 against Pakistan -- 24 years ago. As early as 2005, when he endured his first real bad patch, some journalists were asking why he would not go.

He did not listen then, and in 2010 -- at the age of 38 -- had his most successful year in international cricket. But a long lean patch in search of his 100th international century ensued, and the knives were duly sharpened. In the face of such pressure, many batsmen would -- and many have -- call it a day with an eye on their legacy. But that is the thing about Tendulkar -- his single-mindedness. The same mindset that enabled him to practise his craft with an intensity few ever approached also steered him to ignore external pressures throughout his career. Legacy was not as important as playing cricket was, and he did that till there were no conquests left.

In the end, questions about the timing of his retirement will fade away. When India next play a Test after the West Indies series, most of the cricket world will feel a pang of nostalgia that the man who encompassed two generations of cricketers will not be there. More than that, they will miss the batting perfection -- the mastery over spin and pace alike on both front and back foot, the perfect position to each ball that he arrived at almost organically -- and most of all they will miss the event that was a Tendulkar century. He has given us a hundred of those, and for that we should always be grateful.

Was he the greatest batsman? That has been and will be the subject of heated debate. And long may that debate continue; Tendulkar however, over 24 years of matchless brilliance, has ensured that he will always be a major part of it.

Protect RMG sector

FROM PAGE 20

free on board (FOB) and bank interest rate, and providing tax facility to industries at a new garment village in Munshiganj.

She said the newly constituted wage board for wage hike of the garment workers was working.

"We hope the board will give its recommendations soon. Then we will take a final decision about the volume of the wage hike," she added.

Hasina said a vested quarter was out to create obstacles in women's development and wanted to disrupt the progress of the garment sector on so many pretexts.

The government, workers and owners of industries should remain united to foil their evil design and enhance productivity, she told her audience.

Pointing to the recent

occurrences in the country's garment sector, the premier said industrial accident was one of the big challenges for all industries across the world.

There was no alternative to taking preventive measures to face the challenge and keep the losses at a minimum level, she said.

Hasina urged the garment manufacturers to be sincere in applying modern technology for improving quality and production management to the highest level.

At the function, she paid her rich tributes to the garments workers who died in the recent fire and building collapse incidents.

She also extended her sympathy to the injured workers and prayed for their early recovery.

The premier said the present government had formulated an industrial

policy giving priority to the private sector. Incentives were being provided for new export items and new markets.

"Mongla Port has been opened and Container Terminal Management System was introduced for modernisation of Chittagong port," she told the function, organised by BGMEA.

Hasina also distributed Frontier Award and Young Entrepreneurs Awards among the members of Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).

Textiles and Jute Minister Abdul Latif Siddiqui, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam, Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan, BGMEA President Atiqul Islam, among others, were present.

Alice Munro wins

FROM PAGE 20

"master of the contemporary short story", a genre that has only rarely been honoured with the world's most prestigious literary prize.

Munro said she was "just terribly surprised" -- and delighted -- to learn that she had won the Nobel, after being woken by her daughter with the news.

"I knew I was in the running, yes, but I never thought I would win," she told The Canadian Press in Victoria, calling the award "quite wonderful", according to the Toronto Star newspaper.

The Swedish Academy hailed her "finely tuned storytelling, which is characterised by clarity and psychological realism. Some critics consider her a Canadian Chekhov."

"Her stories are often set

in small town environments, where the struggle for a socially acceptable existence often results in strained relationships and moral conflicts -- problems that stem from generational differences and colliding life ambitions," it said.

Her works include "Who Do You Think You Are?" (1978), "The Moons of Jupiter" (1982), "Runaway" (2004), "The View from Castle Rock" (2006) and "Too Much Happiness" (2009).

The collection "Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage" (2001) became the basis of the film "Away from Her" from 2006, directed by Sarah Polley. Her most recent collection is "Dear Life" (2012).

Born on July 10, 1931 in

Wingham, Ontario, she grew up in the countryside.

At just 11 years old, she decided she wanted to be a writer, and never wavered in her career choice.

"I think maybe I was successful in doing this because I didn't have any other talents," she once said in an interview posted on YouTube.

"I'm not really an intellectual," Munro said. "I was an okay housewife but I wasn't that great. There was never anything else that I was really drawn to doing so nothing interfered in the way life interferes for so many people."

In 2009, Munro won the prestigious Man Booker International Prize for her body of work.

Tipped as one of the favourites in the days before

yesterday's announcement, Munro is just the 13th woman to win the Nobel Literature Prize since it was first awarded in 1901.

The last woman to receive it was Herta Mueller of Germany in 2009.

She is also the first Canadian to win the prestigious honour. Saul Bellow, who won the Nobel Literature Prize in 1976, was born in Canada, but later became a US citizen.

Munro will receive the prize sum of eight million Swedish kronor (\$1.24 million, 915,000 euros). She will be presented with her award at a formal ceremony in Stockholm on December 10, the anniversary of prize founder Alfred Nobel's death in 1896.

Last year, the award went to Chinese novelist Mo Yan.