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IS ANYBODY WATCHING?

Rotting in a traffic hell

Commuters suffer as vehicles couldn't care less about laws on Nayabazar road

HELEMUL ALAM

Unable to inch through the horrendous traffic on Nayabazar Road between Tantibazar to Second Buriganga Bridge even after three and a half hours, Anis Alamgir had to abandon his plan to cross the bridge to go to Keraniganj yesterday afternoon.

"If the roads were free, I could have crossed this distance in 15 minutes," the businessman told this correspondent, while turning back his motorbike.

Anis complained that haphazard movement of all sorts of motorised and non-motorised vehicles ranging from trucks to push carts clogs the entire stretch of road from Tantibazar intersection to the ramp of the bridge, also known as Babubazar Bridge.

Traffic signals are hardly of any use on this road with rickshaws and other non-motorised vehicles constituting majority of the traffic.

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SPOT NAYABAZAR ROAD

The long queue of crawling traffic between Tantibazar Intersection and the Second Buriganga Bridge in the capital yesterday. The plying of all types of vehicles, inconsiderate and illegal parking and total disregard for traffic rules lead to the chaos that lasts all day. *Inset*, very slow-moving pushcarts travelling on the wrong side of the road at the intersection.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

MARITIME DUTY

Govt orders purchase of 2 choppers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has ordered buying of two modern helicopters for Bangladesh Air Force to carry out search and rescue (SAR) operations and other utility missions in the Bay of Bengal.

The move has been made to establish country's right over the 200 nautical miles exclusive economic zone and territorial rights in the Bay.

Several senior air force officials confirmed the

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HOME TRIPS BY BUS

Risk of accidents to rise before Eid

PANKAJ KARMAKAR and M ABUL KALAM AZAD

Like previous years, unfit and unregistered vehicles plying the highways across the country during the home rush ahead of the Eid will be a concern as those vehicles very often cause accidents and traffic congestion.

A large number of such vehicles -- buses, mini-buses and minibuses -- usually ply the roads in districts as local transport. But on occasions like the Eid when the demand goes astronomically high, these suddenly become inter-district ones.

"Our previous experience says these vehicles are responsible for tailbacks on roads and highways. They caused accidents or broke down on roads due

to their bad condition, causing traffic congestion," says urban transport expert Professor Shamsul Hoque.

Referring to a study of his, the professor of Civil Engineering at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology said the average daily traffic increases by two to two and a half fold from three days ahead of the Eid.

"These vehicles also put pressure on the roads, most of which are narrow and unable to take the extra load of vehicles," he told The Daily Star.

Around 60,000 registered buses and minibuses ply across the country, according to Bangladesh Road Transport Authority.

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DMP now to take formalin test to kitchen markets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police is going to set up formalin-testing booths at 236 kitchen markets in the capital to detect the presence of the harmful chemical in food items.

The move will be implemented at a time when the DMP's recent drives against formalin tainted fruits entering the city have both earned praise from people and flak from traders, who argue that the kits used to determine formalin were not fit enough.

Earlier, the experts termed formalin detection kits inappropriate and demanded that the drive be stopped immediately. They said different other harmful chemicals and pesticides were also being used in food items and fruits, but the DMP's move is only to detect formalin.

Instead of stopping the use of formalin at different stages of production,

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3 to die for mother-child murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A court here yesterday sentenced three people to death over the killing of a woman and her daughter at Paikpara in Narayanganj city in 2012.

The death row convicts are Abdul Malek alias Hiru Malick, 35, Omar Faruk, 39, and Abdus Salam, 39, of the same area.

Judge Mizanur Rahman of Narayanganj Additional District and Sessions Judge Court-2 passed the verdict in the presence of the convicts.

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think the government would take any action against the police officers linked with the custodial death of Mahbubur Rahman Sujan, a garment waste trader in Mirpur?

Yes

(18%)

No

(82%)

TOTAL VOTES: 278

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the government is sincere enough to stop harmful chemical-mixed fruits entering the country?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMINGS

Ramadan	July	Sehri	Iftar
18	17		6-52
19	18	3-51	6-52
20	19	3-52	6-51

PRAYER TIMING July 17

Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	3-55 4-00
Zohr	12-45 1-15
Asr	5-00 5-15
Maghrib	6-52 7-02
Esha	8-15 8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation



The ancestral home of Suchitra Sen has now been recovered. A man paints over the sign of a school, *left*, that had been occupying the building. An official from the district administration of Pabna seals off the home.

Suchitra's home freed at last

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

After a long legal battle, the ancestral house of acting legend Suchitra Sen in Pabna town was freed yesterday, fulfilling the demand of socio-cultural enthusiasts and

organisations.

Imam Gazzali Trust, a Jamaat-e-Islami backed organisation, had been running a primary section of an education institute named Imam Gazzali Institute at the house at Gopalpur in the town since 1987.

The institute was shifted from there as per a Supreme Court order, paving the way for establishing the "Suchitra Sen Smriti Sangrohashala", a museum to archive memories of Suchitra Sen.

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WAR CRIMES TRIAL

Subhan led killings in 2 Jamaat villages

Witness tells court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Another prosecution witness yesterday linked Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdus Subhan to a mass killing that left more than a dozen dead in two villages of Pabna during the Liberation War in 1971.

Freedom fighter Mohammad Shahidullah alias Shahid, son of martyr Sheikh Kobad Ali of Sadhupara under Pabna Sadar, said Razakar and Al-Badr men

killed his father after Pakistan army had tortured him in presence of Subhan.

Apart from giving a vivid description of the massacre, Shahid, also 21st prosecution witness in the case against Subhan, described how his mother had earnestly requested the accused to release his father in vain.

"My father was a peace-loving man. He didn't commit any crimes. But he had to sacrifice his life because we, his two sons,

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EID RUSH

Quader vows to keep roads trouble-free

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communications Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said he had taken up a challenge to ensure smooth movement of vehicles on the roads and highways during the upcoming Eid-ul-Fitr.

He disclosed the matter while visiting an under-construction bridge on Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Bhulta in Narayanganj's Rupganj yesterday noon.

"God willing, we will be able to reduce peoples' sufferings during this year's Eid journeys as compared to the Eid journeys they made in the last four years," said Quader.

"It's usual that [our] works will be discussed or criticised but we become

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Google takes top hacker as intern

BBC ONLINE

Google has assembled a team to spot critical bugs and vulnerabilities - and taken on one of the world's most notorious hackers as an intern.

George Hotz, 24, is best known for hacking Sony's PlayStation 3 and Apple's iPhone, actions that have seen him subject to legal action.

Mr Hotz is part of Google's Project Zero, a new effort to identify problems within any software, not just Google's.

A public database of vulnerabilities will be published by the company.

It will give information on how long it took companies to react to the bug report and issue a fix.

"Once the bug report becomes public (typically once a patch is available), you'll be able to monitor vendor time-to-fix performance, see any discussion about exploitability, and view historical exploits and crash traces," explained Chris Evans, the Google employee heading the project.

Industrial espionage

The "well-staffed" team will focus on finding

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