

Long tailback on Dhaka-Ctg highway due to 3-day holiday

CITY DESK
A long tailback was created on the Dhaka-Chittagong and Dhaka-Mawa highways of Munshiganj yesterday...

In the morning, an eight-kilometre tailback was created on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway from Meghna bridge.

Vaberchar Highway Police Outpost in Charge SI Md Kamruzzaman said, "Traffic jam has reduced now, but there is a five-kilometre tailback from Meghna bridge to Mugrapara of Sonargaon."

Commuters' pressure was also high in the Shimulia ghat area. Hundreds of vehicles were stuck at the ghat. Many passengers crossed the river by launches and speedboats leaving their buses.

Our Daudkandi correspondent reports, a 30-kilometre-long tailback created on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway from Gozaria upazila of Munshiganj to Kanchpur of Narayanganj also has turned the journey of thousands of passengers into a nightmare.

10kg gunpowder recovered in C'nawabganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Members of the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) yesterday recovered around 10 kilogrammes of gunpowder from bordering Sarkarpara area of Shibganj upazila in Chapainawabganj.

"Acting on a tip-off, a BGB team from Wahedpur border observation post went to Sarkarpara, some 500 yards away from the border pillar no 13, around 1:00pm and recovered the gunpowder from four abandoned bags," said Lt Col Ahmed Junaed Alam Khan, commanding officer of 9th BGB Battalion in Chapainawabganj.



A tired mother and her two children fall asleep on a rickshaw taking them back home after school, apparently a sign of the increasing stress put on such young minds through lessons and the pressure parents have to take to wake up in the early hours to prepare them for classes. The photo was taken near Shikkha Bhaban in the capital on Thursday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Book fair sees weekend crowd

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The long queue from Dhaka Gate to Bangla Academy was moving at a snail's pace. People were asking those in front of them to move quickly. They were headed towards the Amar Ekushey Granthamela 2016.

With the end of the month-long fair approaching, more and more people were thronging the fair, and the weekend added to the normal crowd yesterday, the 19th day of the fair.

Shihab Uddin Mondal, an employee of a private firm, went to the fair with his wife and two sons.

"We live in Jamalpur. We arrived in Dhaka on Thursday to buy books from the fair," he said, while waiting in the queue.

At around 4:30pm, the correspondent visited the stall of Anyaproskash. Salespersons were busy meeting visitors' demands.

Simi, a student of class XI, bought two books of Humayun Ahmed "Tara Tinjon" and "Prothom Prohor".



"I'm a great fan of Humayun Ahmed. I have decided to read all of his books," she said. Md Zakaria, a salesperson, said they saw a huge crowd yesterday. Amjad Hossain Kazal, an executive of Oitijhya, said the book "Tajuddin Ahmad: Neta O Pita" by Sharmin Ahmed was selling well. Children were seen crowding Panjere's bookstall for comic books like Basic Ali, Babu and Mongal Oviyan. Prothoma Prokashoni was over-

flowed with visitors as fans were taking autograph of noted litterateur, journalist and playwright Anisul Hoque.

Prothoma published a new book of Hoque "General o Narira". The book is written about Pakistani General Yahya Khan who used to love women's company a lot. Yahya's affection for women was known so much that police called the president's house a "brothel".

He along with Zulfikar Ali Bhutto led the massacre of the people of Bangladesh in 1971, which was supported by the then US president Richard Nixon and his adviser Henry Kissinger. But they could not stop the birth of Bangladesh.

Onu, a student of history, bought a copy and took the autograph of Hoque.

"The book is written on different aspects. I believe I will learn something new from it," he said.

A total of 236 new books hit the fair yesterday.

3 'JMB men' held in Lalmonirhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Police arrested three suspected members of banned militant outfit Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) from a hotel at Post Office Para of Patgram upazila in Lalmonirhat on Thursday.

They are Abdur Rahman, 70, Jewel Hossain, 40, of upazila, and Sheher Khan, 45, of Keraniganj upazila in Dhaka.

The trio were taken to Lalmonirhat Police Lines for interrogation.

"On information, a team of Patgram police raided the hotel-Patgram Motel Paradise Hotel-in the upazila's Post Office Para area on Thursday night and held Sheher Khan. Gleaning information from Sheher, police held the two other suspects from their homes the same night," said Noor Alam, sub-inspector of Patgram Police Station.

"I know Jewel as a fertiliser trader and Rahman the hotel's caretaker," said Sheher. "Police will release the suspects if they find them not involved in JMB," said the SI.

Pabna school still named after ex-Pak premier

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

The name of a Pabna school, named after the then Pakistani premier and built in 1952 right before the historic Language Movement, has not been changed even after 43 years since the independence.

Bangladesh Railway Government Nazimuddin High School was established to teach Urdu.

At a public meeting at the capital's Paltan on January 27, 1952, Nazimuddin repeatedly announced, "Urdu will be the state language of Pakistan".

That announcement led to the Language Movement in which many Bengalee students -- including Salam, Barkat, Rafiq and Zabbar -- had to sacrifice their lives on February 21.

During the 1971 Liberation War, the school remained closed and, later, it was reopened as a Bangla medium one under the supervision of Bangladesh Railway, said acting headmaster Md Abdus Siddique of the school located in Ishwardi. The government, however, is yet to take any step to change its name, he said.

"It is a matter of shame..." Language Movement hero Ramesh Maitra told The Daily Star.

Freedom fighter Fazlur Rahman echoed him. Visiting the school premises, this correspondent even found no Shaheed Minar on the campus to show respect to the language martyrs although there is enough space.

A teacher said they had requested the railway authorities to erect a Shaheed Minar, but to no avail.

The decision to change the school's name should be taken by the higher authorities of the government, said Md Afzal Hossain, divisional railway manager of BR (Pakshy Division). About Shaheed Miner, he said the school authorities could take steps in this regard.

Ekushey spirit must

FROM PAGE 3

Associate Prof Faheem Hasan Shaded of American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) said anyone seeking to strike a nation first attacks its language, something Pakistan did in 1952.

Every language of the world was dignified in its own way, he said. Esrat Jahan Esha, a student of Independent University, Bangladesh, said everyone should know their native language, irrespective of the medium they studied in.

Mixing languages is not a problem but everything possible should be done to stop ignorance towards cultures, said senior lecturer Meer Mushfique Ahmed of International Business Administration and Information System University.

He also criticised Bangladeshis who wrote books only in English as, to him, they should also write in Bangla.

Lecturer Risala Ahmed of AIUB said the spirit of Amar Ekushey was something that had to be felt and everyone must read about it and gain knowledge from those who know about it. Dr Shahed Imran and SM Razzak of Daffodil International University and students of different private and public universities also took part in the discussion. Shahnoor Wahid, special supplements editor, The Daily Star, moderated the discussion.



Participants of a discussion on the International Mother Language Day organised by The Daily Star in the capital's The Daily Star Centre yesterday. (Story on page 3)

Table with 2 columns: Ministry/Division, Agency, Procuring Entity Name, Procuring Entity District, Invitation for, Invitation Ref No & Date, Procurement Method, Budget and Source of Funds, Tender Publication Date, Tender Last Selling Date, Tender Closing Date and Time, Tender Opening Date and Time, Name & Address of the offices of selling and receiving tender document, Name & Address of the office of opening of tender document, Eligibility of Tenderer, Brief Description of goods, Brief Description of Related Service, Tender Document Price, Lot No., Identification of Lot, Tender Security Amount in Taka, Completion Time in weeks/months, Name of Official Inviting Tender, Designation of Official Inviting Tender, Address of Official Inviting Tender, Contact details of Official Inviting Tender, Special instruction: The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders prior to acceptance without assigning any reason whatever.

ELECTRICITY GENERATION COMPANY OF BANGLADESH LIMITED (An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

Siddhirganj 2x120 MW Peaking Power Plant, EGCB Ltd., Narayanganj Phone: 880-2-7692013, Fax: 880-2-7691280, E-mail: pdx120@egcb.com.bd

Invitation for Re-Tender

Table with 2 columns: Item No., Description, and details for 15 items. Item 15: Tender Package Name: Repair and Testing of Damaged Starting Motor for Siddhirganj 2x120 MW Peaking Power Plant, EGCB Ltd, Siddhirganj, Narayanganj-1430. Item 21: Place of selling Tender Document: 1) Company Secretary, Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh Ltd. Unique Heights, Level-15-16, 117 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1000 or 2) Chief Engineer, Siddhirganj 2x120 MW Peaking Power Plant, Siddhirganj, Narayanganj.

(Md. siful Islam) Executive Engineer (Electrical), Siddhirganj 2x120 MW Peaking Power Plant, EGCB Ltd., Narayanganj.