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An Eid gift to people

PM opens Dhaka-Ctg, Dhaka-Mymensingh four-lane highways

BSS, Dhaka

A new dimension has been added to the country's road communications with the inauguration of two four-lane highways connecting Chittagong and Mymensingh with the capital.

Opening the Dhaka-Chittagong and Dhaka-Mymensingh four-lane national highways, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the roads would immensely help ensure quick, uninterrupted and safe journey of people and transportation of goods.

"Inauguration of the two major road networks ahead of holy Eid-ul-Fitr is an Eid gift of my government to the people," she told a function organised on the occasion at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

The PM thanked the roads and highways department, Road Transport and Highways Division and Special Works Organisation (west) of Bangladesh Army for construction of the highways properly.

"The costly and labour-intensive highways have added 278 kilometre new four-lane roads to our national highways network and it would accelerate the pace of our economic development," she said.



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IN SOMBRE SILENCE ... Italy players wearing black armbands observe a minute of silence in memory of the victims of the terror attack in Bangladesh before their Euro 2016 quarterfinal against Germany in Bordeaux last night.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Another Shibir activist killed in 'gunfight'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Another Islami Chhatra Shibir activist was killed in a "gunfight" between police and his cohorts in Uttar-Kastagra village of Jhenidah Sadar upazila early yesterday.

The dead, Ibnul Islam Parvej, 27, was the son of Jahangir Hossain of Bananipara in the district town. Parvej was the former president of Jhenidah Sadar unit Shibir, pro-Jamaat-e-Islami student body.

On Friday, two leaders of the organisation were killed in another "shootout" with police in Sadar upazila.

Hasan Hafizur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Jhenidah Sadar Police Station, said a police team was patrolling Porahati village. When their van reached near the Madhupur graveyard, some criminals opened fire.

The law enforcers then returned fire, triggering the "gunfight". At one stage, Parvej was caught in the line of fire and died on the spot. Others, however, fled.

Two police constables -- Arif Hossain and Samanta Kumar -- were injured in the incident. They took treatment at Jhenidah Sadar Hospital, said the OC.

Police claimed to have recovered a pistol, three bullets and several sharp weapons from the spot.

Parvej's father Jahangir Hossain said some plain clothes men picked up his son from a house of Mohammadia Housing

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A 12-hour ordeal

RASHIDUL HASAN

The militants asked some of the hostages to recite from the Holy Quran to confirm whether they are Muslims. Those who could were spared, and the others who couldn't were brutally hacked to death on Friday night, said the father of one of the hostages rescued from Holey Artisan Bakery in the capital's Gulshan.

They gave the Muslim hostages food, said Rezaul Karim, the father of Hasnat Karim who was held hostage at the Spanish restaurant in the diplomatic zone for around 12 hours.

Rezaul, a businessman, and his wife Hosne Ara Karim briefly shared with The Daily Star the ordeal their son and three more family members had to go through on that fateful night.

Hasnat, his wife Sharmin Karim, their 13-year-old daughter Safa, and eight-year-old son Rayan, went to the upscale restaurant to celebrate Safa's birthday.

Soon after the army-led drive, "Operation Thunderbolt", came to an end around 8:30am yesterday, the four came out

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Mudslinging, blame game won't solve it

Say experts about rising extremism; ask govt not to use intel agencies for watching political opponents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Strong intelligence gathering, professionalism of law enforcers and thwarting of the ideological roots of militants could prevent future militant attacks, security experts said yesterday.

They also suggested uniting people irrespective of cast, creed and political affiliation against militancy and creating awareness among people.

Security analysts also advocated stopping the political mudslinging and blame game after such incidents and instead going into facts and finding the real perpetrators.

There have been a number of targeted killings over the last two years but after each of them, there had been political mudslinging

and blame games, said former inspector general of police Nur Mohammad.

Neutral investigation should be carried out after every incident and the reason for the attack and the people behind them should be unearthed, he told The Daily Star.

The former police boss said the attack in Gulshan, a highly secure neighbourhood, testifies that it was well planned.

He emphasised the need for creating awareness against militancy in schools, colleges, universities, madrasas and mosques.

Brig Gen (ret) M Sakhawat Hossain, another noted security analyst, said following a series of targeted killings, there was an apprehension that a big attack might be carried out.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Hindu priest hacked in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Assailants stabbed a Hindu priest leaving him critically injured in Satkhira sadar upazila early yesterday, a day after the killing of a Hindu priest in Jhenidah and a Buddhist man in Bandarban.

Bhabasindhu Bor, who has been serving at Sree Sree Radha Govinda Temple in Brahmarajpur village for the last six years, was flown by a helicopter to the National Institute of Chest Diseases and Hospital in the capital's Mohakhali around 10:00am.

Before that he was operated on at Satkhira Sadar Hospital, said Porimal Kumar Biswas of the hospital's emergency department. Bor, aged 48, had marks of wounds by sharp weapons on his head, chest, left arm and back.

Dr Hasanuzzamma and Dr Maqsudul Anam of Satkhira

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A stream of ambulances carry 20 bodies out of the Holey Artisan Bakery in Gulshan to the Combined Military Hospital in Dhaka Cantonment yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Siege hogs world headlines

The attack on Gulshan cafe sends a powerful message, says the Guardian

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Friday's hostage carnage at a Gulshan cafe in the capital received extensive media coverage worldwide. From Japan in the Far East to the US in the west -- all the major electronic media houses and news networks issued and aired continuous updates on the standoff.

CNN provided nonstop coverage since Friday night by airing footage from different Bangladeshi TV channels, phone and Skype interviews of people living near the eatery and comments from security analysts and former

US ambassadors to Bangladesh.

The incident received special treatment from news agencies such as Reuters and Associated Press as well as from various news media organisations -- BBC, Aljazeera, Rai News of Italy, The New York Times, Japanese national daily The Mainichi, The Japan Times, The Times of India, Pakistani daily The Dawn and The Strait Times of Singapore.

The news of the Dhaka terror siege was posted under "top story" category on home pages of many websites of the international media including Russian television

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Hassle-free journey home for Eid holidaymakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Most of the Eid holidaymakers enjoyed almost hassle-free journeys as they did not face any major traffic gridlock on the highways yesterday, the second day of the nine-day holiday.

There was huge rush of vehicles at the ferry ghats of Mawa in Munshiganj and Paturia in Manikganj, but the authorities concerned could manage to promptly let them cross the Padma river.

In Kamalapur Railway Station, 33 trains left the capital as of last evening. Of the trains, the Sundarban Express delayed by

around two hours, while the rest departed on time, said railway officials.

Thousands of southern districts-bound passengers thronged the capital's Sadarghat Launch Terminal since dawn and all the launches were seen leaving the terminal being jam-packed.

"My launch is scheduled to set sail at 6:00pm. But I have reached the terminal by 2:00pm to get space on the deck. If I came later, I would not get any space," said Rahmatullah, who was travelling to Barguna.

The deadly militant attack at a Gulshan

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PRAN
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SEHRI, IFTAR TIMINGS

Ramadan	July	Sehri	Iftar
27	3	6-54	6-54
28	4	3-44	6-54
29	5	3-44	6-54

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Prayer Timing July 3

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 3-49 12-45 5-00 6-54 8-17
JAMAAT 3-54 1-15 5-15 7-04 8-45
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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