

Terror attack won't hamper UK investment in Bangladesh
Says visiting minister
UNB, Dhaka

Visiting British Minister of State for International Development Rory Stewart yesterday said the UK investment programme in Bangladesh will not be affected due to the recent Gulshan terror attack.

"The UK investment programme... (is) the same. We won't be affected by this terror attack. We believe in the people of Bangladesh that has a fantastic future. The economy is growing strongly, fantastic improvement in health and education. This is one of the real success stories in Asia in development terms. And we will really like to continue the support to Bangladesh. So, we would not change the programme now," he commented.

Stewart made the remark replying to a question from reporters while visiting National Government Primary School in the capital's Mirpur to see the English language teaching and learning activities of the "English in Action" (EIA) programme funded by UKaid.

About the EIA activities at the school, he said this was a "really very excellent school" as he heard about very good interactions between teachers and students, and good quality English there.

Sometimes only teachers speak, while children do not do anything, but the children are also encouraged to speak here, he added.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 6



Vehicles come to a standstill between Shahbagh and Farmgate in the capital yesterday. Similar situations were observed almost all over the city around 2:00pm when the photo was taken.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Dhaka city traffic collapses again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka city commuters had to suffer another spell of traffic gridlocks for the second consecutive day yesterday due to halting of vehicles at many points for the fast passage of a visiting US minister's motorcade and road blockade by school students, according to police.

US Secretary of State John Kerry had a number of time-bound programmes in Dhanmondi and Gulshan and meetings with the prime minister and his counterpart on a tight schedule for which police had to ensure his fast passage, said duty officials of the traffic control room.

The US official got the passage the way the president and the prime minister do, they said.

Meanwhile, departure of a Jessor-bound domestic flight from the capital was delayed, as one of the two co-pilots could not turn up on time due to traffic congestion on the way to Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

Biman Bangladesh Airlines had to defer the

flight from 4:30pm to 5:50pm, said flight operations general manager Motahar Hossain.

Jubair Hasan, a private firm employee, started for his workplace in Mohakhali DOHS from Indira Road at 10:20am. "I was stuck in a traffic jam at Jahangir Gate till midday," he said.

Nusrat Jahan Mukta, an assistant commissioner of traffic police, said they had to halt traffic along the route the US official took.

"As a result, commuters in the north traffic zone of the capital had to suffer," she said. "Situation became normal by and by, as the dignitary left around 5:30pm."

Besides, agitating students of Willes Little Flower School again blocked the street in Kakrail for around two hours for the second day in protest against the killing of one of their fellow female students adding to the gridlocks, said an on-duty official at the traffic control room.

Suraya Akther Risha, an eighth-grader, who was stabbed allegedly by a stalker four days ago, died Sunday.

Ziaul Hasan, a Dhanmondi resident, who tried to take the Dhanmondi road-27 road from Shankar to get to his Farmgate office, was denied access to the road around 3:00pm.

"I then took a detour towards Mohammadpur to get through Asad Avenue to my destination but this road too was impassable, as traffic was halted at Asad Gate intersection," he said. "Having been stranded for 45 minutes, I left the car and walked all the way to my office."

Liton Kumar Saha, deputy commissioner of Dhaka west zone of traffic police, however, denied that there were any long tailbacks or halts of traffic for the VIP passage. "It was just routine traffic management," he said.

Mafuzur Rahman, who commutes daily from Dayaganj to his Karwan Bazar workplace, said it took him three hours to get to the destination instead of the regular one and a half hours, as he faced a tailback from Tiktakuli.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid tries to comfort the bereaved father of slain Suraiya Akter Risha as he breaks down in tears when the minister rushed to Willes Little Flower School in the capital's Kakrail yesterday. Nahid later, in his speech, assured the demonstrating students of the institution of justice for the murderers of Risha, the eighth-grader of the school, who died on Sunday four days after she was stabbed by her stalker. Inset, the students take to the street at Kakrail intersection.

PHOTOS: AMRAN HOSSAIN



হজ্জ-বিষয়ক জরুরী বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিমান বাংলাদেশ এয়ারলাইন্স সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের সদয় অবগতির জন্য জানাচ্ছে যে, গত ৪ঠা অগস্ট ২০১৬ তারিখ শুরু হওয়া বিমানের হজ্জায়াতী পরিবহন কার্যক্রম আগামী ০৫ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০১৬ তারিখ-এ শেষ হবে। এখন পর্যন্ত যে সকল হজ্জায়াতী/এজেসী তাদের আসন নিশ্চিত করে টিকেট সংগ্রহ করেননি, তাদেরকে আবশ্যিকভাবে আগামী ৩০ অগস্ট ২০১৬ তারিখের মধ্যে আসন নিশ্চিতপূর্বক টিকেট সংগ্রহ করার জন্য বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে। অন্যথায়, সংশ্লিষ্টদের হজ্জায়াতী বিপ্লব হতে পারে এবং সে ক্ষেত্রে বিমান কোনোপ দায়দায়িত্ব বহন করবে না।

আসন সংরক্ষণ বা টিকেট সংগ্রহ বিষয়ে অতিরিক্ত তথ্য অথবা এ বিষয়ে প্রয়োজনীয় সহযোগিতার জন্য সংশ্লিষ্টদের নিম্নরূপ ফোন নম্বরে যোগাযোগ করার জন্য সর্বিক অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

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POLLUTING BURIGANGA
SC clears way for
DoE to realise
Tk 1cr fine from
14 factories

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday cleared the way for the Department of Environment to realise Tk 1.04 crore as fine from 14 factories for polluting the Buriganga river in Shyampur area of the capital.

The apex court also stayed a High Court order that halted the realisation of the fine from the industries on May 31 last year after a petition filed by one of the industry owners seeking stay on the DoE's drives against them following a January 2014 order of the HC, Manzill Murshid, a lawyer for Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB), told The Daily Star.

A five-member bench of the Appellate Division passed the order after hearing a petition of HRPB seeking stay of the HC's halt order.

There is no legal bar for the DoE to realise the fine from the industries following the SC order, added Manzill.

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First-ever district council elections by Oct-Nov

Says LGRD minister after cabinet okays changes to relevant act

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first ever elections to district councils will be held by October-November this year, said Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives Minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain yesterday.

"The Election Commission is preparing electoral rules and the ward demarcation will be complete in a day or two," he told journalists at the ministry after the cabinet approved proposed amendments to District Council Act-2000.

The changes will be made when the parliament comes into session and there is no "political motive" behind efforts to hold the polls within the mentioned period, he added.

The government in December 2011 appointed administrators to 61 zila parishads or district councils, most of whom are top leaders of the Awami League's district units.

Briefing journalists after the meeting at Bangladesh Secretariat, Cabinet Secretary Mohammad Shaiful Alam said the proposals clarified some ambiguities over the formation of electoral colleges.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

Worker dies at Ctg ship-breaking yard

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Sitakunda ship breaking yard worker was killed after a heavy iron plate fell on him yesterday.

Mohammed Razu, 30, son of Md Selim alias Jamal of Sitakunda and a cutter-man at KR Ship Recycling Yard, was declared dead at Chittagong Medical College Hospital, said CMCH police. Sekander Hossain, one of the year's two co-owners, said Razu was checking iron plates when the incident occurred.

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SEE PAGE 5 COL 6