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SHAH CEMENT

Our law-enforcement agencies left nothing to chance, and there cannot be any complaint about the arrangement for security and ground movement of Chinese President Xi Jinping and his large entourage. It was indeed impeccable for a very very important person of Xi's stature. Now with our honourable guest gone, we take a look at the traffic arrangements and ask: Could we have managed the traffic better and spared lakhs of commuters their worst nightmare ever? Within the city, commuters were stuck for 2-3 hours to traverse small distances. Those who travelled into Dhaka from outside spent 7-9 hours just to enter the city. Those who arrived by air were stuck at the airport for several hours, and many who were travelling abroad missed their flights. There must be better ways of honouring our guest without making our city dwellers suffer such misery.

Traffic control not done well

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Think of the last weekend. People's nightmare began hours before midday Friday. It began with the closing off of one side of the road from the airport to La Meridien Hotel, where Xi Jinping was staying. And by the evening, a major part of Dhaka stopped dead on its track and the logjam snarled up to Gazipur, inflicting unbearable sufferings to commuters and causing flight delays and even postponement of weddings.

Sadly, all these could have been significantly minimised, if not averted, with a proper traffic management plan, said experts and victims.

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) on its website on October 13 announced that the western side of Airport Road -- from Khilkhet intersection to Padma Oil (near airport intersection) -- would be closed for 24 hours from 10:00am Friday, about one-and-a-half hours before the arrival of the Chinese president.

It also said the eastern side of the road would have contraflow lanes. However, long distance trucks and buses were asked not to use the road and use the Abdullahpur-Dhour-Beribadh-Mazar Road-Gabtolli route instead.

That was the traffic management plan and the commuters witnessed how inadequate it was. There was no prior publicity about the Airport Road's partial closure and the diversion of traffic, which would have helped people make alternative travel plans.

In fact, the vital Airport Road was of little use after the west side of the road had been closed during most of the time Xi was in Dhaka. As traffic clogged on the east side of the road, police stopped vehicles heading towards Uttara at various places from Kakoli to Khilkhet to slow the flow, which had a knock-on effect elsewhere in the capital.

Many flights had to be delayed as pilots and crew members could not reach the airport timely. Many passengers also missed flights.

TEMPORARY OFF-LIMIT
On the way to the National Memorial in Savar from Hotel Le Meridien via Gabtoli, Amin Bazar, Hemayetpur and Nabinagar.

TEMPORARY OFF-LIMIT
At numerous points from Le Meridien Hotel to the PMO and the Bangabhaban

LEGEND
- PARTIALLY CLOSED ROAD
- CHINESE PRESIDENT XI JINPING'S DESTINATIONS
- ROAD BLOCKS
*MAP DOES NOT SHOW SPILLOVER EFFECT

24 HOURS OFF-LIMIT
Western side of the Airport Road from Kuril to the airport intersections. The eastern side also remained virtually closed most of the time.

RAMPAL POWER PLANT Protest in India too

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Social and civil society activists in India yesterday wrote an "open letter" to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, appealing to him to withdraw support to the proposed Rampal thermal power plant that might cause "irreparable damage" to the Sundarbans in Bangladesh.

Addressing a press conference at the press club in New Delhi, they expressed solidarity with those in Dhaka campaigning against the coal-based plant to be built 14 kilometres off the world's largest mangrove forest, an eco-sensitive zone.

Madhuresh Kumar of Narmada Bachao Andolan's National Alliance of Peoples Movement said activists in Bangladesh, who are opposing the project, are getting "life threats."

'Be good citizens'

An emotional Hasina asks children on Sheikh Russell's birthday



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina wipes away tears at a programme on the birthday of her youngest brother Sheikh Russell at Krishibid Institution, Bangladesh in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the children of the country to prepare themselves as worthy citizens to have their own dignified place in this competitive world.

"You're the country's future leaders...must be attentive to your studies, technological studies... you must be the experts of the most modern technologies to move forward keeping pace with the world," she said.

The PM was addressing a function organised marking the 52nd birthday

AL COUNCIL Leaders to ask Joy to be future leader

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

The ruling Awami League will focus on electing the party's future leadership and the next parliamentary elections in its national council next week.

The AL leaders will push for new leaders from Bangabandhu's family so they can take the party's helm in future, party insiders said.

Leaders will demand that prime minister's son Sajeed Wazed Joy, a US-educated software engineer, is given a leadership role to enable him to learn and lead the AL or represent the party in various international forums.

Besides, Sheikh Rehana's son Radwan Mujib Siddiq Bobby would also be in the leadership. The party chief and her family members would decide about the posts of the two cousins after the October 22-23 council.

For the first time in the AL's history, Hasina's sister Rehana, son Joy, daughter Saima Wazed Putul, son-in-law Khandaker

TERROR FINANCING Rokon gave 'Neo JMB Tk 80 lakh'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rokonuddin Khondoker, who fled to Syria with his family, and militant suspects Major (ret'd) Jahidul Islam and Tanvir Kaderi made donations to the "Neo JMB" that carried out the Gulshan Holey Artisan attack, a top investigator said yesterday.

Before leaving for the war-ravaged country, Rokonuddin, a pediatrician of Dhaka Shishu Hospital, asked several of his relatives and others who owed him around Tk 80 lakh to give the money to the radical group instead of paying him back.

Some of them, however, pocketed a portion of the money, said Monirul Islam, chief of the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime unit of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), adding that one who was supposed to pay

BLOGGER ANANTA MURDER Sylhet court bins CID charge sheet

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A Sylhet court yesterday rejected the charge sheet submitted by the Criminal Investigation Department in blogger Ananta Bijoy Das murder case.

Judge Haridas Kumar of Sylhet Metropolitan Magistrate Court-3 also ordered the CID to reinvestigate the case and file a supplementary charge sheet soon.

শ্রদ্ধাজলি

আজ ১৯শে অক্টোবর ২০১৬ইং, (বুধবার) দেশের অন্যতম উদ্যোক্তা ও বিশিষ্ট ব্যবসায়ী এবং নাভানা লিমিটেড ও আফতাব অটোমোবাইলস্ লিমিটেড এর প্রতিষ্ঠাতা, আমাদের পরম শ্রদ্ধেয় মরহুম আলহাজ্ব জহুরুল ইসলাম সাহেবের ২১তম মৃত্যুবার্ষিকী।

তিনি ছিলেন আমাদের আদর্শ, পথ প্রদর্শক এবং সকল কর্ম প্রেরণার উৎস। আজকের এই দিনে আমরা তাঁকে শ্রদ্ধাচিতে স্মরণ করছি এবং তাঁর বিদেহী আত্মার মাগফেরাত কামনা করছি।

সফিউল ইসলাম (কামাল)
চেয়ারম্যান
NAVANA নাভানা লিমিটেড
aftab আফতাব অটোমোবাইলস্ লিমিটেড

JP upset as Raushan fails to meet world leaders

RASHIDUL HASAN and PRABIR BARUA CHOWDHURY

Opposition Leader Raushan Ershad's repeated failure to get appointments with visiting prominent world leaders, including Chinese President Xi Jinping, triggered criticism in and outside her party, Jatiya Party insiders said.

Even JP Chairman HM Ershad yesterday in public expressed his serious disappointment over the matter,

End of infertility?



MAIL ONLINE

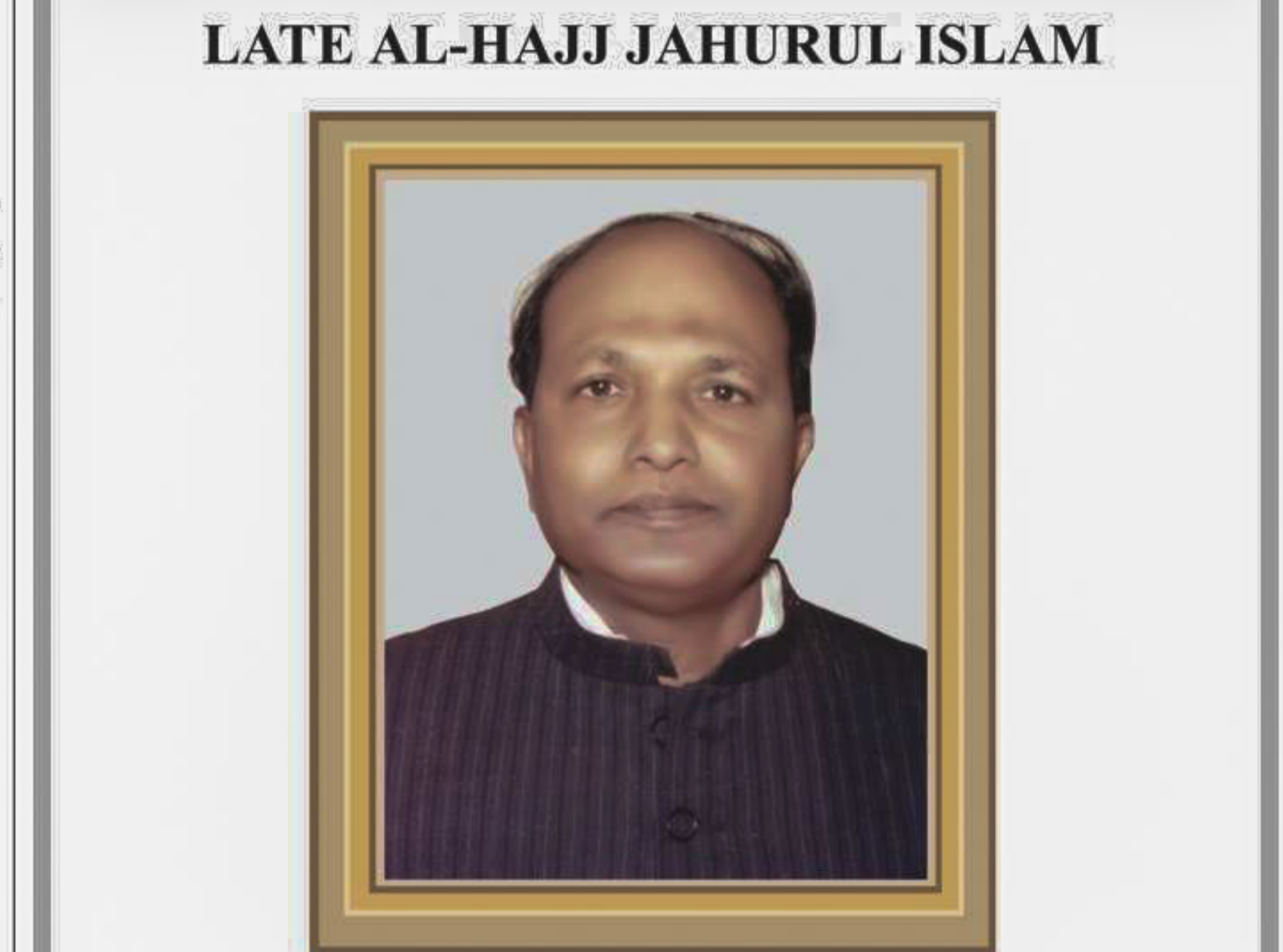
Baby animals are being created without the need for eggs from a female. Instead the eggs are grown from skin cells, fertilised in a laboratory and implanted into the mother.

The fertility breakthrough - hailed as 'remarkable' by British experts - gives hope that the method could be used in humans to help infertile women have babies.

But it also raises the prospect of babies being created using genes from two men, although such an embryo would still need to develop in a womb.

Japanese scientists developed the method using mice. Tissue cells from the tip of a mouse's tail were reprogrammed as stem cells and turned into eggs, which were fertilised and implanted in female mice. They went on to give birth to 11 healthy pups, the scientists reveal in the journal Nature.

21st DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF LATE AL-HAJJ JAHURUL ISLAM



The 21st death anniversary of the founder Chairman of Islam Group **Al-Hajj Jahurul Islam** is being observed today.

A Doa mahfil will be held at his birth place Bhagalpur, at 11:30 a.m, October 19, 2016. All relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to attend the Doa mahfil and pray for his eternal peace.

On behalf of Islam Group
Begum Suriya Islam
Manzurul Islam, Syeda Islam, Mafida Islam
Naima Islam, Kaneta Islam
and
Members of the Family