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# Relief, not tailbacks

*Good management, weekend keep Dhaka free of jam on first day of AL council*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The city dwellers had feared a traffic nightmare due to Awami League's national council yesterday but the case turned out to be the opposite as there was hardly any congestion on many city streets.

A better traffic management and many people staying indoors were the reasons why there was no traffic chaos in the capital.

Yesterday, many did not come out of their homes unless they had to while many postponed their meetings and other scheduled appointments fearing traffic disruptions due to the two-day AL programme at the Suhrawardy Udyan.

Several offices, business and educational institution remained closed as well. A fewer number of public buses and cars plied the streets.

A massive preparation from the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) to control traffic during the council helped minimise public sufferings on the streets, said police.

The DMP had made and released a sketch map detailing the routes AL councillors, delegates, leaders, activists and guests would take to reach the venue, and the roads would be off-limits to vehicles.

Abul Kalam, a leader of a bus owners' association in the capital, said most of the people in the city did not come out fearing traffic gridlocks.

"But it turned out to be entirely the opposite case. The number of both passengers and vehicles were quite low," he added.

However, the scenario could be different today as it is a

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BUET ADMISSION SEEKERS SUFFER -- PAGE 3

An unusually empty Shahbagh intersection with a police barricade at the entrance to the street towards the Matsya Bhaban around 2:00pm yesterday. Even though traffic was restricted at several points of the city due to Awami League's national council, there was hardly any congestion on city streets as many stayed indoors fearing traffic chaos. **Bottom, patients, including a child, stuck in traffic jam near Dhaka Medical College Hospital in the morning.**



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN/PBABIR DAS



## BNP shuns AL council

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP yesterday backtracked on its decision to attend the ruling Awami League's 20th national council at the city's Suhrawardy Udyan.

Alleging that many of their leaders were killed and scores injured at the hands of the AL, the BNP high-ups decided to refrain from attending the council, insiders said.

Leaders of Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh, Communist Party of Bangladesh, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal-Rob, Bangladesh National Alliance, National Awami Party, Gonotantri Party and Communist Kendra who are not components in the AL-led 14-party alliance however went to the council.

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## OFFENSIVE TO LIBERATE MOSUL IS executes hundreds

*Abducts 550 families to use as human shields; forces recapture Kirkuk, Christian towns*

AGENCIES

Islamic State militants executed 284 men and boys as coalition forces closed in on Mosul, an Iraqi intelligence source told CNN.

Those killed Thursday and Friday had been rounded up near and in the city for use as human shields against attacks that are forcing IS out of the southern sections of Mosul, the source explained.

IS used a bulldozer to dump the corpses in a mass grave at the scene of the executions -- Mosul's defunct College of Agriculture in the north of the city, the intelligence source said.

The victims were all shot and some were children, said the source, who wanted anonymity because he is not authorised to speak to the media. CNN could not independently confirm the claim.

The United Nations said Friday it is "gravely worried" that IS has taken 550 families from villages around Mosul and is

using them as human shields as Iraqi and Kurdish forces battle the terror group for control of Iraq's second-largest city.

Two hundred families from Samalia village and 350 families from Najafia were forced out Monday and taken to Mosul in what appears to be "an apparent policy by ISIS to prevent civilians escaping," Ravina Shamdasani, deputy spokeswoman for the UN Human Rights Office, told CNN.

Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, said his office had evidence of several instances since Monday where IS forced civilians to leave their homes in outlying villages and head to Mosul. It also had received reports that civilians suspected of disloyalty had been shot dead.

His office is examining reports that IS shot dead at least 40 civilians in a village outside Mosul.

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## Massive cyber attack hits major sites

*Hackers used everyday devices to cripple PayPal, Twitter, other sites*

AFP, San Francisco

Cyber attacks pounded the underpinnings of the internet Friday, crippling Twitter, Netflix and other major websites with the help of once-dumb devices made smart with online connections.

Waves of attacks incapacitated a crucial piece of internet infrastructure, hampering or outright blocking access to popular online venues.

"When I see something like this, I have to think state actor," said Carbon Black national security strategist Eric O'Neill, a

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## Fury at UN as Wonder Woman made envoy

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Wonder Woman has been named as the United Nations' honorary ambassador for the empowerment of women and girls, sparking a backlash among some of the organisation's staff who believe a comic book character is an inappropriate choice.

The character, first seen in print 75 years ago, will front a campaign promoting women's rights released on Friday.

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## Trump gains on Clinton

REUTERS, Newtown

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump gained on his Democratic rival Hillary Clinton among American voters this week, cutting her lead nearly in half, according to Reuters/Ipsos polling released on Friday.

The polling data showed

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Social Islami Bank Limited  
Prayer Timing October 23  
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-50 12-45 4-00 5-36 7-15  
JAMAAT 5-25 1-15 4-15 5-41 7-45  
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan (L) scalped his 15th five-wicket haul to keep England to a 273-run lead with two wickets in hand going into the fourth day of the first Test at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

**WE MOURN**

The Members of the Board of Directors and the Management of Bank Asia deeply mourn the sad demise of **Shah Md. Nurul Alam, Director of Bank Asia**. He breathed his last at his residence at Uttara in Dhaka on Saturday (22 October, 2016).

He will be laid to rest at the Banani graveyard after his first Namaz-e-Janaza at the mosque at Road-9, Sector-13, Uttara after Zohr prayers and second Namaz-e-Janaza at Azad Mosque, Gulshan after Asr prayers today (Sunday).

We pray to Almighty Allah for the salvation of his departed soul and express our deepest condolence to the members of the bereaved family.

**Bank Asia**