



Theresa May says she will deliver a full exit from the EU



8-LANE ROAD turns 4-lane at some points

Roadside shops, illegal parking make Jatrabari-Kanchpur part of Dhaka-Ctg highway narrower

PANKAG KARMAKAR

It is the main "corridor" through which a huge number of vehicles from Chittagong and Sylhet enter and exit the capital. The 7.2 kilometres stretch of the Jatrabari-Kanchpur road was upgraded to an eight-lane highway to facilitate smooth passage of vehicles.

But this major highway has been significantly narrowed at several points by a section of unscrupulous transport operators and traders, who have illegally occupied parts of the highway width to run their businesses.

If such unauthorised occupancy of the road at different points were not cleared, travellers would be the ultimate sufferers, opined road transport experts.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on August 13 inaugurated the eight-lane road, designed to ease congestion on Dhaka-Chittagong and Dhaka-Sylhet highways. The Roads and Highways Department (RHD) implemented the project at a cost of around Tk 131.99 crore.

During a visit along the highway yesterday, it was seen that lorries were parked erratically on both sides, taking up over one lane of the highway on each side at Matuail. Numerous roadside garages sprouted along the highway, and vehicles were being repaired while parked on the highway.

The median has been broken at several points for vehicles to take unauthorised U-turn, slowing traffic movement.

Non-motorised vehicles, sometimes carrying heavy and oversized loads, also use the highway. They not only slow traffic flow but also put road users at risks.

Although the situation has improved in last one and half months due to drives by the government, illegal occupancy is still there.

This correspondent also visited the highway on August 15 and October 4.

During the August 15 visit, it was seen that vehicles were kept on both sides of the highway at many spots, occupying over one lane of the highway on each side. Some of them

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Lorries are parked on the Jatrabari-Kanchpur highway at Matuail, and buses stop haphazardly at Simrail narrowing road width. Illegal plying of non-motorised vehicles and unauthorised u-turn spots also disrupt traffic flow.



Clinton, Trump scramble to finish as big day nears

AGENCIES

With hours until Election Day, the wildest US presidential race in memory has grown more competitive in most of the battleground states, although Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton continues to hold a broader path to victory than Republican Donald Trump.

The political map suggests that

Clinton can lose several key states long assumed to be in her column and still reach the 270 electoral votes she needs to win.

Trump, meanwhile, has a new reason for optimism, as a growing number of states appear potentially within his grasp. But to win, he would have to take nearly all of them.

The 11th-hour fluidity of the race had the two campaigns scrambling

the travel plans of the candidates and their top surrogates.

Trump's case, it is an effort to grab what he considers emerging opportunities in the sprint for the finish line; in Clinton's, as insurance against surprises Tuesday in territory she has considered hers.

Trump said Saturday that he and his running mate, Indiana Gov Mike

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Hillary Clinton looks at a cape worn by recording artist Katy Perry during a get-out-the-vote concert in Philadelphia of Pennsylvania. Bottom, Donald Trump makes a punching motion after returning to the stage following a security incident in Reno, Nevada.

Clinton's win matters to media

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Hillary Clinton has won a landslide in the newspapers endorsement race.

She has been endorsed by more than 200 newspapers and periodicals while her rival Donald Trump by only seven.

The records show American newspapers in an unprecedented manner have rejected Trump, the Republican presidential nominee.

This happened as newspapers leaning towards Republican camp have shunned Trump labelling him "unfit" for the presidency and "dangerous" for the USA, just like many Republican veterans.

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Ansar member killed in airport knife attack

3 other security staff stabbed at departure lounge gate; attacker dressed as janitor held with injuries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police apprehended a knife-wielding person at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport after he had stabbed an Ansar member dead and wounded at least three other security personnel yesterday evening.

The security personnel inside the departure lounge had fired shots several times.

The deceased Md Sohagh Ali, 23, of Mirpur in Kushtia was deployed at the airport. He was stabbed in the chest.

The attacker, who claimed to be a janitor, was captured and taken to Kurmitola General Hospital as he was injured while being captured. He was later moved to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he

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MYANMAR BORDER IED explosion injures 3 in Rangamati

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Three indigenous people were injured in an IED explosion along Bangladesh-Myanmar border in remote Jarulchhari area of Rangamati's Bilaichhari on Saturday, army said.

They are Aug Hlei Khumi, of Kulain para, Rang

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SINCE B'BARIA MAYHEM

Ten temples attacked elsewhere

STAR REPORT

Two more Hindu temples came under attack in Sirajganj and Jhalakathi yesterday, raising the number of such incidents to 10 since the attacks on the minority community in Brahmanbaria's Nasirnagar on October 30.

Such attacks are still taking place despite the government's directive on the administration and police across the country to take measures to protect the minority community.

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'Rasraj did not upload the image on FB'

Someone else from Dhaka posted anti-Islam photo, says minister Sayedul; UNO transferred

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rasraj Das, the Brahmanbaria fisherman now in jail, did not upload the anti-Islam image over which Hindu houses and temples were attacked in the district's Nasirnagar on October 30, Fisheries and Livestock Minister Sayedul Hoque said yesterday.

The photo was posted from Dhaka, he

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Sayedul Hoque



TOP QUOTE

"We have repeatedly said that we want impartial judicial inquiry into the incident (attack on minorities in Nasirnagar) because we think the investigation will never be neutral if it is conducted by police or administration."

EMINENT RIGHTS ACTIVIST SULTANA KAMAL AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE CAPITAL'S LIBERATION WAR MUSEUM



PHOTO: AFP/REUTERS

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