



Left, a long tailback on Dhaka-Tangail highway around 11:30am yesterday. There was already a severe jam on Thursday evening and the situation turned worse after a few vehicles went out of order in Mirzapur later at night. **Right**, vehicles stuck in about 10km traffic jam on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Gazaria, Munshiganj, around 3:00pm yesterday. Asked about the reason behind the jam, officials said the vehicles driving through the four-lane road slow down while moving onto Meghna and Meghna-Gumti bridges that have two lanes.



PHOTO: STAR

EXTORTION CASES AGAINST 81

No arrest made

DSCC mayor goes tough against extortion; some hawker leaders fear harassment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police were yet to arrest any of the 81 people who were accused in three cases on Thursday for allegedly extorting money from hawkers in Gulistan and some other areas of Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC).

However, hawker leaders feared that some of them might be arrested in the cases in a bid to foil their anti-eviction movement.

Shamsul Alam, assistant estate officer of the DSCC, filed the cases with Paltan, Motijheel and Shahbagh police stations.

Officer-in-Charge Abu Bakar Siddique of Shahbagh Police Station said they were investigating the matter.

"We were verifying the names to identify the accused," he told The Daily Star.

Mayor Sayeed Khokon of DSCC said crores of extortion money was behind the hawker's anti-eviction movement.

Some "big fishes" were backing the movement and they would try to foil the corporation's initiative to keep the footpaths free, he added.

Khokon said those involved in the movement were also associated with extortion and were violating a High Court order.

According to him, the number of hawkers in the DSCC area is about 15,000, including around 3,000 to 3,500 in Gulistan.

The DSCC was planning to arrange

rehabilitation for hawkers. It was trying to manage jobs for them at different projects of the Local Government Division, the mayor told The Daily Star.

The corporation was also trying to help hawkers obtain microcredit loans from the government so that they can run small businesses in rural areas, he added.

Arif Chowdhury, president of Jatiya Hawkers Federation, said they initially felt relief to know that the DSCC was taking actions against extortionists, but later they heard that hawker leaders were accused in three cases "to foil the anti-eviction movement".

He said they had been continuing the movement demanding rehabilitation of hawkers.

Rafiqul Islam, general secretary of the federation, on Thursday said they had been demanding action against the "linemen".

A "lineman" collects Tk 50 to Tk 300 from a hawker every day on behalf of some "police officials, local goons and political leaders", he alleged.

Despite repeated attempts, the authorities failed to evict hawkers from footpaths, as they managed to continue their business by paying "extortion money", according to newspaper reports.

Hawker leaders said there were around 3.5 lakh shops on the city's footpaths, and they pay Tk 3 crore a day as "extortion money".

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50 injured in Bhola clash

A CORRESPONDENT, Bhola

At least 50 people were injured in a clash between a mob and police in Miyarhat area of Daulatkhan upazila yesterday evening.

The clash erupted when police tried to disperse the people who laid siege to Hakkani Khanqah Sharif, a religious educational institution run by Hakkani Mission Bangladesh.

Earlier in the afternoon, "Iman Aqidah Sangrokkhan Committee", an Islamist group, staged a rally to protest alleged "unethical activities" inside the Khanqah Sharif.

When the demonstrators were returning from the rally, some of them entered the Khanqah Sharif and carried out vandalism there. They also set fire to a goose farm, alleged the authorities of the Khanqah Sharif.

Enayet Hossain, officer-in-charge of Daulatkhan Police Station, said police fired teargas shells to bring the situation under control. Four policemen were also wounded during the clash.

Mizanur Rahman, a leader of "Iman Aqidah Sangrokkhan Committee", said people of the committee were not involved in the attack.

Later, at a press conference, Shah Zobair Hossain, superintendent of the Khanqah Sharif, dismissed the allegation of "unethical activities" inside the Khanqah Sharif.

Trump

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an acrimonious phone call between Trump and Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull.

No issue is more sensitive to Beijing than Taiwan. China and the United States also signalled that with the "one China" issue resolved, they could have more normal relations.

"Representatives of the United States and China will engage in discussions and negotiations on various issues of mutual interest," the statement said.

In a separate statement carried by China's Foreign Ministry, Xi said China appreciated Trump's upholding of the "one China" policy.

"I believe that the United States and China are cooperative partners, and through joint efforts we can push bilateral relations to a historic new high," the statement quoted Xi as saying.

"The development of China and the United States absolutely can complement each other and advance together. Both sides absolutely can become very good cooperative partners," Xi said.

Taiwan's top China policymaker, the Mainland Affairs Council, said it hoped for continued support from the United States and called on Beijing to adopt a "positive attitude" and "pragmatic communication" in resolving differences with Taiwan.

China is deeply suspicious of Tsai, whose ruling Democratic Progressive Party espouses the island's formal independence, a red line for Beijing, and has cut off a formal dialogue mechanism with the island. Tsai says she wants peace with China.

US appeals court

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restore the measure on an emergency basis, but the three-judge panel instead maintained the suspension ordered by a federal judge in Seattle.

"We hold that the government has not shown a likelihood of success on the merits of its appeal, nor has it shown that failure to enter a stay would cause irreparable injury," the judges ruled.

Trump's decree summarily denied entry to all refugees for 120 days, and travelers from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen for 90 days. Refugees from Syria were blocked indefinitely.

The new administration argued the ban was needed to prevent Islamic State and al-Qaeda fighters from reaching US soil, but it prompted travel chaos and was roundly rejected by immigration advocacy groups.

Critics say the measure targeted Muslims in violation of US law.

Democratic opponents hailed the court decision as an affirmation of the principles on which the nation is based and a precursor of likely pitched legal battles to come on the extent of Trump's power.

Trump's election rival Hillary Clinton tweeted simply: "3-0."

'DISGRACEFUL'

Trump denounced as "disgraceful" the appellate court's decision.

He reacted in an early morning tweet that selectively quoted from a post on Lawfare, a blog on law and national security issues, reports AFP.

The blog post found it "remarkable" that the appellate panel "did not even bother to cite" a key US legal statute that authorises the president to suspend entry to the United States of all or any class of aliens he deems detrimental to US interests.

After quoting the Lawfare passage in his tweet, Trump declared the appellate court's conclusion: "A disgraceful decision."

Trump neglected to say, however, that the blog goes on to conclude that the appellate court reached the correct decision in upholding a lower court judge's suspension of the ban.

Lawfare said the decision was right "for the simple reason that there is no cause to plunge the country into turmoil again while the courts address the merits of these matters over the next few weeks."

WHAT'S NEXT?

Now, the case could end up in the Supreme Court.

It could still rule in favor of the administration, either on the merits of the case or the issue of standing of foreigners on whose behalf the challenge to Trump's executive order was

brought by the state of Washington.

But the possibility of the nation's highest bench being called upon to clear up a growing legal imbroglio will also open a new political fight. The Supreme Court is currently lacking its ninth member owing to the prolonged Washington standoff following the death last year of Justice Antonin Scalia.

Should the Court hear the case and split 4-4, the ruling of the 9th Circuit

COURT'S LOGIC

The 9th Circuit decision, however, seemed designed to shape the future arguments about the content of the executive order and the administration's attempts to significantly stiffen the government's anti-terrorism campaign.

It went far further in its ruling than the simple question of the stay on the travel ban imposed by a lower court, taking pains to dismantle the administration's assertion that the travel ban was vital to protecting Americans against an influx of foreign terror threats from the seven named nations, Iran, Iraq, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen, Libya and Syria.

"The Government has pointed to no evidence that any alien from any of the countries named in the Order has perpetrated a terrorist attack in the United States," the ruling said.

"Rather than present evidence to explain the need for the Executive Order, the Government has taken the position that we must not review its decision at all."

The San Francisco court said aspects of the public interest favored both sides, highlighting the "massive attention" the case had drawn.

"On the one hand, the public has a powerful interest in national security and in the ability of an elected president to enact policies," the ruling said.

"And on the other, the public also has an interest in free flow of travel, in avoiding separation of families, and in freedom from discrimination."

While acknowledging that the Seattle judge's ruling "may have been overbroad in some respects," the panel said it was not their "role to try, in effect, to rewrite the executive order."

"The government has pointed to no evidence that any alien from any of the countries named in the order has perpetrated a terrorist attack in the United States," the court said.

'NOT EVEN THE PRESIDENT'

Civil rights campaigners and state officials applauded the decision, vowing to fight on until the executive order is permanently scrapped. For now, it means travelers with valid visas can continue to enter the country.

Washington Governor Jay Inslee, whose administration sued for the measure to be blocked, hailed a victory for his state and the country, arguing that the ruling showed "no one is above the law, not even the president."

Human Rights Watch senior researcher Grace Meng called the decision "an important declaration of judicial independence, which is crucial for checking harmful overreach by the president."

Trump had blasted the original suspension in a series of fiery tweets and public statements.

7 KEY TAKE-AWAYS FROM RULING

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3. The court thinks that the states of Washington and Minnesota have actual harms they can sue over.

4. The court isn't sure -- at this stage -- whether there is proof that the executive order discriminates against Muslims.

5. The court doesn't think the government needs to immediately reinstate the ban to protect national security.

6. The government says green-card holders aren't impacted by the order anymore because of guidance from the White House counsel. The court says it can't take that to the bank.

7. The court wouldn't even give the government its fallback position -- a modification of the earlier judge's suspension of the ban.

SOURCE: THE WASHINGTON POST

would be affirmed. That fact alone adds heat to the confirmation duel looming over the nomination of Trump's first Supreme Court pick, Neil Gorsuch.

Republicans now have even more of an incentive to ram the confirmation through the Senate using the "nuclear option" to sidestep a Democratic filibuster. Democrats are even less likely to cooperate with a swift process.

Mountain to climb for wasteful Tigers

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It was an exceptional knock that was chanceless. In fact, had he decided to review Taijul Islam's delivery that had trapped him in front, he could have batted on as replays suggested that the ball had struck him outside the off stump. Kohli however, walked away.

India also became the first ever team to score three consecutive 600-plus totals. The previous two scores came against England in Mumbai and Chennai.

Just like on Day One Bangladesh had created a number of chances, which had they taken, would have helped them limit India's run-spree.

After leaking more than 50 runs in the first 10 overs yesterday, Ajinkya Rahane was dropped at deep point by Sabbir Rahman, who is considered Bangladesh's best fielder. Sabbir dived ahead to get a hold of Rahane's cut, but only managed to get a hand to it.

Rahane added 20 more runs to his total before being dismissed by Taijul Islam. Ironically it was a Supermansque, diving effort from Mehedi Hasan Miraz, the same player who had missed an easy run-out on the first day, at short cover that led to the departure

of a bemused Rahane for 83.

It was after the 110-over mark that the ball started gripping and turning a bit and that slowed down India's run-rate. Kohli in fact, missed a turner from Mehedi in the 117th over and the batsman was given out on 180. Fortunately Kohli reviewed that decision and replays suggested that the ball was going to spin away from the leg-stump.

Two overs later Bangladesh captain Mushfiqur Rahim missed a stumping, which is likely to give him nightmares in the coming days. Wriddhiman Saha, who eventually went on to score an unbeaten 106, was just on four at that point of time. He went down the track in an attempt to break the shackles, but was completely deceived by Taijul's flight, giving Mushfiqur the easiest of opportunities to get him out. However, the captain too seemed deceived at the easy opportunity and although he had the ball in his gloves, he mysteriously failed to move inches forward and take off the bails in his first two attempts.

The game moved on and Kohli eventually reached his double-hundred off 239 balls before getting trapped in front by Taijul.

At 495 for five, Bangladesh reck-

oned they had a chance to restrict India to a score below 600, but Saha made them pay for the missed opportunity with a 155-ball 106. The innings witnessed seven fours and two sixes.

He shared a 74-run stand with Ravichandran Aswin for the sixth wicket and a century stand with Ravindra Jadeja for the seventh.

Jadeja enjoyed the pitch as well, scoring a quick 60. He however, would not have reached his half-century had Tamim Iqbal not let go of an easy catch at long-on in the 163rd over.

It was a tiring day for Bangladesh with none of the bowlers, except for Taijul, able to make an impact. Taijul bowled a 17-over spell in the morning and finished with figures of three for 156. His economy rate of 3.31 was the best among the bowlers.

Shakib Al Hasan too was disappointing. If Bangladesh does not bowl again this will be the first time since 2013 that Shakib won't get a Test wicket.

After the exchange, the openers put on 38 runs before Soumya bottom-edged a fast Umesh Yadav delivery to the keeper. It was initially given not out, but a review showed that Soumya had feathered it through to Saha.

Father, son take same exams

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A man and his son are taking this year's Dakhil (vocational) examinations (equivalent to SSC) together in Ishwarganj upazila of Mymensingh.

Masud Kabir Chhoton, 35, is sitting for his exams from Fanur Ashrafur Alam Madrasa and his son Iftekhar Jahan Rafi, 15, from

DS Kamil Madrasa.

According to Chhoton, he was admitted to his madrasa at class-IX as a regular student in 2015. He attended classes occasionally.

He is appearing in the exams at Pitamborpara Bahumukhi Fazil Madrasa centre and his son Rafi at Ishwarganj Girls School and College centre.

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Police form new anti-terror teams

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and the rest in APBn in Dhaka.

These officials, along with others, will provide commando training to selected police personnel at the APBn Specialised Training Centre in Khagrachhari.

Inspector General of Police AKM Shahidul Hoque is expected to inaugurate the training programme in Khagrachhari today.

"Analysing the training modules of several countries, we have already updated the module for the commando teams in Bangladesh. They will be given eight-week commando training," said Mahid.

Seeking anonymity, an official at the police headquarters said 20 each from

Khulna Metropolitan Police and Rangpur Range Police would be trained in the first batch.

Mahid said commando training would be conducted in the hill areas by the officials who are expert in night-vision shooting, post-blast operational activities and other fields.

A list of officials, who received training abroad, has been prepared, and they would train the members of the commando units in phases, he said.

The unit members would also be given training on how to assemble weapons within the shortest possible time and how to deal with armed criminals, Mahid added.

Of the 40 officials trained in India, five

are women. Tanjila Akhter, senior assistant superintendent of police of APBn-8, is one of them.

Tanjila told this correspondent that India is using an up-to-date module for commando training, and Bangladesh is lagging far behind.

Asked, Mahid said, "We have some limitations but we are working to modernise the force and upgrade the existing facilities."

Sources said Bangladesh police personnel now get training in India, the US, Japan, China, Australia, Italy and Thailand.

In 2015, around 203 police officials received training in those countries. The number rose to 397 last year, they said.