



Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue is clogged both ways at Karwan Bazar in the capital yesterday. The photo was taken around 1:30pm.
PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Not consulted

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agreement on the Teesta water treaty on May 25 but I haven't received any formal communication of that till now. I have no information yet," she said.
Banerjee also said she would consider Bengal's interest as a priority.
"I have to see the benefit of the state. I love Bangladesh I will help them as much as I can after taking care of my state," she asserted.
"I share a very good personal as well as political relationship with Sheikh Hasina. Otherwise how was the issue of 'Chit-mahal' (enclave dwellers) solved... an issue that was not sorted for 66 years," she added.
Mamata had pulled out of then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's entourage to Bangladesh in 2011 over the Teesta deal, leading to political embarrassment. She participated in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 2015 visit to the neighbouring country but on condition that the pact would not figure in the talks. Hasina is to visit India from April 7.

Baby suffers

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doctors, said police and hospital authorities.
The next morning, the relatives of Khadiza tried to vandalise the hospital in protest of the incident.
However, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.
Later around noon, Khadiza's mother Sajida Begum filed the case against Mahmud with Faridganj police.
It was not clear why the other doctor was not charged in the case.
OC Mahubub said the hospital authorities termed the death of the baby during the surgery an accident.
Despite repeated attempts, this correspondent could not reach any of the doctors for comments as their mobile phones were switched off.

SC clears

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ACC cases, anti-graft body's lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star.
He said following the SC order, there was no legal bar to the trial court to resume the trial proceedings of the Niko corruption case against Khaleda.
In response to a petition filed by the BNP chief, the HC bench of Justice Sheikh Abdul Awal and Justice Md Khashruzzaman on March 7 this year issued a rule staying the trial proceedings of the case.
In December 2007, the ACC lodged the case accusing Khaleda and several others of abusing power to award a gas exploration and extraction deal to Canadian company Niko when she was the prime minister between 2001 and 2006.
Former law minister Moudud Ahmed, former state minister for energy AKM Mosharrar Hossain, former acting energy secretary Khandaker Shahidul Islam, and Vice-President (South Asia) of Niko Resources Bangladesh Ltd Kashem Sharif were also sued.
On March 12 this year, the apex court paved the way for a lower court to continue trial of the Zia Charitable Trust corruption case against the BNP chairperson.
On March 8, the HC transferred another case against Khaleda -- the Zia Orphanage Trust corruption case -- to Dhaka Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court, and asked it to complete trial proceedings within 60 days after receiving the order.
The BNP chief is now facing 25 criminal cases, including five for corruption. Four of the corruption cases were filed during the tenure of the last caretaker government.
Trial proceedings in 15 of the 25 cases are now going on at lower courts. The remaining cases are still under investigation, according to court sources.

Bangladesh becomes part

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Indian high commissioner in Bangladesh, after inking the deal in a ceremony at Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC).
The money is to be paid by India.
The South Asian Satellite will have 12 transponders and Bangladesh would be able to use one of them for free. But Bangladesh will have to set up an earth station in the country with its own funding for the use.
Participating countries could use it to host applications in the areas of education, health and emergency communication, said Shringla.
"The benefits associated with participation in the project include tele-education, tele-medicine and inter-government networks, emergency communication for disaster situation, television broadcast and direct-to-home (DTH) television services."
"My sense is that the satellite itself is ready to launch any day. And, I think the launch will be undertaken as soon as the situation is conducive," said Shringla. "It could be in next few days, week or months, but not a year."
Shringla and Shahjahan Mahmood, chairman of the BTRC, signed the agreement on behalf of their respective countries.
State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam and Telecom Secretary Shyam Sunder Sikder, among others, spoke on the occasion. Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque and senior officials of the BTRC and the Indian High Commission in Dhaka were also present at that time.
The life of the satellite is expected to be 12 years.
Bangladesh is also taking preparation to launch its first communication satellite, Bangabandhu-1, which is likely to be launched on December 16 this year with a cost of around Tk 2,500 crore. The project cost was earlier estimated at Tk 2,900 crore.
Bangabandhu-1 will have 40 transponders and its cost will be much less than South Asian Satellite, said a BTRC official.
BTRC Chairman Shahjahan termed

yesterday's moment as historic and rejected the question of conflict between these two satellites.
"Let me assure everyone that we were very careful when the technicalities were being evaluated and we are sure that there will be no interference between these two satellites," he said.
He said Bangabandhu-1 Satellite's position would be over around Indonesia while South Asian Satellite's position would be over Afghanistan.
Bangladesh could use the transponder of South Asian Satellite for any purpose it wanted, Shahjahan added.
South Asian Satellite will be launched at 48 degree East and Bangabandhu-1 Satellite at 119.1 degree East.
The Indian high commissioner also offered Bangladesh support to help it launch the country's first ever satellite.
Shringla said except Pakistan, all the Saarc countries would be with the South Asian Satellite project.
"This is the part of the prime minister's 'neighbours first' foreign policy -- to add substance to ties with neighbours and further our common agenda of regional integration," he added.
Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi first raised the idea of the South Asian Satellite in the Saarc summit of Kathmandu in 2014.
At that time, India proposed it as Saarc satellite, but after the refusal of Pakistan to be a part of it, they amended their proposal and renamed it South Asian Satellite. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is entrusted with launching the satellite.
Last month, India set a world record by launching 104 satellites, owned by six different countries, from a single rocket, said Shringla.
A highly-placed source in the BTRC said when Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visits India in the first week of April, there might be another deal on the use of satellite.
State Minister Shahriar said going beyond the conventional cooperation, Bangladesh and India have stepped into non-conventional areas, especially high-tech satellite to boost socio-economic cooperation.

Drunk pilot passed out

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slumped over in his seat and escorted off the plane.
He was found to be three times above the legal blood alcohol limit.
"I can't even describe how ashamed I am," he told the court in Calgary.
"My kids will be punished for my mistakes."
A statement of facts agreed by the prosecution and defence and read in court said police saw his pilot's wings were attached upside down on his uniform and a maid discovered an empty bottle of vodka in his hotel room.
It also said he was an hour late for check-in and that he explained his tardiness by saying he had become lost going through security.
When Gronych boarded the plane at around 7am, the court was told, he struggled to hang up his coat, was slurring his words and staggering.
When the co-pilot suggested Gronych was impaired and should leave the plane, "he seemed very nonchalant and said, 'OK, if that's what you feel.'"
But Gronych returned to the cockpit, sat in the pilot's chair and appeared to pass out "resting his face on the window", the statement said.
He was asked to leave the plane again and was held by gate agents until police arrived.
The statement said passengers on the plane were told the pilot had suddenly become ill, but some had already seen him and suspected he was drunk.
When police arrived, they found his pilot's wings were pinned upside down, smelled alcohol on his breath and noticed he could not stand up straight.
Defence lawyer Susan Karpa told the court Gronych could not sleep the night before his flight and felt like he was coming down with a cold.
He took a couple of shots of vodka

and a Tylenol pain relief tablet and planned to wake up in time to let people know he would not make the flight.
He did not set an alarm and was awakened by a call asking him where he was, Ms Karpa said. He drank the rest of the bottle of vodka and left for the flight.
She said he did not know why he drank the vodka, but only that his willpower failed.
The defence asked for a three to six-month jail sentence while the prosecution asked the judge for a year's term.
Prosecutor Rose Greenwood pointed to a similar case in the United States where the pilot received five years.
"Mr Gronych put the lives of 105 people at risk," she said. "Hopefully he will never be permitted to fly again."
Ms Karpa said Gronych had been in treatment while on bail and had abstained from alcohol.
"He wants his children to be proud of him," she said. "He wants to do everything he can to conquer his addiction."
She said Gronych was the sole breadwinner for his family, including his elderly parents, and was living off his savings.
A statement from Gronych's wife read out in court said her husband did not drink all the time, but when he did, it was in large quantities.
Gronych tearfully told the court becoming a pilot was a childhood dream.
He was remanded in custody while the judge considers his sentence. He is due back in court on April 3.
Sunwing spokeswoman Jacqueline Grossman said Gronych, a contractor, was sacked by his employer, Travel Service, shortly after he was found drunk.
She declined to comment on the case but said Sunwing had formed a committee that included management and union members to review and update protocols.

US, UK ELECTRONICS BAN al-Qaeda, IS bombs are on focus: experts

AFP, Washington
The prohibition on carry-on electronics for certain flights to the US and Britain shows both the Islamic State group and al-Qaeda remain able to mount potent threats to civil aviation despite tighter airport security, experts say.
On Tuesday, US authorities ordered a ban on laptop computers, tablets, cameras and other items larger than cell phones in passenger cabins of direct US-bound flights from certain airports in the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Morocco, Qatar, Egypt, Turkey, and Jordan.
Britain imposed similar restrictions on flights from six countries, while France and Canada said they were considering their own measures.
Analysts say an intelligence tip was likely behind the announcement. The New York Times reported that US counterterrorism officials have intelligence that IS operatives are developing a bomb to be hidden in laptop computer batteries.
Doing so would bring the group up to the technological level of rival Al-Qaeda's Yemen branch Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), where so-called expert bombmaker Ibrahim al-Asiri has spent years on a similar effort.
Airport security is much better than just a few years ago, Jay Ahern, the former acting director of the US Customs and Border Control, told AFP.
"But clearly terror organizations continue to target air travel, and they have shown a clear ability to innovate," Ahern said.
'INNOVATIVE' AQAP BOMBMAKER
Recent attacks on aircraft in Somalia and Egypt are evidence of a focus by jihadist groups on developing harder-to-detect bombs -- and getting them on flights.
The bomb that blew a hole in the fuselage of a Somali airline in February 2016, killing one person, is believed to have been built into a laptop computer carried into the passenger cabin.
That attack was claimed by the Al-Shabaab group.
And Moscow authorities have blamed a cabin-based bomb for destroying an October 2015 Russian charter flight from Sharm el-Sheikh that killed 217 people. The Islamic State claimed it smuggled a bomb on board in a soda can.
Security services are particularly focused on Asiri, the explosives maverick of AQAP.
Asiri is believed to be behind the placement of explosive-packed printer cartridges discovered on cargo aircraft headed toward the United States in 2010.
He is also tied to the failed underwear bomb AQAP deployed hoping to bring down a US aircraft in 2009.
"He was very innovative," said Frank Cilluffo, director of the Center for Cyber and Homeland Security at George Washington University.
"Clearly the question is how many disciples he has taught, and whether AQAP has spread its tentacles into Syria," where the Islamic State is based, Cilluffo said.

11 hurt

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The workers said the factory authorities paid their wages in advance and assured them of giving their benefits package later as the factory would be relocated to Gazipur from a building near Bangladesh Television in Rampura.
However, the workers did not know when the relocation would take place and they erupted in protests, finding the factory closed on Wednesday, they alleged.
Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) Vice-President Mohammed Nasir claimed that the factory authorities were forced to go for the shutdown as some workers had been halting production for the past few months, demanding their benefits package and job security.
The BGMEA held a meeting with the factory authorities yesterday where it was decided that the benefits package, once calculated, would be paid through the BGMEA, he added.

Criminals hack

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The attacker along with his accomplices, who were outside the house, left the spot, but they did not take away anything.
Hearing their screams, neighbours rushed to the spot and took the injured to Nazirup Upazila Health Complex. As their condition deteriorated, they were shifted to Khulna Medical College Hospital where doctors declared Shamiron dead.
Police picked up Montu Howlader, 30, from Paschim Banariya village for interrogation in connection with the attack, SP Walid said.

Welcome

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the bloody history of this region."
The museum began its journey on May 17, 2014 in a rented house on Sher-e-Bangla Road in the city.
Later, it was moved to a two-storey house on South Central Road. The house is built on 21 decimal of land allocated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.
The museum was opened to the public on last year's Independence Day. The entry fee for each person is only Tk 2. It is open every day except Monday and on average, 60 to 80 people, mostly students, visit it every day, said Rokonujaman Babul, its executive officer.
Talking to this correspondent, Abul Kalam Azad, principal of Rayermohal Degree College in the district, said he visited the museum along with his students several times.
"I become emotional whenever I come here. This place reminds me of the days of the war. I bring my children and students here because I want them to know about the country's history," he said. "We are very fortunate to have such a museum here."
Apart from running the museum, its authorities were also trying to identify all the killing grounds, known as *Badhyabhumis*, in the district. They had already set up monuments after identifying some of the places.
The library is going to be electronic "very soon", said its officials. "The museum will be an institution where

IS takes credit

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previous convictions. He was believed to have been living in the West Midlands, reports BBC.
Police arrested eight people at six locations in London and Birmingham in the investigation into Wednesday's lone-wolf attack that May said was inspired by a warped Islamist ideology.
About 40 people were injured of whom 29 remain in hospital, seven in critical condition, after the incident which resembled Islamic State-inspired attacks in France and Germany where vehicles were driven into crowds.
The assailant sped across Westminster Bridge in a car, plowing into pedestrians, then ran through the gates of the nearby parliament building and fatally stabbed an unarmed policeman before being shot and killed.
"What I can confirm is that the man was British-born and that some years ago he was once investigated by MI5 in relation to concerns about violent extremism," May said in a statement to parliament.
"He was a peripheral figure ... He was not part of the current intelligence picture. There was no prior intelligence of his intent or of the plot," she said, adding his identity would be revealed when the investigation allowed.
The mayhem in London came on the first anniversary of attacks that killed 32 people in Brussels.
The dead were two members of the public, the stabbed policeman and the attacker.
"My thoughts, prayers and deepest sympathy are with all those who have been affected by yesterday's awful violence," Queen Elizabeth said in a message.
US tourist Kurt Cochran was named as one of the dead in a Facebook post by family member Shantell Payne.
"With a heavy heart I must pass the sad news of our beautiful brother, father, husband, son and friend Kurt Cochran, he could not overcome the injuries he received in the London terror attacks," Payne wrote.
Her post said Cochran's wife, Melissa Payne Cochran, was in hospital with a broken leg and rib and a cut on her head but would recover.
NO PRIOR INTELLIGENCE
The Metropolitan Police said there had been no prior intelligence about Masood's intention to carry out an attack.
But he was known to the police and his previous convictions included causing grievous bodily harm, possession of offensive weapons and public order offences.
His first conviction was in November 1983 for criminal damage and his last in December 2003 for possession of a knife.
He had not been convicted of any terrorism offences.
Car hire company Enterprise said the vehicle used in the attack had been rented from its Spring Hill depot in Birmingham.
Masood had hired the Hyundai SUV in person, giving his profession as a teacher, according to the BBC.
"TOOK OUT HIS RAGE"
Westminster Bridge and an area around parliament were still cordoned off early yesterday and forensic investigators in light blue overalls examined the scene where the attacker was shot. The bridge re-opened yesterday afternoon.
It was the deadliest attack in Britain since 2005, when 52 people were killed by Islamist suicide bombers on London's public transport system.
Police had given the death toll as five but revised it to four yesterday.
The casualties included 12 Britons, three French children, two Romanians, four South Koreans, one German, one

students will be able to conduct research for masters and doctoral level in the near future," one of them said.
Many local organisations send documents and books on the Liberation War and the genocide to the museum authorities. Many Bangladeshi expatriates too communicate with the authorities to provide them with documents on genocide, he added.
Gouranga Nandy, one of the trustees of the board, said: "It is the moral responsibility of every patriotic Bangladeshi to let the new generation know about the Liberation War." This museum would be quite helpful, he added.
Sk Baharul Alam, a freedom fighter, said many pieces of evidence related to the war were destroyed following the killing of Bangabandhu in 1975, as subsequent governments refused to give due recognition of the role of Awami League and Bangabandhu in the country's independence.
"We are trying to establish a centre here which will be our source of inspiration, and the next generation will know the real history of the birth of Bangladesh."
The trustee board has 11 members and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is the key patron. The institution now runs on personal contributions from the trustees and others, said Prof Muntassir, adding, "We want the government's help to continue the journey of the museum."

Pole, one Chinese, one American and two Greeks, May said.

"A terrorist came to the place where people of all nationalities and cultures gather to celebrate what it means to be free, and he took out his rage indiscriminately against innocent men, women and children," said May.
A government minister was widely praised for trying to resuscitate the police officer, Palmer, walking away from the scene with blood on his hands and face.
A crowdfunding page hastily set up to raise money for Palmer's family attracted close to 78,000 pounds (\$97,600) within five hours.
Many have been shocked that the attacker was able to cause such mayhem in the heart of the capital equipped with nothing more than a hired car and a knife.
"This kind of attack, this lone-wolf attack, using things from daily life, a vehicle, a knife, are much more difficult to forestall," Defence Minister Michael Fallon told the BBC.
"ACTS OF NORMALITY"
Three French high-school students aged 15 or 16, who were on a school trip to London with fellow students from Brittany, were among the injured.
French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault traveled to London to show solidarity and met some of the other students who were on the school trip and their families at a hotel near the hospital where the injured were being treated.
He told reporters the lives of the three youngsters were not in danger. Ayrault later attended the session in parliament where May spoke. France has been hit by repeated deadly Islamist attacks over the past two years.
May said the fact that normal life was going on across Britain was the greatest response to the attack.
"It is in these actions -- millions of acts of normality -- that we find the best response to terrorism, a response that denies our enemies their victory," she said.
Two Malaysian hostages found safe in Philippines
AFP, Manila
Two ailing Malaysian seamen held hostage by Filipino Muslim militants for eight months were found Thursday aboard a boat adrift off the southern Philippines, the local military said.
Tayudin Anjut, 45, and Abdurrahim bin Sumas, 62, were abandoned by the Abu Sayyaf gunmen before dawn near their coastal forest hideout on the remote island of Pata, a military statement said.
"The... kidnap victims are weak and in a sickly state," regional military commander Major-General Carlito Galvez said in the statement.
They were receiving treatment at a military hospital in the area for ailments that Galvez did not specify.
He said a Philippine Navy patrol boat found the pair, eight months after they were abducted along with three other crewmen of a tugboat that was boarded by gunmen near the sea border between the two countries.
Their recovery followed a Philippine military operation against the kidnappers on a nearby island early last month that left eight gunmen dead, Galvez said.
The Abu Sayyaf, blamed for the worst terror attacks in Philippine history, have been kidnapping people for ransom for decades.
In recent months they have taken to seizing sailors from vessels plying the waters between the southern Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia.