

Traffic nightmare

FROM PAGE 12 had to divert traffic at Begunbari as vehicles remained completely stationary on Panthapath in front of Basundhara.

Hundreds of shoppers walk between vehicles stuck on the road.

In recent days, the tailbacks became particularly longer near Matsya Bhaban, Shahbagh, Nightingale intersection, and on Hare Road.

Stuck on Mintoo Road, three-wheeler driver Abdul Helal pointed to his metre last week and said, "The waiting time is 82 minutes. It should not take more than 15 minutes to come here from Sadarghat."

The morning and afternoon traffic are the worst, he added.

People also suffered on Mirpur Road and Pragati Sharani and also on streets in Gulistan, Banani, Razabagh and Mohakhali.

Jewel Ahmed, a resident of Basundhara Residential Area, said, "It's terrible. Traffic turns worst after evening as shoppers throng to the Jamuna Future Park."

Sometimes the traffic congestion stretches to Kuril Bishwa road from Notunbazar, he added.

At Mirpur-10 intersection, traffic Sergeant Jamal Hossain said twelve policemen were deployed to manage the traffic there. "But after 5:00pm, it's just chaos."



Pedestrians are forced onto the street as a pavement along the DIT Road is being rebuilt in the city's Malibagh. Construction materials are piled up on the road, causing tailbacks in the area. The photo was taken on Monday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Hydrogen

FROM PAGE 12 of many similar electric flying crafts in production, including prototypes from Boeing and Airbus that made successful test flights this year, according to Vertical Flight Society, an industry group.

Most are powered by batteries, which can add a lot of weight. The Skai instead uses very light hydrogen fuel cells to run its rotors, giving it a range of 400 miles (644 kilometres) and the capacity to carry 1,000 pounds (454 kilograms) in people or freight, the company says.

"We just couldn't get to the point where we could have enough batteries to get to the payload that we knew we needed," CEO Stephan Hanvey said of the choice to switch to hydrogen power.

Alaka's says it's planning a test flight near its Massachusetts headquarters.

It would be flown by an on-board pilot using a pair of joysticks, but the technology exists to eventually fly it remotely and even autonomously, Hanvey said.

It will be years before the Federal Aviation Administration allows the autonomous flight of passenger vehicles, said attorney Thaddeus Lightfoot, a partner with the firm Dorsey & Whitney who helps companies navigate FAA rules.

Regulators are still grappling with the proliferation of smaller drones — those under about 50 pounds flown by hobbyists and filmmakers. The FAA just this year eased restrictions on flying small drones over crowds and at night.

Drone-like vehicles such as the Skai must first simply prove their airworthiness, like any common plane, Lightfoot said. After that, getting commercial certification is another convoluted process, he said.

"The technology is interesting, but the regulatory road will be very long," said Lightfoot, adding that the idea of allowing people to fly in a large aircraft without a pilot is "well outside the current regulatory regime."

Hanvey conceded that it could take at least a decade before the company realises his vision of a fleet of electric flying vehicles ferrying passengers over major cities at nearly 120 mph.

6th grader

FROM PAGE 12 said that after the rape, the two men intimidated the girl, but she told everything to her grandmother. "When the villagers learned it, they caught the guards and beat them."

Hearing the incident, a police team led by Sub-inspector Amzad Ali Mondal went to the village, arrested the guards, and took them to Birganj Police Station.

The girl was taken to Birganj Upazila Health Complex with injuries, said the chairman.

On Thursday night, three men gang raped the mother of three at her father's house in Hatia, said Officer-in-Charge of Hatia Police Station Abul Khayer. Police arrested the accused -- Sahab Uddin, Jamal Majhi, and Alamgir -- after a case was filed.

The victim was admitted to Noakhali General Hospital for treatment and medical examination, reports our Noakhali correspondent.

Modi pledges

FROM PAGE 12 relations as well," he mentioned.

During the meeting, President Hamid told Modi that people of Bangladesh were waiting for long to see a settlement of Teesta water sharing issue.

India also wants to resolve the pending issue, Modi said and underscored the need for activating the joint river commission in this regard.

The Indian prime minister mentioned that the partnership between Bangladesh and India was flourishing under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The President expressed his satisfaction over the excellent bilateral relations that exists between the two countries, saying that the ties have grown and prospered, especially under the statesmanship of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque, Bangladesh High Commissioner to India Syed Muazzem Ali and secretaries concerned to the president were also present at the meeting.

President Hamid reached New Delhi on Wednesday on a three-day visit to attend the swearing-in ceremony of the Indian premier.

PM Modi rejigs Indian cabinet

FROM PAGE 12 the largest political organisations in the world & will now play a bigger role in building #NewIndia," tweeted Shah's cabinet colleague Smriti Irani.

Irani, who defeated opposition Congress chief Rahul Gandhi in his family bastion of Amethi in the election, was handed the ministry of women and child development.

Facing major challenges with the economy, job creation and a farm debt crisis, Modi replaced around three dozen ministers and deputies from the last administration, bringing in many new lawmakers.

Sitharaman, 59, became India's first full-time woman finance minister after a similar landmark stint as defence minister. Former premier Indira Gandhi had briefly held the defence and finance portfolios in the 1970s.

As finance minister Sitharaman

will be expected to steer India's course through reforms and arrest an economic slowdown in Asia's third-largest economy.

While the economy grew at 5.8% in the January-March period, falling behind China's pace for the first time in nearly two years, the unemployment rate rose to a multi-year high of 6.1% in the 2017/18 fiscal year, reports released yesterday showed.

The figures highlight the challenges Sitharaman faces in her biggest government position, and raises the need for an urgent stimulus.

The previous finance minister, Arun Jaitley, asked not to be considered for a government post because of ill health.

The induction of Jaishankar, a China expert and a former ambassador to Washington, as the new foreign minister was seen as a sign that Modi will put more emphasis on diplomacy

in the sensitive area around India in his second term.

Jaishankar, who was the top foreign ministry official until his retirement last year, was an influential advisor to Modi on diplomacy during his first five years in power.

Jaishankar took the mantle from Sushma Swaraj, a party veteran who underwent a kidney transplant in 2016 and has been beset by poor health.

Modi also set up a new ministry of water power in keeping with his promise to make safe drinking water a priority for his government.

Modi, 24 cabinet rank ministers and more than 30 deputy ministers were sworn in at the presidential palace on Thursday.

Presidents and prime ministers from neighbouring Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and the Maldives were present, but arch-rival Pakistan was not among those invited.

Japan unveils policy to curb plastic waste before G20

AFP, Tokyo

Japan yesterday announced a policy to reduce marine plastic waste, part of efforts to raise the issue at the G20 summit it will host next month.

Japan is hoping to cast itself as a leader on the issue, and will reportedly press for an international agreement to reduce the amount of plastic going into the ocean during the Osaka summit from June 28 to 30.

"Ocean plastic waste is one of the issues topping the G20 summit agenda, and as the chair of the meeting, we will exercise leadership to solve the matter," Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told a ministerial meeting that adopted the policy package.

But so far the policies are largely theoretical, with no timeline specified for legislation needed to implement some of the programme.

Japan is the second largest per capita producer of plastic waste in the world after the United States, and while it has a comparatively high recycling rate, it lags behind on efforts to reduce single-use plastic.

45 held over question leak

FROM PAGE 12 DC office yesterday.

Moinul Hasan, superintendent of police in Patuakhali, said the rest 43 were arrested from the adjacent areas of the 15 exam centres in separate drives before the second phase of the test held from 10:30am to 11:30am yesterday.

Police also seized printed question papers and a number of mobile phones from their possession, the police official said, adding that they were trying to find the others involved in the crime.

The first phase of the four-phase recruitment test was held on May 24

while the third and fourth phases are supposed to be held on June 21 and 28 respectively.

During the first phase, Mahbubur Rahman, an assistant sub-inspector of Patuakhali Sadar circle, was arrested while supplying answer scripts to his wife and sentenced to one month in prison.

US to hit Mexico

FROM PAGE 12 the United States, warning Donald Trump that hitting his neighbour with tariffs would be a lose-lose game.

President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador repeated his call for calm and dialogue in response to Trump's explosive announcement Thursday night.

"No good can come of coercive measures.... These (tariffs) would not be good for Mexicans, but they would not be good for Americans either," said Obrador.

"We have to act prudently.... We are going to insist very much on dialogue," he added, saying he had already sent a delegation to Washington for talks, led by Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard.

Obrador refrained from mentioning possible retaliatory measures.

Earlier, Mexico's top diplomat for North America had harsher words on the move, describing it as "disastrous" and vowing to respond "vigorously" if it is implemented.

Trump's announcement came a day after border agents in El Paso, Texas detained the largest single group of migrants they had ever encountered -- 1,036 people.

The group crossed the Rio Grande River from Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, illustrating the mounting problem that Trump's administration has been unable to get under control.

The El Paso group comprised entire families, 39 single adults and 63 unaccompanied minors, all from Guatemala, Honduras or El Salvador, according to US Customs and Border Protection.

"The apprehension of 1,036 individuals in a single group -- the largest group ever encountered by Border Patrol agents -- demonstrates the severity of the border security and humanitarian crisis at our Southwest border," said Customs and Border Protection Deputy Commissioner Robert Perez.

The number of migrants apprehended has topped 100,000 a month in recent months.

They are mostly people fleeing poverty and violence in Central America to ask for asylum once they arrive on US soil.

Trump has consistently demonized the migrants as criminals and gang members, and warned that illegal drugs are flowing across the border.

"Mexico's passive cooperation in allowing this mass incursion constitutes an emergency and extraordinary threat to the national security and economy of the United States," the White House said.

"Mexico has very strong immigration laws and could easily halt the illegal flow of migrants, including by returning them to their home countries. Additionally, Mexico could quickly and easily stop illegal aliens from coming through its southern border with Guatemala."

White House Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney would not specify what sort of increase in migrant crossings would lead to the tariffs being lifted, saying only, "We are going to judge success here by the number of people crossing the border and that number needs to start coming down immediately in a significant and substantial number."

Advertisement for Sylhet Customs-VAT Gov. Bd. Includes contact information: Sylhet Customs-VAT Gov. Bd., Sylhet, Phone: 08-21-929699, Email: sylhetcustoms@yahoo.com, Website: www.sylhetcustoms-vat.gov.bd

Advertisement for Bangladesh Government. Title: গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার. Address: কাস্টমস, এজাইজ ও ভ্যাট কমিশনারেট, সিলেট

Advertisement for Bangladesh Government. Title: কম্পিউটার সামগ্রী সরবরাহ করার দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

Table with 3 columns: Sl. No., Particulars, and Remarks. It lists items for a computer equipment procurement tender, including software, hardware, and accessories, with their respective quantities and estimated values.

Table with 5 columns: Sl. No., Name, Address, and Remarks. It lists the names and addresses of bidders for the computer equipment procurement tender, including individuals and companies.

Advertisement for Sylhet Customs-VAT Gov. Bd. Includes contact information: Sylhet Customs-VAT Gov. Bd., Sylhet, Phone: 08-21-929699, Email: sylhetcustoms@yahoo.com, Website: www.sylhetcustoms-vat.gov.bd

Advertisement for Bangladesh Government. Title: গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার. Address: কাস্টমস, এজাইজ ও ভ্যাট কমিশনারেট, সিলেট

Advertisement for Bangladesh Government. Title: মনিহারি দ্রব্যাদি সরবরাহ করার দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

Table with 3 columns: Sl. No., Particulars, and Remarks. It lists items for a tender to supply household goods, including furniture, appliances, and kitchenware, with their respective quantities and estimated values.

Table with 5 columns: Sl. No., Name, Address, and Remarks. It lists the names and addresses of bidders for the household goods procurement tender, including individuals and companies.