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PATURIA-DAULATDIA FERRY CROSSING

Truckers wait for days

ZAHANGIR SHAH and SUZIT KUMAR DAS

Truckers and bus passengers are suffering immensely as ferry service on the Paturia-Daulatdia ferry route is being hampered due to shortage of ferries for the last 19 days.

The route on the Padma is considered one of the gateways to 21 southern and southwestern districts. Paturia is in Manikganj and Daulatdia in Rajbari.

Visiting Paturia yesterday noon, vehicles, mostly goods-laden trucks, were seen stranded as they failed to board ferries, despite waiting for hours.

Of the vehicles, over 300 were goods-laden vehicles and around 100 buses. Some drivers and helpers of goods-laden vehicles have been waiting there for days.

"I reached near the ferry terminal on Saturday night and found a long queue. I think it will take two more days to get on a ferry," said truck driver Gokul Mandal around 1:30pm yesterday.

With his truck loaded with water bottles, he started from Gazipur's Mawna area and was heading towards Barishal.

Many of the truck drivers expressed frustration over the role of terminal authorities.

"Such a long traffic jam occurs here all year round due to poor management," said Hazrat Ali, who was travelling from Dhaka to Khulna.

Bus passenger Shabnam Jerin said, "I have been waiting here for around three hours. I think it will take one more hour to get a ferry."

Similar situation was noticed at Daulatdia around 1:30pm yesterday. Over 500 buses and 200 goods-laden vehicles were seen lined up stretching for around four kilometres.

Besides, around 400 trucks were waiting on the Rajbari-Kushthia regional highway from Goalanda intersection to

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Hundreds of vehicles, many of them goods-laden ones, waiting to cross the Padma in Manikganj's Paturia ferry terminal. Ferry service on Paturia-Daulatdia route is being hampered due to shortage of ferries. The photo was taken around 1:30pm yesterday.

PHOTO:
ZAHANGIR SHAH

Khaleda moved to CCU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia was shifted to the Coronary Care Unit (CCU) of Evercare Hospital in the capital yesterday.

AZM Zahid Hossain, Khaleda's personal physician, confirmed that she was admitted to the CCU but did not elaborate further.

The 76-year-old former prime minister was readmitted to the hospital nearly a week after she was discharged from the same health facility as per the advice of the medical board formed earlier for her treatment.

On October 12, Khaleda was admitted to the hospital as her temperature had started fluctuating.

She has long been suffering from arthritis, diabetes, and dental and eye problems.

Meanwhile, in April this year, she contracted coronavirus and initially received treatment at her residence. As her complications cropped up, she was admitted to the hospital on April 27.

Khaleda was sent to jail on February 8, 2018, in a corruption case. She has been on a temporary release on March 25 last year because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

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ROAD TO FREEDOM
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Pakistani foreign secy calls on Kissinger

NOVEMBER 15, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

KHAN-KISSINGER MEETING
Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Sultan Khan called on US President's Assistant for National Security Affairs Henry Kissinger today.

The Pak Foreign Secretary informed that there would be a return to civilian rule at the end of December, at which time it might be easier to bring about such matters as the release of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

He, however, noted that feeling in the armed forces remained high against Mujib, so even a civilian government would have to weigh carefully any action taken in connection with Mujib.

Kissinger said he personally felt that Mujib would "be devoured by the process" in Kolkata if he were released.

But as of now he was perceived by many to be central to a solution, Kissinger added. Kissinger continued saying that it would be extremely desirable for him to have an authoritative statement of President Yahya's view on the role of Mujib over the next six months.

On the same day, Kissinger, in a backchannel message to US Ambassador to Pakistan Farland said that Nixon did not want US pressure to be added to that of India, but did wish to be helpful to Yahya. Kissinger sought Farland's opinion about whether Yahya would agree to talk with anyone chosen by Mujib.

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PK Halder helped loan forgery in ILFSL

Find ACC investigators

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The former board of directors and officials of International Leasing and Financial Services Limited (ILFSL) were involved in loan forgery amounting to Tk 318 crore, found investigators of the Anti-Corruption Commission.

Proshanta Kumar Halder, the fugitive former managing director of NRB Global Bank, played a key role in the forgeries.

The ACC has found the involvement of 29 persons including ILFSL's former Chairman MA Hashem, former MD Rashedul Haque, nine members of boards, Halder's relatives and associates in the forgeries.

The enquiry reports have been approved and the investigators will now file seven separate cases against the individuals, confirmed

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12,000 musicians play in largest orchestra



AFP, Caracas

Sunset in Caracas was accompanied by the sound of classical music yesterday as thousands of Venezuelan musicians performed Tchaikovsky's 'Marche Slave' to set the record for "the world's largest orchestra".

Flanked by mountains, the courtyard of the Venezuelan Military Academy hosted around 12,000 classical musicians looking to make their way into the Guinness Book of World Records.

"If you break a string, don't stop. If you lose the score, go on by heart, but don't stop," conductor Andres David Ascanio, 34, said before the performance.

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President of India due on Dec 16

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT



Indian President Ram Nath Kovind will visit Bangladesh on December 16 and 17 to attend the Victory Day celebrations at the invitation of Bangladesh.

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen confirmed this to reporters at the foreign ministry yesterday.

This will be the first visit by the 14th president of India to Bangladesh.

Bangladesh is organising two mega celebration events -- Maitri Diwas on December 6 and Victory Day on December 16.

India recognised Bangladesh on December 6, 1971.

Bangladesh is also celebrating the golden jubilee of its independence and the birth centenary

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Man killed in 'gunfight' in Teknaf

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Cox's Bazar

An unidentified man was shot dead in what Border Guard Bangladesh said was a "gunfight" with officers in Teknaf early yesterday.

Commander Lt Col Mohammad Foysal Hasan Khan of BGB Battalion-2 said that the man was a drug dealer and that a locally-made firearm and one lakh yaba pills were recovered from the scene near Sluice Gate-7 in Whykong.

Two BGB members were also injured during the

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SEE PAGE 5 COL 1



November rain leaves this road in Tongi Bridge area all muddy. Pedestrians are the ones who suffer the most as the Tongi Bridge has been deemed too dangerous for vehicles following damage.

ECUADOR PRISON VIOLENCE

Clash of gangs kills 68

Dozens more injured

AFP, Guayaquil

Prison inmates from rival gangs in Ecuador fought each other with guns, explosives and blades in a bloodbath that left at least 68 dead in the same prison where a riot in September claimed 119 lives, officials said Saturday.

Authorities said late Saturday they had re-gained control of the prison in Guayaquil for a second time in as many days after President Guillermo Lasso's spokesman said fighting had again broken out earlier in the day between inmates from rival gangs tied to drug trafficking rings.

In the initial riot that began Friday night prisoners fought with "savagery," said Pablo Arosemena, governor of the province of Guayas where the prison is located.

The riot began around 7:00 pm Friday when prisoners tried to enter Block 2 of the jail where their rivals were held, firing gunshots, detonating explosives and swinging machetes, and prompting police to move in.

At least 68 prisoners were killed and another 25 were wounded, according to a statement which the Ecuador Prosecutor's Office posted on Twitter.

In the second outbreak of fighting Saturday, inmates from two other blocks attacked each other, said presidential spokesman Carlos Jijon.

He confirmed a little while later that police had pushed through to the prison's interior and that the situation was "under control."

Officials said the violence started when one of the gangs inside the prison, the Tigueros, was left without its leader because he was released after serving part of his sentence for stealing auto parts.

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PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 15

Fazr Zohr Asr Magrib Esha
AZAN 5-05 12-45 3-45 5-21 7-00
JAMAT 5-40 1-15 4-00 5-24 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION