

Stay alert against anti-constitutional activities: President

UNB, Dhaka

President Abdul Hamid yesterday called upon people to be vigilant, to prevent any activity and plot that goes against the constitution and spirit of the Liberation War.

He made this call as the chief guest at an event organised by the Bangladesh Supreme Court at the Bangabandhu International Convention Center on the occasion of the golden jubilee celebration of the implementation of the Constitution and SC.

Terming the SC the "guardian of the constitution", he said the executive, legislative and judicial divisions have to work together to keep the sanctity and dignity of the constitution intact.

He also reminded the judiciary and lawyers to play a leading role in this matter.

The president asked everyone irrespective of party affiliation to respect the constitution and play a role in establishing democracy and rule of law in the country.

A publication, titled "Fifty Years (1972-2022), Literature and Legacy, Supreme Court of Bangladesh", was launched in the programme while a documentary on the history of constitution was presented.

Justice Mohammad Nuruzzaman from the SC's Appellate Division delivered the inaugural speech while Chief Justice of Sri Lanka Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya spoke at the programme as guest of honour.

Law Minister Anisul Huq spoke as the special guest while Chief Justice Hasan Foz Siddique presided over the programme.



Commuters moved towards their destination at a snail's pace as major thoroughfares of the capital were gridlocked due to Awami League's "Victory Procession" yesterday. Party leaders and activists from different wards were seen on trucks and pickup-vans parading through Shahbagh, Elephant Road, Science Lab, Kalabagan and Mirpur Road., inset. Traffic movement came to a halt in those places alongside adjacent areas.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Secondary school admission starts today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The admission of aspirants for class 1 to 9 begins today. The process will continue till December 21.

Schools will be allowed to enroll aspirants from waiting list from December 22 to December 27, said Prof Nehal Ahmed, director general of Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education.

All the documents of the selected students will be thoroughly verified, he told The Daily Star.

Nehal urged all schools not to realise excess admission fees. "If we get complaints in this regard we will take stern action."

The DSHE officials said a central lottery for admission to 540 government schools took place on December 12 and a similar lottery for enrollment to 2,852 non-government schools in the metropolitan areas and district Sadar upazilas were held on December 13.

METRO RAIL

50 double-decker buses to provide shuttle service

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) has readied 50 double-decker buses to provide shuttle services to metro rail passengers as the country's first metro rail service is going to be launched on December 28.

BRTC buses will have two routes at first stage – one is Agargaon-Farmgate-Shahbagh-Motijheel – while another route would be Diabari to Housebuilding in capital Uttara.

"We will start trial run of buses within a day or two; and will start providing shuttle services on the day metro rail authorities will start carrying passengers," BRTC Spokesperson Amjad Hossain told The Daily Star yesterday.

BRTC will provide the services following an agreement signed with Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd (DMTCL), the implementing and operating agency of the metro rail, last month, he added.



DMTCL has arranged the shuttle bus services as they are going to launch partial operation of country's first ever metro rail formally known as Mass Rapid Transit Line 6 or MRT Line 6 from Uttara to Agargaon.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will open the new mode of public transport on December 28 and the city dwellers can avail the service from the following day.

Transport experts, however, feared that partial operation of metro rail may intensify traffic congestion at the Agargaon point and the lack of planning might harm metro rail service.

It may take up to December next year to open the Agargaon to Motijheel section.

Agargaon is already a congested area. The partial operation of metro rail will intensify the traffic congestion there due to the lack of space for a bus stoppage, they said.

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AL's 'victory procession' brings city to a standstill

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League's "victory procession", organised to celebrate Victory Day, yesterday caused traffic gridlocks in the capital, which ultimately led to city dwellers suffering.

Traffic movement was blocked from High Court area to Shahbagh intersection, owing to the procession.

The situation spread to the capital's Gulistan, Elephant Road, Dhanmondi, Asadgate, Mirpur, Farmgate, and Banglamotor.

In the evening, the entire section of the Moghbazar-Mouchak Flyover leading to Banglamotor was closed off, with traffic police standing at the intersection, waving to vehicles to take another route. As a result, Hatirjheel and the Badda road was also fully congested.

Party leaders and activists from different wards were seen on trucks and pickup-vans gathering in front of Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh near the Suhrawardy Udyan. In the afternoon, the procession began, parading through Shahbagh, Elephant Road, Science Lab, Kalabagan, Tejaon Intersection and Mirpur Road.

It ended at Dhanmondi Road 32. Nowshad Islam, a private-job holder, said he was going to his office at Farmgate from Kuril Bishwa Road. Normally, it takes 45

I remained stuck in traffic at the same place for over one hour. Of course, I was late for the office.

Nowshad Islam,
a private-job holder

Passengers got off the bus, as they had to face hassle due to traffic jams.

Md Abdul Hossain,
bus helper



minutes to reach his workplace. But he had to spend more than two hours on the road due to the congestion.

"I remained stuck in traffic at the same place for over one hour. Of course, I was late for the office," he said.

The procession left almost all the roads connecting to the main thoroughfares paralysed.

Another commuter, Asad Rahman, said he started around 2:15pm from Savar but was stuck for nearly an hour in different places – Gabtoli, Kallyanpur, Shyamoli, and Asadgate. Later, he reached his office at Farmgate after 4:00pm.

Md Abdul Hossain, the helper of an Ayat Paribahan bus, said,

"Passengers got off the bus, as they had to face hassle due to traffic jams."

Talking to this newspaper, commuter Rohit Raju, who had been waiting for 50 minutes on a bus at Shahbagh intersection, said, "Usually, we don't see much traffic on holidays, but there is too much congestion on the road today."

Talking to The Daily Star, Ramna Division (Traffic) Deputy Commissioner Joydul Abedin said, "The traffic jams were created as hundreds of people across the country gathered at the capital to join the Awami League procession."

"As city dwellers were suffering, we tried to control the situation from our end," he added.

Migration neither risk nor problem

Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Migration should not be considered as a crisis or risk. There is no migrant crisis, only a crisis of cooperation and a lack of empathy. Migration is neither a risk nor a problem; rather, it is a component of the solutions, said speakers at a seminar yesterday.

They were speaking at the launching ceremony of Center for Migration Studies (CMS) of North South University where migration experts, diplomats, academicians and students discussed about ensuring human rights and justice for migrants.

Shahidul Haque, professional fellow of NSU's South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG) and former foreign secretary of Bangladesh, presented a keynote at the seminar.

He stated that at present migration is at a crossroads because various unpredictable forces such as war, insurgency, economic instability and various other factors are active at present.

He opined that migration-related issues should be handled within the parameters of international standards and practices, taking the context of the region into account, and migrants should be the focus of all actions.

"Constructive conversation for greater international collaboration and the establishment of an innovative migration and mobility system is essential to regulate migration," recommended

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SHAHIDUL HAQUE
Former Foreign Secretary

Action against agencies if they charge extra

Says expat minister on migration to Malaysia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expatriates' welfare ministry will take action against unscrupulous recruiting agencies if they charge additional money from Malaysia-bound migrant workers, said Ahmed Munir Saleheen, secretary of the ministry, yesterday.

"We want to take action against such agencies," he said, urging cheated migrant workers to lodge complaints in this regard to the ministry.

He was responding to a query from journalists, during a press briefing at the ministry, about recruiting agencies allegedly charging up to Tk 4.5 lakh to send workers to Malaysia.

The government has set Tk 78,990 maximum as migration cost to send workers to Malaysia.

The Southeast Asian country reopened its labour market for Bangladesh this year, with the first batch of workers reaching there in early August.

The press briefing was arranged to inform media about the ministry's preparation regarding celebration of International Migrants Day today.

The secretary said no migrant worker has so far lodged a complaint with the ministry against any recruiting agency.

He said although they have an enforcement wing to take step against irregularities in the labour-migration sector, such enforcement becomes easier if specific complaint is received.

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Dengue death toll **271**

Total number of patients **61,263**

748 still undergoing treatment

Number of recovered patients **60,244**

125 more hospitalised yesterday

SOURCE: DGHS

PRAYER TIMING

DECEMBER 18

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5:20	12:45	3:45	5:22	7:00
JAMAAT 5:55	1:15	4:00	5:25	7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Friends and colleagues of Pritam Das, a member of left-leaning organisation Rashtra Sangskar Andolan, who has been in jail for the last 99 days in a case filed under the Digital Security Act, form a human chain in front of the National Museum at Shahbagh yesterday, demanding his immediate and unconditional release. Police arrested Pritam on September 4 for allegedly hurting religious sentiments through a Facebook post. The case was filed by an activist of Bangladesh Chhatra League.

PHOTO: STAR

Woman, teen burnt in Mirpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two persons were burnt in a fire in Dhaka's Mirpur area early yesterday.

The injured – Hazera Begum, 45, and Ariyan, 14, – were rushed to Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery with 50 and 70 percent burns on their bodies respectively.

Their condition is critical, said SM Ayub Hossain, resident surgeon of the burn institute.

The fire originated at the tin-shed house at Section-13 around 4:00am when they were asleep, family members said.

Md Shahabuddin, senior station officer of Mirpur Fire Station, said the fire was doused before they

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