



20 hurt as AL factions clash

Traffic suspended on Dhaka- Ctg highway for 2 hrs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

At least 20 people were injured in a clash between two factions of the Awami League in Cumilla's Chaudhagram yesterday.

Supporters of Mujibul Haque, a lawmaker of Cumilla-11 constituency, and Mizanur Rahman, former mayor of Chaudhagram Municipality, locked into the clash around 9:00am.

The clash halted vehicular movement on Dhaka-Chattogram highway for around two hours.

According to locals, Mujibul's supporters set up a temporary stage near Bangabandhu Square to hold a rally protesting "BNP-Jamaat's attempt to create a chaotic situation".

On the other hand, Mizanur's supporters were scheduled to bring out procession in the

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3



Carrying sticks, activists of Cumilla's Chaudhagram Awami League put on a show of force on Dhaka-Chattogram highway yesterday morning. Supporters of local AL lawmaker Mujibul Haque and former Chaudhagram municipality mayor Mizanur Rahman clashed over establishing supremacy in Bazar area of Chaudhagram town that left at least 20 people injured. Several vehicles were also vandalised and traffic flow on the highway was disrupted.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

6,500 pilgrims in visa trouble

Ministry warns 90 hajj agencies for failure to start visa processing in time

RASHIDUL HASAN

With only two weeks remaining for sending pilgrims to Saudi Arabia, many private hajj agencies are yet to obtain visas for them.

Over the last 12 days, Biman was forced to cancel at least seven flights due to shortage of pilgrims, making the pilgrimage of around 6,500 people uncertain, said sources at the national flag carrier.

The religious affairs ministry has blamed a section of hajj agencies for this.

It issued show-cause notices on 90 private hajj agencies for not starting the visa process for the hajj pilgrims in time.

The ministry instructed them to start the visa obtaining process on Sunday after an emergency meeting with Faridul Haque Khan, state minister for religious affairs, in the chair.

The hajj flights began on May 21.

Biman currently operates five hajj flights every day, but there have been many empty seats due to visa trouble faced by pilgrims.

Biman officials said they are worried how they would carry pilgrims who have missed their schedule.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

Ailing Mohsin deserves our attention

ANISUR RAHMAN

When this reporter knocked on the door of Md. Mohsin's residence, it took more time than usual for someone to answer it.

The focus of the entire sports fraternity had suddenly turned to ailing former goalkeeper following a report published in a national daily, which claimed he was desperately in need of monetary aid for recovering his well-being.

Amid load-shedding, the drawing room in the Siddheshwari flat only brightened up after the curtains were opened. And when Kohinur Islam Pintu, younger brother of Mohsin, asked his elder



brother to come out of his bedroom, the star goalkeeper of 80s and 90s showed up wearing a simple blue t-shirt and a striped trouser, and greeted with a big smile.

Like many football lovers in the country, especially those who had sweet memories of Bangladesh football's golden era where Mohsin was a superstar, it was also a real heartbreak for this reporter to see him in such a vulnerable state.

What actually happened to the yesteryear's star goalkeeper? How did a once household name end up in such dire straits? What was the reason behind his present condition? Why has he come to focus only in recent times when he had returned to the country from abroad in 2014?

It was, however, not possible to get all the answers but his younger brother could only make it clear that Mohsin is not in a good shape in terms of mental health. Pintu also informed that they had never gone to anybody for help earlier, but recently they felt that Mohsin desperately needed assistance to resume a normal life.

Mohsin was very cordial throughout but the problem was that he could not complete any conversation, instead often incoherently repeating sentences. He was also unable to sit for a long time. The 60-year-old former Bangladesh captain was having trouble recollecting memories.

"It is very good that you have come here. [Hope] you will come again," was a sentence Mohsin uttered nearly 15 times during a 30-minute conversation.

"Please put on your shoes. What happened to your finger? I like Canada more than America. Abahani will give me Tk 22 crore," were a few other sentences he said while this reporter was trying to get him to talk about his present and past.

Asked how he spends his time nowadays, Mohsin replied, "My mother is very sick and I stay at home. I did not go back to Canada because of my mother."

He suddenly went back to the other room and brought some old pictures of his playing days that apparently bring back some good old, fond memories to him.

Mohsin played for two of the most popular outfits

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

Roads now worse than a year ago

RHD needs Tk 9,479cr for repairs, it's getting Tk 3,800cr

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The roads that have been in "poor, bad or very bad" conditions got worse over the last one year, dealing a setback to the Roads and Highways Department.

After 2018, this is the first time both the length and percentage of roads in "poor, bad or very bad" conditions have increased in a year-to-year comparison, according to documents seen by this correspondent.

At least 2,152km or 10.48 percent of all surveyed roads, are still in "poor, bad or very bad" conditions, says an RHD survey published yesterday.

Around Tk 9,479 crore would be needed in the next fiscal year for repairing the roads, bridges and culverts, according to the Maintenance and Rehabilitation Needs Report 2023-24.

But, the RHD is going to get only Tk 3,800 crore for maintenance, RHD sources said.

And experts and engineers observe that overloading, lack of budgetary allocation for timely maintenance, and poor construction materials are the major reasons why the roads are in a battered shape.

Last year's needs report recommended Tk 6,295 crore to be allocated for maintenance in the 2022-23 fiscal year, but only Tk 3,050

crore were allocated, an RHD engineer said.

"Poor allocation for maintenance is the main reason behind the deterioration of road conditions," he told The Daily Star yesterday, wishing not to be named.

Contacted, RHD Chief Engineer Md Ishaque said, "I haven't seen the report. I have to make comments after seeing it."

ROAD CONDITION POOR, BAD & VERY BAD

Year	Length	Percentage %
2023	2,152km	10.48
2022	2,078km	10.36
2021	3,006km	16.27
2020	3,590km	18.61
2019	4,247km	24.34
2018	4,731km	26.32

SOURCE: RHD

According to this year's needs report, 22,476km of national and regional highways and district roads across the country are under RHD jurisdiction.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

LAW VIOLATION

Labour court frames charges against Yunus



COURT CORRESPONDENT

A labour court in Dhaka yesterday framed charges against Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus and three other top officials of Grameen Telecom in a case filed over violations of the labour laws.

Prof Yunus is the chairman of Grameen Telecom while the other accused Ashrafur Hasan is the managing director and Nur Jahan Begum and Mohammad Shahjahan are directors.

Sheikh Merina Sultana, chairman of the Third Labour Court of Dhaka, passed the indictment order, defence lawyer Khaja Tanvir Ahmed told The Daily Star.

The court fixed July 6 to start the trial procedure.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Oldest-known burial site found in South Africa

AFP, Maropeng

Palaeontologists in South Africa say they have found the oldest known burial site in the world, containing remains of a small-brained distant relative of humans previously thought incapable of complex behaviour.

Led by renowned palaeoanthropologist Lee Berger, researchers said on Monday that they discovered several specimens of Homo naledi -- a tree-climbing, Stone Age hominid -- buried about 30 metres (100 feet) underground in a cave system within the Cradle of Humankind, a Unesco world heritage site near Johannesburg.



"These are the most ancient interments yet recorded in the hominin record, earlier than evidence of Homo sapiens interments by at least 100,000 years," the scientists wrote in a series of yet to be peer reviewed and preprint papers to be published in eLife.

The findings challenge the current understanding of human evolution, as it is normally held that the development of bigger brains allowed for the performing of complex, "meaning-making" activities such as burying the dead.

BNP set to stage sit-ins to protest power cuts

It'll submit memos to power offices tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP will hold sit-in programmes in front of the district offices of the Power Division tomorrow to protest frequent power cuts and corruption in the power sector.

BNP's Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi announced the programme yesterday during a press conference at the party's Nayapaltan headquarters.

He said the decision was made at the standing committee meeting, the highest policy making body of the party.

The party will also submit memorandums to the power offices on the same day. The sit-in programme will be for one hour from 11:00am.



A child and a man on a rickshaw cover their noses to avoid inhaling dust near Mayor Mohammad Hanif Flyover in the capital's Jatrahari around 1:30pm yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN