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EID JOURNEY

Those bound for north may face hassle

Possibility of gridlock at 13 points on Dhaka-Tangail-Rangpur highway

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Expansion work on highways, short holidays, and roadside cattle markets are likely to cause sufferings to north-bound Eid holidaymakers.

They may face traffic congestion at 13 points on the Dhaka-Tangail-Rangpur highway unless proper measures are taken. Incomplete BRT works may cause congestion on the Tongi-Gazipur section.

Non-automated toll collection at Padma Bridge and the Dhaka-Mawa-Bhanga Expressway could cause long queues of south-bound vehicles amid the Eid rush.

Besides, traffic could grind to a halt due to breakdowns of rickety, unfit vehicles and crashes caused by the large number of motorbikes that will be on the highways.

Road conditions from Elenga to Bangabandhu East and Sirajganj to Bogura may cause suffering unless proper measures are taken.

The Daily Star came to know about the situation after talking to police, officials concerned and transport operators.

In this situation, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader and Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan are scheduled to hold separate meetings tomorrow and Sunday to make the Eid journey safe and smooth.

Last year, ahead of Eid-ul-Azha, people heading towards the north and north-western parts suffered immensely because of congestions. However, people's journey before this year's Eid-ul-Fitr was relatively smooth.

ROAD WORK MAJOR CONCERN

Roads and Highways Department (RHD) is turning the 190km Elenga-Hatikumrul-Rangpur highway into a four-lane highway. The Bangabandhu Bridge approach road in the east has two lanes, which could become a bottleneck.

The 13 choke points are Elenga intersection, Jhavel Bridge, Koddar Mor, Nalka Bridge, Hatikumrul intersection, Jura Bridge, Goga Bridge, Chandaikona Bazar, Goibgandaganj Bazar, Mokamtola, Polashbari Bazar, Shotibari and Boro Dorga.

Mozammel Haque, deputy inspector general (operations) of highway police, said some obstacles could be there on this highway because of development work.

"We have already held meetings with RHD officials and they assured us that they will make arrangements for uninterrupted transport movement," he told The Daily Star recently.

Mosharref Hossain, general manager of Hanif Paribahan, echoed him.

Road conditions from Elenga to Bangabandhu East and Sirajganj to Bogura may cause suffering unless proper measures are taken.

After the closure of garment factories for the holidays, Savar Chandina road may witness congestion if traffic movement is not controlled properly, he said yesterday.

Contacted on May 6, Project Director Waliur Rahman said there was no congestion during the last Eid and the road condition is now better than then.

Asked about the 13 points, he said they have already opened some bridges and flyovers at those points, so the

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Moments after a microbus, going against traffic, rammed a motorcycle and injured its rider near Sat Rasta yesterday morning. Motorists later made sure that microbus driver did not leave the scene before traffic police arrived.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

CUSTODIAL TORTURE

HC summons OC, addl SP, magistrate

Victims of Shariatpur give vivid description of ordeal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday summoned the chief judicial magistrate of Shariatpur, the district's additional superintendent of police (Naria Circle), and the officer-in-charge of the Padma Bridge South Police Station to appear before it and explain the torture of two businessmen in custody and them being sent to jail even though they had secured bail from the HC.

The two policemen were sued on June 7 for brutally torture of businessmen and brothers Saddam and Bokul Chowkdar in Shariatpur, their unlawful detention, and extortion of Tk 72 lakh from their family.

The OC has since been withdrawn and attached to the police lines. "Can the police beat them in such a manner even if they did not get bail in the case against them? Withdrawal of the officer-in-charge from the police station is not a punishment for the incident. Rather it is like a promotion," said Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam.

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Star

SPORT

Tigers ready for Afghan revenge

Bangladesh will hope to avenge the 224-run defeat in 2019 when they face Afghanistan in a one-off Test at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur today. Shakib Al Hasan will miss the Test due to injury while Tamim Iqbal has been ruled out due to a back issue. Liton Das will captain the side. Meanwhile, the visitors rested leg-spinner Rashid Khan, who had turned the destroyer in chief last time the two sides met in Chattogram. The track for the Test is expected to be seamer-friendly as the Tigers included only two specialist spinners in their squad and are likely to feature three pacers today.

STORY ON PAGE 11

Islami Andolan looks to expand its horizon

Plans to tie up with like-minded parties to press home demand for polls-time all-party govt

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Islami Andolan Bangladesh wants to set up an Islamist alliance with other like-minded parties and wage a movement to press home its demand for an all-party election-time government ahead of the next national polls.

The organisation will now focus more on street agitations to realise its demand instead of taking part in elections to local government bodies, said party sources.

The IAB is taking the stance following Monday's polls to Barishal and Khulna city corporations. The party's mayoral nominee in the Barishal city polls, Syed Faizul Karim, also its nayebe-ameer, came under an attack on election day.

The party has already announced that it will not take part in Rajshahi and Sylhet city polls on June 21.

Sources said although the Awami League and the BNP are trying to bring IAB into their folds as an electoral ally, the Islamist party has decided to continue its activities following its "go it alone" policy as the leaders believe that adopting this policy yielded good results for them in the past.

Therefore, the party wants to form a "third alliance", apart from those led by the AL and the BNP. To make it happen, the IAB has already started communicating with like-minded Islamist parties, said the sources.

"We will concentrate on a movement to realise our demand for an all-party election-time government. Of course we will wage a movement. The word andolan [movement] is in the name of our party," Gazi Ataur Rahman, senior joint general secretary of IAB, told The Daily Star yesterday.

He, however, said that their movement will be peaceful as the party is against any violence.

Ataur said the AL and the BNP failed to meet the people's expectations over the years and that's why they were trying to forge a "third alliance".

About its decision not to participate in the elections to local government bodies, the IAB leader said they had decided to take part in the polls considering that it was the main way to strengthen the party grassroots. "But we have now decided not to participate in any elections."

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Billion-year-old rocks reveal traces of ancient life

CNN ONLINE

Plants, algae, fungi, and animals -- including humans -- are all eukaryotes: life forms with complex, nucleus-containing cells.

A recent discovery of organic compounds in ancient rocks in Australia helps illuminate the early history of eukaryotes, suggesting that this group was already abundant more than a billion years ago, according to a new study.

Eukaryotes are believed to date back 2 billion years, but scientists thought that they only became widespread about 800 million years ago, said Dr Benjamin Nettersheim, one of the co-first authors of the study published in Nature.

However, newfound traces of molecules possibly produced by eukaryotes are up to 1.6 billion years old, which indicates "that early eukaryotes were already ecologically important for all this time," said Nettersheim, who is a postdoctoral researcher in geobiology at the MARUM Center for Marine Environmental Sciences at the University of Bremen in Germany. "We just didn't see their traces until now. They've kind of been hidden in plain sight."

The evidence of these ancient eukaryotes took the form of biological molecules that they produced. Modern eukaryotes produce a suite of signature biomolecules, including cholesterol.

A view shows a residential building heavily damaged by a Russian missile strike, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Kryvyi Rih, Dnipropetrovsk region, Ukraine yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Trump pleads not guilty in federal documents case

REUTERS, Miami

Former US President Donald Trump pleaded not guilty early today to federal criminal charges that he unlawfully kept national-security documents when he left office and lied to officials who sought to recover them.

Trump's plea, entered before US Magistrate Judge Jonathan Goodman in a federal court in Miami, sets up a legal battle likely to play out over coming months as he campaigns to win back the presidency in a November 2024 election. Experts say it could be a year or more before a trial takes place.

The hearing was closed to cameras and live broadcasts. Trump's former aide Walt Nauta, also charged in the case, pleaded not guilty as well, the Associated Press reported.

CNN reported Trump was allowed to leave court without conditions or travel restrictions and no cash bond was required. Goodman ruled that Trump was not allowed to communicate with potential witnesses in the case, the network said.

In Loving Memory of Late Freedom Fighter



Advocate Abul Kashem
(09 April 1933 – 14 June 1999)

Ex-Public Prosecutor Feni District Judge Court, Ex-President of Feni District Awami League.

Your life and teachings left an indelible mark on our hearts, guiding us with your unwavering principles.

You were a shining example of integrity and compassion, showing us the true meaning of living a meaningful life. Your ideals continue to inspire us, giving us the strength to face challenges and accomplish great things.

Every day, we carry your morals and values forward and cherish the memories we shared together. You are always in our thoughts and prayers. May Allah grant Late Abul Kashem eternal peace and a place in Jannat.

With love,
Mrs. Halima Kashem, Engr Md Golam Sarwar, Advocate Golam Mohiuddin, Ferdous Ara, Kamrun Nahar, Samsun Nahar

Daughters-in-law (Meghla and Shimul), sons-in-law (Arif, Pavel and Liton), grandsons (Pranta, Barshan, Megh, Zulkifli, Yafid, Taufiq, Sahir and Adiyar), and granddaughters (Rodela, Muntahina, Zarin, Amrin, Nora)


Prantik Group, Chattogram, Bangladesh
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