



Luxury buses may ensure a more comfortable ride, but getting on one is quite a challenge.

from Doyaganj, where he lives, to Nilkhet, his workplace. There are at least four to five spots where traffic jams are regulars and when luck is not on one's side one may have to put up with a couple of additional irregular jams as well.

Traffic jams aside, these local buses ply whimsically, further multiplying the travel time. "They stop anywhere they like and at every bus stop they halt for an indefinite time even though the bus is full to the brim and will not start unless passengers start shouting at them," alleges Shahabuddin, a fruit vendor near the Gulistan underpass.

Traffic Sergeants entrusted with the task to ensure smooth traffic movement, are often accused of compounding the commuters' woes. They may stop a bus right in the middle of the street and start scrutinising the license and necessary papers taking all the time in the world, causing more time loss and more suffering for the passengers who are crammed inside the bus. "They willingly keep the bus waiting with the excuse that the license is fake or the bus does not have a fitness certificate while their real intention is to get some money out of the drivers. "Give him a Tk 100 note and all your papers become ok," complains Sharfuddin Ahmed, a regular passenger in Gulistan-Mirpur route.

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