



PHOTO: STAR

A staggering 40-kilometre gridlock from Kaliakoir to Mirzapur on Dhaka-Tangail highway causes immense sufferings to homebound people ahead of the Eid-ul-Azha. The photo was taken from Hatubhanga in Mirzapur upazila of Tangail district yesterday morning.

Homebound passengers suffer for tailback, ferry disruption

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Severe gridlock on the busy Dhaka-Tangail highway amid the Eid-ul-Azha rush caused immense sufferings to thousands of people from early hours on Friday to yesterday noon.

Hundreds of vehicles were seen stationary including buses with thousands of people and cattle-laden trucks bound for Dhaka in a 40km tailback stretching from Kaliakoir of Gazipur to Mirzapur of Tangail.

Sources in highway police said the narrow highway couldn't accommodate the additional traffic that exceeded the average 10,000 vehicles that ply normally this highway every day.

Moreover, as Eid-ul-Azha is approach-

ing, hundreds of sacrificial animal laden trucks from the northern districts started plying the highway that caused the gridlock, they said.

Mizanur Rahman, superintendent of police (SP) of Tangail, told The Daily Star that besides the additional pressure of vehicles, two accidents with seven broken down cattle-laden trucks at places on the highway were also behind the gridlock.

"The highway became normal after 1:00pm yesterday. District police led by its senior officers are trying hard to keep vehicular movements on the busy highway normal," the SP added.

Ferry service disrupted

A Correspondent from Madaripur reports: Homebound passengers had to

suffer for more than 10 hours as ferry service came to a halt after a ferry got stuck in a submerged shoal of Mawa-Kaorakandi route.

BIWTA and BIWTC sources said, K type ferry Kakoli, which left Mawa at 6:00 pm Friday, got stuck up at Kauniarchar in the running channel with 20 vehicles on board. There were more than 400 homebound passengers on the ferry. As the ferry failed to move in the narrow channel the authorities suspended all ferry services on the route.

Most of the passengers had to count extra money to cross the channel by different river vessels and to reach their destinations by microbus and bus from Kaorakandi.

Trial of 44 Rajshahi BDR mutineers begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A special court yesterday began trial proceedings against 44 BDR mutineers of 37 Rifles Battalion in Rajshahi.

Headed by Kushtia Sector Commander Nazrul Islam Sarker, the special court-17 started trial proceedings at around 11:00am. Two other members are Lt Col Gazi M Salah Uddin and Maj Mohammad Ashfaq Hossain. Lt Col Zahid Hassan of 37 Rifles Battalion is the prosecutor. Attorney General's representative M Selim was present during trial.

At the beginning, complainant Nayek Subedar Nazrul Islam read out the allegations brought against the accused and told the court that 40 of the accused were arrested in May last year while the rest are still free at the battalion. He sought court order to arrest them.

He alleged that the accused revolted against their superiors, expressing solidarity with the mutineers of BDR headquarters at Pilkhana in the capital on February 25-26 last year.

The plaintiff said he along with senior officials asked all soldiers to refrain from taking law into own hand. Ignoring

the order, some BDR jawans forced senior officials, including the Rajshahi Sector Commander Col Ahiya Azam Khan, to leave the sector and battalion headquarters, he said.

The mutineers looted firearms and ammunitions from the armoury and opened fire, creating panic in the city,

they desecrated the portrait of BDR DG Shakil Ahmed and gave provocative statements before the media, he further alleged.

The court took the case into its cognance and issued arrest order against the four accused. It asked the authorities concerned to produce all the 44 accused in the court

today and adjourned the court until 8:00am today.

After the court order, the law enforcers arrested four BDR men at the battalion and sent them to Rajshahi Central Jail. They are Nayek Gias Uddin, Lance Nayek Abdul Wahab, sepoy driver Ahmed Mostafa and sepoy Ruhul Kuddus.

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PROCESSION, RALLY IN C'NAWABGANJ

'Free victim of police foul play'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj:

Hundreds of people of Natun Hujrapur in the town brought out a procession, formed human chain, held rally and submitted a memorandum to prime minister through deputy commissioner demanding immediate release of Azim Ali, arrested on charge of Nuhu murder.

Criminals killed

Mohammad Nuhu on Rajshahi-Dhaka highway at Maipara under Puthia upazila of Rajshahi on July 22 this year while going to Maipara Bazar. On July 23, Nuhu's mother Sahera Begum filed a case against 16 people including Mithon, 32, of the area with Puthia police station.

The human chain was formed in front of Chapainawabganj press club which was followed by the

rally.

Speakers said at the rally that on October 31, this year Rajshahi police came to Chapainawabganj town and arrested Azim Ali, an innocent person from his in-laws' house at Natun Hujrapur in connection with Nuhu murder case. Although he had no involvement, police arrested Azim identifying him as Mithon, one of the six accused in the murder case.

His family members showed his national identity card but police refused to accept it and remanded and tortured Azim. Compelling him to give a confessional statement, police produced him before the court which sent him to jail custody.

The speakers demanded proper investigation in to the case. They also demanded punishment to the 'controversial' police officials who were involved in investigation of Nuhu murder case.

35 Jamaat men held in Cox's Bazar

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Police on Friday arrested 35 Jamat activists at a residential hotel in Cox's Bazar town.

Being tipped-off, police arrested them while they were holding a 'secret' meeting at Hotel Albatras.

Md Shahajahan, officer-in-charge of Cox's Bazar Model Police Station, said the arrestees are members of World Assembly for Muslim Youths (WAMY), a Jamat-backed NGO. They were holding a meeting inside the hotel without taking permission from the authorities concerned, he added.

Manager of the hotel Rezul Karim said local Jamat leader Maulana Sabbir Ahmed rented 10 rooms and a hall room of the hotel for three days on Thursday.

"We arranged a training programme for the teachers of WAMY to spread education in Teknaf, Ukahia, Ramu and Cox's Bazar Sadar", Alamgir Mohammad Yusuf, chief of the organisation, told journalists.



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