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'Wrong day' to travel

Harrowing tale of a launch passenger

STAR REPORT

When Jalal Khan began his return journey to the capital from his hometown Barisal on Saturday night, he had no idea of the long ordeal that lay ahead of him.

The routine return to Dhaka where Jalal works as an office assistant in a private firm turned out to a never-ending detour of inconvenience.

It was all because he probably chose a "wrong day" to travel.

Jalal was scheduled to reach Dhaka after an overnight journey on Parabat-2 from Barisal. The launch duly reached Sadarghat Launch Terminal at 5:00am yesterday but was not allowed to anchor.

"I saw a group of hooligans throwing brick chips from the terminal platform at our boat," Jalal said.

It was not only Parabat-2 but three other large passenger launches, Parabat-7, Surovi-8 and Kamal Khan, which reached Sadarghat from Barisal around the same time. They were not allowed to dock.

"While the gang threw brick chips at the launches, the law enforcers were driving away the ground staff of these launches, who were requesting them to let the boats anchor at the terminal," Jalal said.

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Pro-Awami League Sramik League activists on boats and armed with sticks prevent launches from docking at the Sadarghat Launch Terminal yesterday morning, a bid to prevent people from joining the opposition rally in the capital today.

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

Independence Award 2012 goes to 10

BSS, Dhaka

Ten eminent personalities will receive the Independence Award 2012 in recognition to their glorious contributions at the national level.

The awardees include Shaheed Lt Commander Moazzem Hossain (posthumous), who was No. 2 accused in the Agartala Conspiracy Case and had embraced martyrdom in

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Commuting within city pushed to a chaos

Many city buses kept off the roads; passengers harassed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thousands of city dwellers faced untold sufferings as almost all public transport remained off the streets since yesterday morning ahead of the BNP's grand rally today.

A few public buses were seen plying the streets. Bus owners decided to keep their services suspended fearing violence,

restrictions imposed by ruling party men and police requisition.

Office and school-goers suffered the most as they found it extremely difficult to board the few crowded buses.

Many were seen waiting for buses for hours at different bus stops and intersections in the city. People in their hundreds walked miles to reach their destinations.

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Held with food, charged with subversion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested a BNP activist with food items at Savar Bus Stand yesterday morning for "his involvement in subversive activities" centring on the opposition's grand rally today.

Mohammad Firoj, a former general secretary of Savar upazila

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Tigers fall at the death again

BISHWAJIT ROY

It was another case of 'so near yet so far' for the Tigers as they failed to put an end to their long drought against Pakistan, going down by 21 runs after putting up a brave fight in the Asia Cup opener at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

It could so nearly have been be a story of 'Mirpur after Northampton' following superb batting from Tamim Iqbal, Shakib

Al Hasan and Nasir Hossain. But the Pakistani bowlers showed their character to survive from the jolt as Bangladesh crumbled to 241 in 48.1 overs in reply to Pakistan's 262 for eight in front of a seven thousand strong crowd under lights.

After their famous 62 runs victory in the 1999 World Cup in Northampton, Bangladesh has hardly provided any fight against Pakistan in one-day competition but they tested the nerve of the former

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With many buses taken off service ahead of the BNP rally today, Dhaka dwellers scramble to get into the handful of buses that ran in the capital yesterday. The photo was taken at Farmgate yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Businesses lament political intolerance

SOHEL PARVEZ

Businesses yesterday termed the current confrontational situation in the political arena unfortunate for the nation and said creating panic among the people by muscle flexing will not do any good.

They also slammed the government's lack of tolerance ahead of the Cholo Cholo Dhaka Cholo (March to Dhaka) programme of the BNP, which has been demanding a restoration of the caretaker government system before the next spate of parliamentary elections.

The opposition has announced a grand rally to be held in the city's Nayapaltan today as part of the programme with the participation of leaders and activists from

across the country.

The business community also urged the main opposition BNP and its allies to join parliament and enter into a dialogue with the ruling party to resolve the ongoing political crisis, instead of engaging in programmes to demonstrate political strength. Such attitudes create panic and affect public life.

"No good comes of a flexing of muscles," said AK Azad, president of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, while referring to the face-off between the government and the opposition.

The reaction came even as panic gripped the entire capital, with thousands

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited
ONLINE POLL
What will happen on March 12 in the capital?
Peaceful rally: (58.7%)
Violence: (41.3%)
TOTAL VOTES: 433
TODAY'S POLL
Do you think the government's acts centring March 12 rally severely tarnishing Awami League's image?
PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT
www.thedailystar.net
YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT
facebook.com/dailystarnews

2 judges differ on mass arrests

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two judges of the High Court yesterday passed dissenting orders on a writ petition that challenged the reported mass arrests in the capital by law enforcers ahead of BNP's Dhaka rally today.

Senior judge of an HC bench Justice Mirza Hussain Haider asked the government to explain in six weeks as to why it should not be directed to ensure free movement of people, their right to hold assembly and other fundamental rights enshrined in the constitution.

Junior judge of the bench Justice M Khurshid Alam Sarkar, however, rejected the petition, saying that he would not accept a petition relating to a political programme.

The HC bench will now send the petition to Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain who will then form another bench of the HC to dispose of the matter, petitioner's lawyer Khandker Mahbub Hossain told The Daily Star.

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'ILLEGAL BROADCAST' BTRC serves notice on ETV

ABDULLAH MAMUN

The telecom regulator yesterday served a show cause notice on private satellite channel ETV (Ekushey Television) asking for an explanation from it for broadcasting illegally. The channel will have to come up with its answer within seven days.

Zia Ahmed, chairman

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PRAYER TIMING March 12			
Azan	5-05	Jamaat	5-40
Fajr	5-05		5-40
Zohr	12-45		1-15
Asr	4-30		4-45
Maghrib	6-12		6-15
Esha	7-30		8-00
Source: Islamic Foundation			

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