

# EVE OF ROAD BLOCKADE

## Traffic jams clog Dhaka streets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On the eve of the BNP-led 18-party alliance's country-wide road blockade programme, the city dwellers yesterday experienced unusual traffic congestion in many parts of the capital.

Torching and vandalism of vehicles by Jamaat-Shibir activists at different points further intensified the tailbacks that trapped commuters for hours at Mohakhali, Tejgaon, Moghbazar, Science Lab, Green Road, Farmgate and other adjacent areas.

Many office-goers left their workplaces earlier than usual, fearing violence and vandalism on the streets.

"It has become a common phenomenon that a few vehicles are vandalised and torched in the evening prior to every hartal day or blockade programme," said Rajib Ahmed, a private company employee.

A large number of passengers were seen waiting for buses at the city's different bus stoppages in the evening.

Many of them blamed the political culture of Bangladesh, saying that hartal, blockade, rally and procession by political parties are the major causes of people's sufferings on the streets.

"Political leaders, in their speeches, say that they work for serving the people. But the reality is completely opposite. They are regularly causing us sufferings," said Rabiul Hasan, a banker.

Alamgir Kabir, deputy commissioner (Traffic- South), said there was huge traffic congestion in the capital yesterday because people rushed to complete their tasks ahead of the blockade programme scheduled for today.



A traffic jam chokes the capital's Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in the afternoon yesterday as city dwellers tried to reach home early against the backdrop of the BNP-led 18-party alliance's road blockade programme today to press home their various demands. The rush to get home was prompted by torching and vandalism of vehicles by Jamaat-Shibir activists at different points.

PHOTO: STAR

## 2 senior US officials in Dhaka

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Two senior officials of the US Department of State arrived in Bangladesh yesterday to discuss bilateral issues.

The officials -- Melanne S Verveer, US ambassador at Large for Global Women's Issues, and Robert O Blake, US assistant secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs -- came to attend a four-day South Asia Women's Entrepreneurship symposium beginning today.

Blake will meet Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia, senior government officials, civil society leaders, and representatives of private sectors to talk on politics, women, labour, governance and trade.

He could not get an appointment with the prime minister until yesterday, said the foreign ministry sources.

# Urban women face violence

## Study shows

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An increasing number of women have entered the public domain in different capacities over the past two decades, but they continue to face various forms of violence in the country's urban settings, said speakers at a seminar yesterday.

ActionAid Bangladesh organised the seminar in the capital's Brac Centre to share the findings of a research on "Safe City and Urban Space for Women and Girls: An Exploratory Study."

The study findings showed that women are subject to violence at their homes, workplaces and public spaces.

Moreover, women at the workplace experience job insecurity, unsafe work

conditions, occupational hazards and verbal and physical abuse at the hands of co-workers and employers.

Prof Shahadat Hossain and Prof Tania Haque of Dhaka University and Assistant Prof Shahidur Rahman of Brac University conducted the study highlighting the challenges faced by underprivileged women in Narayanganj city.

Meher Afrose Chumki, chairperson of the parliamentary standing committee on the ministry of women and children affairs, Farah Kabir, country director of ActionAid Bangladesh, and Shampa Rani Saha, assistant commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, also addressed the seminar.

# Road crashes kill 9

METRO DESK

Road accidents killed nine people and injured 31 others in Dhaka, Manikganj, Chittagong, Natore and Chapainawabganj on Friday and yesterday.

Our staff correspondent reports, two motorcyclist brothers were killed as a bus ran them over at Ghoshbagh in Ashulia on the outskirts of the capital yesterday.

The deceased were Yasir Arafat, 32, and his younger brother Saddam Hossain, 30.

Meanwhile, an unidentified man died when a truck hit him at Uttar Ashulia cross dam yesterday morning.

In Manikganj, two people were killed and 25 others injured as a bus carrying some garment workers hit a Nosimon at Kamta in Satura yesterday.

The deceased were Sohrab and Jewel. Agitated garment workers vandalised a vehicle and blocked Dhaka-Aricha highway.

In Chittagong, Jahangir, 40, was killed and four others were injured as a tempu overturned in Chittagong city yesterday.

In Natore, a pickup driver and its helper died as a bus hit the pickup on Natore-Dhaka highway in Gazipur Beel yesterday afternoon.

The deceased were Nazmul, the driver, and Mintu, his helper.

In Chapainawabganj, motorcyclist Shamim, 32, was killed and his two co-riders were injured as the motorbike plunged into a ditch beside Chapainawabganj-Nachole road in Atahir of sadar upazila on Friday night.

পাইলস, কোষ্ঠকাঠিন্য, আমাশয় ও ক্যান্সার

পেটের বাদ্যনালী ও মলদ্বারের (Colon, Rectum and Anus) বিভিন্ন সমস্যা যেমন- মলত্যাগের পর রক্ত যাওয়া, মলদ্বারের বিভিন্ন সমস্যা, ফিষ্টালা, এনালফিসার, রক্ত আমাশয় (Ulcerative Colitis), বিনা অপারেশনে পাইলস চিকিৎসা, মলদ্বার না কেটে সর্বাধুনিক লংগো পদ্ধতিতে পাইলস অপারেশন,

মলদ্বারে বারে বারে অপারেশন ব্যর্থ হওয়ার কারণ, পেটের ভেতর বাদ্যনালীর ক্যান্সার (Colon Cancer), Colonoscopy, পায়ু পথ ক্যান্সারে (Rectum Cancer) মলদ্বার না কেটে অত্যাধুনিক স্ট্যাপলিং পদ্ধতিতে পেটে ব্যাগ না লাগিয়ে অপারেশন, শিশুদের পায়খানার সাথে রক্ত যাওয়া ইত্যাদির অত্যাধুনিক ও বিশ্বমানের চিকিৎসা সম্পর্কে জানতে হলে বইটি পড়ুন।

বইটি লিখেছেন বাংলাদেশ এবং উপমহাদেশের প্রথম কলোরেকটাল সার্জন অধ্যাপক ডাঃ এ. কে. এম. ফজলুল হক

এমবিবিএস, এফসিপিএস, এফআইসিএস

ইন্টারন্যাশনাল স্কলার (যুক্তরাষ্ট্র) : ফেলো, কলোরেকটাল সার্জারী (সিংগাপুর) প্রতিষ্ঠাতা চেয়ারম্যান (অবঃ), কলোরেকটাল সার্জারী বিভাগ, বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিব মেডিকেল ইনস্টিটিউট

জাপান-বাংলাদেশ ফ্রেন্ডশীপ হাসপাতাল ৫৫, সাতমসজিদ রোড (জিগাতলা বাস স্ট্যান্ড), ধানমন্ডি, ঢাকা। ফোন : ০১৭১৫-০৮৭৬৬১, ০১৭২-৬৭০৩১১৬

## COOL DISCOUNTS FOR STAR TO ENJOY THIS WINTER!

Amazing discounts for Grameenphone STAR Customers at your favorite hotels, restaurants and brand outlets. Visit [grameenphone.com/star-subscriber](http://grameenphone.com/star-subscriber) for more details!

OCEAN PARADISE HOTEL & RESORT (COX'S BAZAR)	1) 45% Discount on Room Rent (Sun-Thu) 2) 35% Discount on Room Rent (Fri-Sat) 3) 15% Discount on Food 4) 10% Discount on Spa	01777954360-4
MUSIC ECO RESORT (ST. MARTIN ISLAND)	25% Discount on Accommodation and Food	01761775155-9 <a href="http://www.facebook.com/musicccoresort">www.facebook.com/musicccoresort</a>
NARIKEL JINJIRA RESTAURANT (ST. MARTIN ISLAND)	15% Discount on Food	01761775155-9 <a href="http://www.facebook.com/NarikelUinjira">www.facebook.com/NarikelUinjira</a>
NOKKHOTTROBARI RESORT LTD. (GAZIPUR)	1) Pay for 1 Night & Get 1 Night/Room FREE on weekdays (Sun-Thu: except Govt. Holidays) 2) FREE access to Swimming Pool, Table Tennis and Billiard Zone 3) 10% Discount on Food at Restaurant	01772224280-9 <a href="http://www.nokkhottrobare.com.bd">www.nokkhottrobare.com.bd</a>
NANDAN PARK (SAVAR, DHAKA)	40% Discount on Entry Ticket & All Rides of Dry Park, Water World, 5D Cinema, Bumpar Car & Kids Dream World	01755667703 <a href="http://www.facebook.com/nandanpark">www.facebook.com/nandanpark</a>
LONDON LOOK (AFMI PLAZA- NEXT TO MIMI SUPER MARKET, CHITTAGONG)	1) 15% Discount on Clothing & Accessories of Men/Women/Kids 2) 20% Discount on UK no. 1 Vitamins & Supplements	031 2558187 <a href="http://www.facebook.com/londonlookbd">www.facebook.com/londonlookbd</a>
MENZ KLUB (17 OUTLETS IN DHK, CTG & SYL)	1) 15% Discount on Jacket, Sweater, Suit, Blazer, Polo T-shirt, Punjabi 2) 10% Discount on Shirts, Trouser 3) 5% Discount on Foreign Products.	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/Menz-Klub">www.facebook.com/Menz-Klub</a>
THE BABYSHOP (BANANI, GULSHAN -2, DHAKA)	1) 15% Discount on Clothing & Chinese Toys 2) 10% Discount on Books, Shoes & Branded Toys e.g., Fisher Price, Tomy, Funskool, Little Tikes, etc. 3) 5% Discount on Food items, Furniture & Accessories e.g., Bottles, Clips, Towels, Toiletries, Strollers, Bags, etc.	01772371815-6 <a href="http://www.facebook.com/thebabyshop">www.facebook.com/thebabyshop</a>
PALMVIEW RESTAURANT & GREENPOINT CAFÉ (AIRPORT ROAD, OPPOSITE RADISSON)	1) 15% Discount on Food (Ala Carte & Buffet) 2) 10% Discount on Party Booking (Social, Official & Seminar)	01767727260-4

OCEAN PARADISE Hotel & Resort  
Cox's Bazar

Narikel Jinjira restaurant

MENZ KLUB

London Look  
GET THE LOOK

the babyshop

PalmView Restaurant & GreenPoint Cafe  
(A Concern of Spectra Group)

music ECO RESORT

নন্দন পার্ক  
সব বয়সের সবার বিনোদন

NOKKHOTTROBARI

grameenphone

Check SMS sent from GP STAR to know more of such exciting offers for STAR subscribers > To check your STAR status, dial \*111\*9# (Free of charge) or type STAR in your message option and send SMS to 9000 (Charge: Tk. 2/SMS and 15% VAT applicable)