

Eid rush is on, so are hassles

Major highways see huge snarl-ups; train passengers have better trips

WASIM BIN HABIB and PANKAG KARMAKAR

"When will our bus arrive?" little Rayan asked his father impatiently. The six-year-old boy grew restless after waiting for more than three hours at the capital's Gabtoli bus terminal. As he repeatedly asked the same question, his father, Mahmud Chowdhury, tried to calm him, saying the bus would arrive soon. Before leaving home around 7:00am, Rayan was excited about visiting his grandparents' house in Khulna and meeting his cousins after a long time. But the long wait at the terminal seemed to have dampened his mood. Their bus was scheduled to depart Gabtoli at 8:30am. But the vehicle, which was making a round trip, was still near Savar around 12:30pm. "I don't know when it will arrive [at Gabtoli] and when we will reach our village home," said Mahmud, with worries written all over his face. Anxious faces like that of his were everywhere at bus terminals in the capital yesterday as tens of thousands braving sufferings on the highways started leaving for their village homes to celebrate the Eid-ul-Azha with their loved ones.

Yesterday was the last working day for government employees before the Eid. They will enjoy a six-day vacation since the government announced a public holiday for September 11, the only working day before the Eid holiday.

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PHOTOS ON HOME-GOERS' SUFFERINGS -- PAGE 5



No matter how difficult it is to get tickets and no matter how troublesome the journey is, it is always fun to travel to village home and enjoy Eid holidays with families. The joy is obviously reflected in the faces at the windows -- especially the kids' -- on an inter-district train at Kamalapur Railway Station yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Note fakers go into overdrive

Rab busts gang, seizes counterfeit notes worth over Tk 1cr

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several counterfeit note syndicates have become active in the capital ahead of Eid-ul-Azha when a lot of cash changes hands.

One of the main targets of the syndicates is the cattle markets. They are also on the prowl at other large gatherings, like shopping malls, to circulate fake notes.

They work at multiple layers, from supply of equipment for printing the notes to distribution of fake notes, law enforcers said.

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NOTICE

As Eid holiday is about to start, we are going to take a break and resume our coverage on Rampal power plant debate after the vacation.

PLIGHT OF HAJJ PILGRIMS It all begins with bribe

RASHIDUL HASAN

Bangladeshis' pilgrimage to Makkah is plagued by corruption and enormous greed of brokers, and the hajis, going on the spiritual journey of a lifetime, almost never make any complaints.

It starts from the very beginning of the hajj's preparation for the pilgrimage when many have to bribe police up to Tk 1,000 for a verification report. It ends with private hajj agents' broken promises of quality services

in Saudi Arabia.

That is of course if the hajis make it to Makkah as some of them get swindled out all of their money by dodgy hajj agents at home.

The hajis have very little under their control in Bangladesh and in Saudi Arabia. A section of government officials and hajj agents are all powerful.

Pilgrims who perform hajj under private hajj agents' management pay over Tk 50,000

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He [Putin] has been a leader, far more than our president [Obama] has been.

DONALD TRUMP
Republican candidate
in US presidential election

Radicalism poisons a couple's world

After Maj (ret) Jahid's death in raid, his wife is wanted by police as "key militant suspect"

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

When Shila's marriage with Jahid was settled, her family rejoiced as her future looked good.

A decade after they were married, Shila's family members became a little worried as

their contact with her became irregular.

And now they don't even know where she is.

Since Major (ret) Jahidul Islam, said to be the military commander of "Neo JMB", was killed in a police raid in the capital's

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Clarification

University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) has given a clarification on our report headlined "Who runs these private universities" published on September 5. The clarification says the university has a vice chancellor in place. As the tenure of the VC expired recently, ULAB's board of trustee duly applied to the education ministry for renewal of the VC's tenure as per rules. The application is under process, it adds.

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