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Rush back to city chokes highways

People suffer also on ferries

STAR REPORT

Road transportation between Dhaka and different parts of the country -- south, west and north -- virtually collapsed yesterday, amid a huge rush of people returning to the capital from Eid vacation, due to heavy traffic creating tailbacks on roads and delayed ferry services.

Thousands of people from some 37 districts remained stuck for three to four hours on their journey in this hot and humid weather.

Although many had already returned to Dhaka after celebrating Eid in village homes, yesterday's pressure of traffic was huge as the remaining ones had to come to join work today.

Since Friday night, vehicles lined up on stretches of several kilometres at major ferry terminals like Shimulia-Kathalbari and Paturia-Daulatdia and on highways like Dhaka-Tangail.

On Dhaka-Tangail highway, a long tailback of 35 kilometres stretched from Karatia in Tangail to Chandra in Gazipur, causing severe sufferings to passengers.

Heavy rush of traffic, accidents and unfit vehicles that went out of order on roads were main reasons behind the situation, highway police officials told our Tangail correspondent.

Speaking of his sufferings, Shukanta, passenger of a bus from Bogra, said he had set out around 8:30pm on Friday, and reached Zirani in Savar on his way to Dhaka after 14 hours.

"It was unbearable. My journey took 10 more hours than it usually takes."

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Buses caught up in a long tailback in Kurni area in Tangail's Mirzapur upazila around 8:30am yesterday. Police said the gridlock was caused by a heavy rush of Eid holidaymakers returning to the capital and adjoining districts. Inset, vehicles line up at the Daulatdia ferry terminal in Rajbari. Ferry services were disrupted on the Paturia-Daulatdia route due to strong currents in the Padma.

PHOTO: STAR

Man dies in Rab custody

Family alleges torture, Rab denies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A man died in the custody of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) early yesterday, hours after members of the elite force arrested him at Naogaon.

Mojaharul Islam Jies, 35 of Koibartapara of Manda upazila, was declared dead at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital at 4:37am, said the hospital and police officials.

Executive Magistrate Rohima Sultana Bushra prepared an inquest report at RMCH morgue mentioning marks of injuries in parts of his body.

Even though swollen marks of hits were seen on the back of his head, forehead, throat, both hands, legs, left waist, and on his back, no specific opinion could be given regarding his death, read the inquest report.

Lt Col Mahbubul Alam, director of Rab-5 in Rajshahi, denied victim's family members' allegations that Mojahar was tortured. He claimed that the victim had sustained some injuries while trying to flee.

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Nayeem Anwar

2 'Neo JMB men' held

Counterterror unit says duo detained on Friday, families say month ago

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Counterterrorism officials yesterday claimed to have arrested two suspected members of militant outfit "Neo JMB" in the capital's Khilkhet area.

Although the officers claimed that they arrested Nayeem Ahmed alias Anas, 30, and Anwar Hossain, 35, on Friday night, family members of the duo said they were picked up by

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US stops short of rebuking Myanmar

British MPs call for ending violence on Rohingyas, urge Boris Johnson to suspend UK training of Myanmar army

STAR REPORT

The Trump administration has expressed concern over the unfolding violence in Myanmar's Rakhine State, but stopped short of criticising the country's government or its de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

In a phone briefing with reporters, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Patrick Murphy on Friday said the United States is focused on expanding humanitarian and media access in the region, reports CNN.

The US condemns a "variety" of attacks -- "attacks on security forces, attacks on civilians (and) attacks by civilians", he said.

Murphy further said they are very concerned by the "sustained allegations of abuses" that are resulting in the displacement of many. "We're urging all

parties to take steps to calm tensions."

But he was careful not to directly criticise the country's civilian government, which he said represents the "best opportunity in generations for Burma to get on the right track". The government, he added, "inherited a host of enormous challenges."

At the White House, Press Secretary Sarah Sanders told reporters that President Donald Trump was "aware of the situation and monitoring." She said she wasn't aware if Trump has spoken to Suu Kyi since becoming president, ABC news reports.

State Department officials, however, say they've been in regular contact with Myanmar's government, primarily through US envoy Scot Marciel.

In his call with reporters, Murphy termed those discussions productive and ongoing, and said the US is finding "very willing partners within the government."

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Arsa declares ceasefire

REUTERS, Bangkok/cox's Bazar

Rohingya insurgents declared a month-long unilateral ceasefire, starting tomorrow, to enable aid groups to help ease a humanitarian crisis in northwest Myanmar.

In a statement, the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (Arsa), said, "Arsa strongly encourages all concerned humanitarian actors resume their humanitarian assistance to all victims of the humanitarian crisis, irrespective of ethnic or religious background during the ceasefire period."

The statement also called on Myanmar's military to also temporarily lay down arms, adds Al Jazeera.

The impact of the move is unclear. The group does not appear to have been able to put up significant resistance against the military force unleashed in Myanmar's northwestern Rakhine state.

Egypt unearths ancient tomb



AFP, Luxor

Egyptian archaeologists have uncovered the tomb of a goldsmith dedicated to the god Amun and the mummies of a woman and her two children, the antiquities ministry said yesterday.

The finds, dating back to the New Kingdom (16th to 11th centuries BC), were made in the Draa Abul Naga necropolis on the west bank of the Nile in Luxor, famed for its temples and burial grounds.

The tomb of "Amun's Goldsmith, Amenemhat" contained a sculpture carved into a recess of him seated beside his wife, the ministry said.

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Teen killed by school seniors

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

A sixth grader was killed allegedly by some of his seniors in Palashbari area of Ashulia on the outskirts of the capital on Friday night following a feud over seniority.

Alamin Sheikh, 14, son of Ayub Ali of Daulatpur in Manikganj, was a student at Mondal International School and College.

Alamin said his son went out on Friday evening without informing them anything.

"I received a call from an anonymous caller around 10:00pm. The person informed me that Alamin was admitted to Gonoshastho Medical College Hospital's emergency department," he said.

They shifted him to

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Rohingya refugees gather for relief at Hoaikong in Teknaf upazila of Cox's Bazar yesterday. Some private organisations brought aid to them. The refugees have been living in makeshift houses in the area since they fled violence in Myanmar's Rakhine State several days ago.

Saudi Arabia snubs Qatar's outreach

Riyadh suspends dialogue after Qatar ruler phones Saudi crown prince to start talks

AFP, Riyadh

Arabia yesterday suspended any dialogue with Qatar, accusing it of distorting facts soon after a phone call between the rulers of both countries offered hope of a breakthrough in the three-month-old Gulf crisis.

Qatar's emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, spoke to Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to express interest in talks, state media from both sides said, in the first public engagement between the leaders after the US president offered to mediate in the crisis.

Saudi Arabia led the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Bahrain in cutting ties with Qatar in June, accusing it of bankroll-

ing Islamist extremist groups and of being too close to regional rival Iran. Doha denies the accusations.

The crown prince "welcomed this desire," the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) initially reported, adding "details will be announced after Saudi Arabia reaches an agreement with UAE and Bahrain and Egypt".

But the prospect of a thaw quickly died down after SPA subsequently accused Qatar's state media of wrongly implying that Saudi Arabia had initiated the outreach.

"The contact was at the request of Qatar and its request for dialogue," SPA said, citing a Saudi foreign ministry official.

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