

Homegoers suffer as trains run late

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station, as around a dozen trains were delayed by one to six hours.

Fortunately, bus services were relatively better yesterday as there were no major tailbacks either at the exit points of the capital or on the highways.

Additionally, the situation at Shimulia-Kathalabari ferry terminal improved, easing pressure on the Paturia-Daulatdia ferry route.

However, some major bus operators reduced the number of trips to the southern districts due to delays at the Daulatdia end. The delays were caused as cattle-laden trucks were given priority.

SUFFERING AT KAMALAPUR

People, who bought advance train tickets standing in queues for hours a few weeks ago, started to arrive at Kamalapur in the morning. Many went their hours before their schedule departure.

Tula Mia, a rickshaw-puller from Tangail, went to the station around noon to catch the Chapainawabganj-bound Rajshahi Express, which was scheduled to leave at 12:30pm.

But the train had not reached the station until 3:00pm.

“We came here as bus service is expensive and takes more time. But the train has not come even after two hours. When will we go home?” Tula Mia told this correspondent.

Nur Mia, a mason, had arrived at the station in the morning by a night coach from Gopalganj, where he worked, to go to Dewaganj. But his train had not reached the station until 2:30pm.

He, however, could not remember the name of the train he was waiting for. “I don’t know anything about the train but my friend knows about it. We have been waiting for a train since morning,” he said.

Rajshahi-bound Silk City Express, which was scheduled to leave at 2:40pm, had not reached until 3:00pm.

Sitangshu Chakraborty, manager of Kamalapur Station Railway, said 30 trains had left Dhaka until 2:30pm and six of them were late.

Rajshahi-bound Dhumketu Express left one and half hours late while Khulna-bound Sundarban Express was two hour and 25 minutes late.

Nilphamari-bound Nilsagar Express was delayed by two hours and 45 minutes; Rangpur Express by two hours and 40 minutes and Dinajpur-bound Ekota Express was 65 minutes late, he said.

Lalmoni Eid Special was running four hours behind schedule, Sitangshu told reporters at 2:30pm.

A railway official said only seven trains had left the station on time until 2:30pm.

The railway does not consider a train late unless it is 30 minutes late, he said, adding that most of the trains were between 10 and 30 minutes late.

Sitangshu was not ready to term the situation a “collapse of schedule”.

“Delay of only six trains among 68 trains [the total number of trains which will ultimately leave the station] should not be called ‘schedule collapse’. We call it a delay,” he said.

He said trains were taking relatively more time to pick and drop passengers at stations due to the huge rush. This meant that the trains were arriving late and thus their departures were delayed.

They had not been able to recover

the delays made on Saturday since no trains have days off during the Eid rush, he said. On Saturday, a train had broken down at Tejgaon for over an hour causing delays to other trains.

“We are trying our best with our limited resources,” he said.

Many passengers were seen asleep on the floors of the platform while others fought to get into trains that arrived. Many were seen climbing the roofs of carriages.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Javed Patwari yesterday visited the station around 3:00pm and talked to passengers there.

Speaking to this correspondent, he said they had taken all necessary arrangements to ensure security of passengers and the overall situation was good.

When his attention was drawn to illegal travel on train roofs, he asked that the reality of the situation be taken into consideration as the number of passengers was so huge.

BUS SERVICES

Bus services were relatively smooth yesterday as no major traffic congestion was reported on any highways.

Ferry and launch services on Paturia-Daulatdia ferry terminal almost reached normalcy yesterday as the pressure of vehicles had lessened.

Around one hundred vehicles, including 25 long-route buses, were seen lined up at Paturia Ghat around 5:30pm yesterday, Abdus Sattar, manager (marine) of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) at Paturia office told our Manikganj correspondent.

On the other side, 150 vehicles, including 90 buses, were seen at Daulatdia Ghat around 6:00pm, Shafiqul Islam, manager (commerce) of BIWTC at Daulatdia terminal office, said.

On Saturday, people heading for the southern districts suffered a lot as buses got stuck at Paturia and Daulatdia, which was the only route for heavy vehicles since Shimulia-Kathalabari ferry service was partly operative.

But yesterday, Shimulia-Kathalabari ferry service improved.

Shah Md Khaled Newaz, assistant general manager of the BIWTC, said they ran 14 to 16 small and medium ferries to transport light vehicles and a large ferry to transport buses.

However, the situation was yet to be normal as they could operate ferries through one way only, he told our Munshiganj correspondent, adding that each ferry had to wait to make way for another, resulting in 20 to 25 minutes of delays.

Romesh Chandra Ghosh, managing director of Shyamoli Paribahan Ltd, said passengers had not suffered much yesterday as no major tailback was reported on highways.

“However, we have to start each bus about one to two hours late as buses are reaching late due to the huge pressure of vehicles, especially cattle-laden trucks,” he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Korban Ali, the Dhaka-Barisal route manager of Hanif Paribahan, said yesterday’s situation was better than that of Saturday.

He, however, said each bus had to wait three to five hours at Daulatdia to make way for cattle-laden trucks and that was why they had to cut down the

number of trips to avoid delays.

LAUNCH SERVICE

More holidaymakers gathered yesterday at Sadarghat Launch Terminal to go home.

A total of 98 launches left on Saturday while 75 launches left until 8:45pm yesterday, Alamgir Kabir, joint director of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), told The Daily Star last night.

“We are expecting 35 more launches to leave the terminal until midnight,” he added.

Meanwhile, Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan yesterday visited the terminal and gave several directives to officials to ensure safety of passengers.

Bangladesh Jatri Kalyan Samity yesterday said passengers had to pay extra and faced harassment while using all types of transports ahead of Eid.

Rape accused

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However, the rape victim’s relatives alleged that the police officer released Helal after taking bribes, giving excuse of wrong address in the warrant. But the OC refuted the allegation.

They also alleged that when the rape incident happened in June last year, the same police officer was in-charge of Sherpur Police Station. He did not even let the victim file the case with the police station as the accused was an influential person. Later, the victim’s family lodged the case with a Bogra court.

According to the case statement, on June 4 last year, Helal went to the victim’s house in a village under Sherpur upazila, adjacent to Dhunat upazila, and raped the 18-year-old girl when her parents were out.

Hearing the victim’s screams, locals caught Helal and handed him over to Sherpur police.

At that time, OC Erfan did not register the case; rather tried to cover up the incident, the victim’s relatives alleged.

On June 7 last year, the victim’s family filed the case against Helal with the Bogra Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-2. It issued the arrest warrant for Helal on July 25 this year.

Following the warrant, Dhunat police arrested Helal in Mathura Bazar area around 6:30pm on Friday, but freed him around 10:00pm.

After the rape, the accused had offered the victim’s mother Tk 18,000 so that no case was filed against him, said a relative of the victim, seeking anonymity.

Talking to this correspondent, Helal said he was not involved in the rape, but he was made accused in the case. He was also forced to give some money to the victim’s mother after village arbitration on condition that he was not accused in the case.

Ali Ashraf Bhuiyan, superintendent of Bogra police, told The Daily Star that the man was released as his address was not in the warrant.

Asked about taking bribes by OC Erfan, the SP said, “If something was wrong, we would investigate it.”

'Diplomats voice concern over detention of protesters'

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Some Western diplomats have voiced concern over continued arrests and fate of those already in police custody over recent student demonstrations for safe roads.

They expressed their concern at a discussion with Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque yesterday, diplomatic sources said.

Though the foreign ministry officials called the meeting an “informal and usual” one, the sources said most of the Western envoys, including US charge d’ affaires, European Union, Denmark, Sweden, Spain and Italy, talked about a host of current issues like squeezing of freedom of expression, rights of media, attack on US ambassador’s vehicle, ongoing political situation and Rohingya repatriation.

They also raised their concern over not taking any action against those responsible for attacks on protesters and journalists, and called for an investigation into those attacks.

They said they were worried about the fate of photographer Shahidul Alam and several female students detained over recent protests.

The envoys also enquired about the progress of investigation into the August 4 attack on the official vehicle of US Ambassador to Bangladesh Marcia Bernicat.

In response, the foreign secretary informed them that the government already strongly condemned the attack and law enforcement agencies were investigating it. On completion of the probe, action will be taken against the attackers.

Take action against faulty establishments

PMO asks Rajuk over violations of building designs

UNB, Dhaka

The Prime Minister’s Office yesterday directed Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha to take legal actions against multi-storied buildings and shopping malls that violated their approved designs and shrunk parking zones.

The directives came from a meeting on road safety held at the PMO with Prime Minister’s Principal Secretary Md Nojibur Rahman in the chair.

The meeting was told that all authorities concerned submitted to the PMO their work plans for ensuring road safety and discipline on the highways.

Greater unity to be forged

B Chy, Dr Kamal decide at a meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Juktofront Chairman AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury and eminent jurist and Gano Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain have decided to forge a greater political unity.

The decision came at a meeting of Juktofront and Gano Forum at Badruddoza Chowdhury’s Baridhara home last night, says a press release.

The leaders decided that after Eid, they would hold a press conference to declare their next programme.

They would meet again this afternoon at Dr Kamal Hossain’s Bailey Road home.

Among others, Zafrullah Chowdhury, founder of the Gonoshasthaya Kendra and Mahmudur Rahman Manna, convener of Nagorik Oikya were present at the meeting.

S Korean families gather on eve of rare reunion

AFP, Sokcho

Dozens of elderly and frail South Koreans gathered excitedly yesterday on the eve of their first meeting for nearly seven decades with family members in North Korea.

The three-day reunion -- the first for three years -- begins Monday at the Mount Kumgang resort in North Korea, following a rapid diplomatic thaw on the peninsula.

Millions of people were swept apart by the 1950-53 Korean War, which divided brothers and sisters, parents and children and husband and wives and perpetuated the division of the peninsula.

Rawhide traders

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Asked if the government had assured them of emergency funds in case of non-payment by the tanners, he said there was no such backup from any quarters.

Delwar said small traders are likely to purchase rawhide with their own money and preserve them applying salt.

The price of salt has increased by Tk 100 per 75kg bag ahead of Eid.

The traders fear they may not be able to afford the salt if tanners do not make the payments in time.

“We are in a big trouble,” said Delwar, adding that the traders were scheduled to purchase rawhide from 16 large markets across the country, including the largest three -- Posta in Dhaka, Natore and Chittagong. They buy 60 percent of their rawhides from the three markets.

He said rawhide for more than 50 percent of the country’s leather exports are collected during the Eid.

“I hope the tanners will pay 30 percent of the dues by Monday,” said Md Shaheen Ahamed, chairman of Bangladesh Tanners Association.

The tanners can also pay the money after Eid, he added.

“We usually pay up to 80 percent to the traders ahead of Eid. But we have failed to do so the last two years because of the moving cost of the factories from Hazaribagh to Savar,” Shaheen added.

Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed could not be contacted over phone to know if the government had a plan to manage an emergency fund for the traders.

Devdas Bhattachariya, deputy inspector general of Rangpur Police Range, said he has already alerted his colleagues to tighten security along the border in Dinajpur, Thakurgaon, Panchagarh, Nilphamari and Lalmonirhat districts to prevent smuggling of rawhide.

Leather and leather goods are Bangladesh’s second largest export items after ready-made garments. The country in the last fiscal year exported leather and leather goods worth \$1.08 billion, down 12.03 percent year-on-year.

The income was also 21.34 percent below the annual target of \$1.38 billion because of the factories being moved.

Only 25 to 30 out of 155 tanneries were in operation last year at the newly established industrial zone in Savar. This year, 114 out of 155 have started operation so far although the Central Effluent Treatment Plant is yet to go fully functional.

According to the Department of

Free Shahidul

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student and youth wings of the ruling party in presence of police.

When university students after a few days showed solidarity with the high school students, they were arrested in connection with various cases that might involve prison sentences and subject them to police remand, which is associated with torture and indignities, the statement read.

Shahidul Alam was unlawfully picked up from his residence on August 5 by law enforcers without a warrant of arrest. He was hauled before a court last week where the Detective Branch submitted a prayer for 10 days’ remand without presence of or access to a lawyer, it added.

The court granted seven days’ remand in a case filed against him under section 57 of the ICT Act 2006, which is widely accepted as a draconian law.

“As he was being carried into the courtroom, according to press reports he said to journalists present, ‘I was hit. They washed my blood-stained clothes and then made me wear them again. I was not given access to any lawyer during detention’,” the statement said.

The signatories said Shahidul’s alleged crime was taking photographs of the brutal attacks on peacefully protesting students and exercising his freedom of opinion in an interview with an international television channel.

Shahidul Alam has been sent to prison on August 12 abruptly and without presence of his lawyer, it read.

Numerous innocent students are being subjected to torture in police custody while on remand, whereas those allegedly responsible for imposing violence upon a peaceful movement of the young students are enjoying impunity, the statement said.

“We also urge that the government immediately release all students who have been arrested after the protest and take every step to ensure human rights of all citizens, including freedom of speech, freedom of media and freedom of association for all.”

The signatories to the statement are: Archbishop Desmond Tutu, 1984 Nobel Peace Prize laureate; Tawakkol Karman, 2011 Nobel Peace Prize laureate; Mairead Maguire and Betty Williams, 1976 Nobel Peace Prize laureates; Oscar Arias, 1987 Nobel Peace Prize laureate; Sir Richard J Roberts, 1993 Nobel laureate in Physiology or Medicine; Jose Ramos-Horta, 1996 Nobel Peace Prize laureate; Jody Williams, 1997 Nobel Peace

Livestock, around 1.16 crore animals would be sacrificed this year. Of the animals, 44.57 lakh would be cows and buffalos, some 71 lakh goats and sheep and 31,000 other animals like camels and fat-tailed sheep.

The price of per square foot of salt-applied rawhide of cows and buffalos has been fixed at Tk 45-50 in Dhaka and Tk 35-40 outside the capital. For goat hide it is Tk 13-20 across the country.

[Our Dinajpur correspondent Kongkon Karmaker and Natore correspondent Bulbul Ahmed contributed to this report]

Biman

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the Dreamliner on September 1, slated to fly to Kuala Lumpur.

She is also credited with coming up with the Dreamliner’s name, Akashbeena.

The plane will initially be used to operate flights from Dhaka to Singapore and Kuala Lumpur in its first month, after which it will be considered for flights to New York and Canada.

It will provide its passengers with inflight wifi services, allowing passengers to browse the internet or connect with their friends and family at any end of the world.

The chairman also added that the Dreamliner’s economy class fare for its Singapore flight has been set to \$200 (excluding taxes and other surcharges) and its Kuala Lumpur flight at \$290.

The 271-seat Boeing 787-8 has been designed to be 20 percent fuel efficient than other aircraft of its class.

In 2008, Biman Bangladesh Airlines had signed a US\$2.1 billion agreement with Boeing to purchase 10 new aircraft, of which Sunday’s Dreamliner was the seventh.

The remaining three 787s are slated to join Biman’s fleet between this November and September next year.

When asked about a possible promotion of Dhaka airport from a category-2 to a category-1 airport, Chairman of Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh Air Vice Marshal M Naim Hassan told reporters that an audit team from New York is scheduled to visit Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in January, 2019.

He is hopeful the promotion will be ensured by next year.

According to Biman’s general manager (public relations) Shakil Meraj, the Dreamliner will fly to Singapore and Kuala Lumpur every day of the week, with flights to Singapore in the morning and Kuala Lumpur in the evening.

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ক্র. নং	ওয়ার্ড	কেরবানীর পত্ত জবাইয়ের নির্ধারিত স্থানের তালিকা		
অঞ্চল-৯				
৫৬৫.	১৪৭.	৬২	উত্তর কুতুবখালী মেইন রোড সংলগ্ন বালি জায়গা।	
৫৬৬.	১৪৮.		দক্ষিণ কাজলা নয়ানগর বিশ্বরোড সংলগ্ন বালি জায়গা।	
৫৬৭.	১৪৯.		শেখলী বটতলা সংলগ্ন বালি জায়গা।	
৫৬৮.	১৫০.		গোবিন্দপুর খান বাড়ী সংলগ্ন বালি জায়গা।	
৫৬৯.	১৫১.		গোবিন্দপুর বাজার সংলগ্ন বালি জায়গা।	
৫৭০.	১৫২.	৬৩	কাজলার পাড় হাই স্কুল মাঠ, কাজলা, যাত্রাবাড়ী, ঢাকা।	
৫৭১.	১৫৩.		কাজীর গাঁও কোকাত মৃধা রোড, কাজীর গাঁও, যাত্রাবাড়ী, ঢাকা।	
৫৭২.	১৫৪.		মুগা বাড়ী-শনির আখড়া রোড, মাতুয়াইল, পশ্চিম পাড়া, ঢাকা।	
৫৭৩.	১৫৫.		মাতুয়াইল মাদ্রাসা বাজার রোড, মাতুয়াইল, যাত্রাবাড়ী, ঢাকা।	
৫৭৪.	১৫৬.		কাউলিল রোড, মাতুয়াইল উত্তর পাড়া, যাত্রাবাড়ী	
৫৭৫.	১৫৭.	৬৪	কাউলিল ওয়াপসা রোড, কাউলিল, যাত্রাবাড়ী, ঢাকা।	
৫৭৬.	১৫৮.		দরবার শরীফ রোড, পাড়া ডপার, যাত্রাবাড়ী, ঢাকা।	
৫৭৭.	১৫৯.		মাতুয়াইল মেন্দী বাড়ী, মাতুয়াইল, যাত্রাবাড়ী, ঢাকা।	
৫৭৮.	১৬০.		ধার্মিক পাড়া প্রধান সড়ক, ধার্মিক পাড়া, ডেমরা, ঢাকা।	
৫৭৯.	১৬১.		মুন্সিক পাড়া, ধার্মিক পাড়া, ডেমরা, ঢাকা।	
৫৮০.	১৬২.	৬৫	শাহজালাল রোড, পাড়া ডপার, ডেমরা, ঢাকা।	
৫৮১.	১৬৩.		সিরাঙ্গা উদ্দিন রোড, পাড়া ডপার, ডেমরা, ঢাকা।	
৫৮২.	১৬৪.		আদর্শবাগ রোড, আদর্শবাগ, যাত্রাবাড়ী, ঢাকা।	
৫৮৩.	১৬৫.		মুন্সী প্রাঙ্গা সামনে, পাড়া ডপার, যাত্রাবাড়ী, ঢাকা।	
৫৮৪.	১৬৬.		মাতুয়াইল পুরান পাড়া মসজিদ রোড, মাতুয়াইল দক্ষিণ পাড়া, যাত্রাবাড়ী।	
৫৮৫.	১৬৭.	৬৬	মাতুয়াইল ইন্স পলি, মাতুয়াইল দক্ষিণ পাড়া, যাত্রাবাড়ী।	
৫৮৬.	১৬৮.		খানকা শরীফ রোড, দক্ষিণ মাতুয়াইল, কদমতলী, ঢাকা।	
৫৮৭.	১৬৯.		মুজাহিদ নগর মেখার বাড়ীর সামনে, দক্ষিণ মাতুয়াইল, কদমতলী, ঢাকা।	
অঞ্চল-১০				
৫৮৮.	১.	৬০	শনির আখড়া, আর এস টাওয়ারের উত্তর দিকের বালি জায়গা	
৫৮৯.	২.		মুন্সিক সরলী ২৪ ফুট সংলগ্ন বালি জায়গা	
৫৯০.	৩.		পিএনপি বাজার সংলগ্ন বালি জায়গা	
৫৯১.	৪.		জনতাবাগ চৌরাস্তা সংলগ্ন বালি জায়গা	
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৫৯৩.	৬.	৬১	আয়েশা মোশারফ মার্কেটের পূর্ব দিকের রাস্তার বালি জায়গা	
৫৯৪.	৭.		দক্ষিণ রায়েরবাগ বাজার সংলগ্ন বালি জায়গা	
৫৯৫.	৮.		দনিয়া হাজী নাসির উদ্দিন রোডের দক্ষিণ দিকে বালি জায়গা	
৫৯৬.	৯.		দক্ষিণ দনিয়া ইতালি মার্কেট সংলগ্ন বালি জায়গা	
৫৯৭.	১০.		দনিয়া যুবশক্তি ক্লাব সংলগ্ন বালি জায়গা	
৫৯৮.	১১.	৬২	দনিয়া বাজার রোডের বালি জায়গা	
৫৯৯.	১২.		রসুলপুর শাহী মসজিদ রোড সংলগ্ন বালি জায়গা	
৬০০.	১৩.		কুতুবখালী খালপাড়া বিশ্বরোড সংলগ্ন বালি জায়গা	
৬০১.	১৪.		উত্তর দনিয়া পানির পাশে সংলগ্ন বালি জায়গা	
৬০২.	১৫.		বর্মশালা স্কুল সংলগ্ন বালি জায়গা	
আ. হ. ম. আব্দুল হাক্কান নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী বর্জ ব্যবস্থাপনা বিভাগ ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন				
জিডি-১৯৯৮				