

THE KANCHPUR-MEGHNA-GUMTI BRIDGES ARE BEING BUILT WITH HIGHLY DUCTILE GRADE 420 BSRM ULTIMA BARS



SHAH CEMENT

ACHIEVED Superbrands AWARD



In a dire state

Ferry services on Paturia-Daulatdia, Shimulia-Kathalbari routes hit hard due to current, poor navigability

OUR CORRESPONDENT, MANIKGANJ

Ferry services across the Padma continue to be disrupted due to strong currents and poor navigability, affecting both travellers and businesses.

There are long tailbacks at ferry terminals on the two major routes -- Paturia-Daulatdia and Shimulia-Kathalbari. The situation has been worsening for the last two weeks.

At Paturia ferry terminal in Manikganj, a truck driver yesterday said he was stranded there for nearly two days.

"The long delays are likely to affect shipping costs of goods," said Amjad Hossain, who reached Paturia around 8:00pm on Wednesday and was able to board a ferry with a cargo of iron rods yesterday evening.

The tailback mostly of trucks reached nearly five kilometres yesterday afternoon.

The picture was similar on the other side of the Padma at Daulatdia ferry terminal in Rajbari.

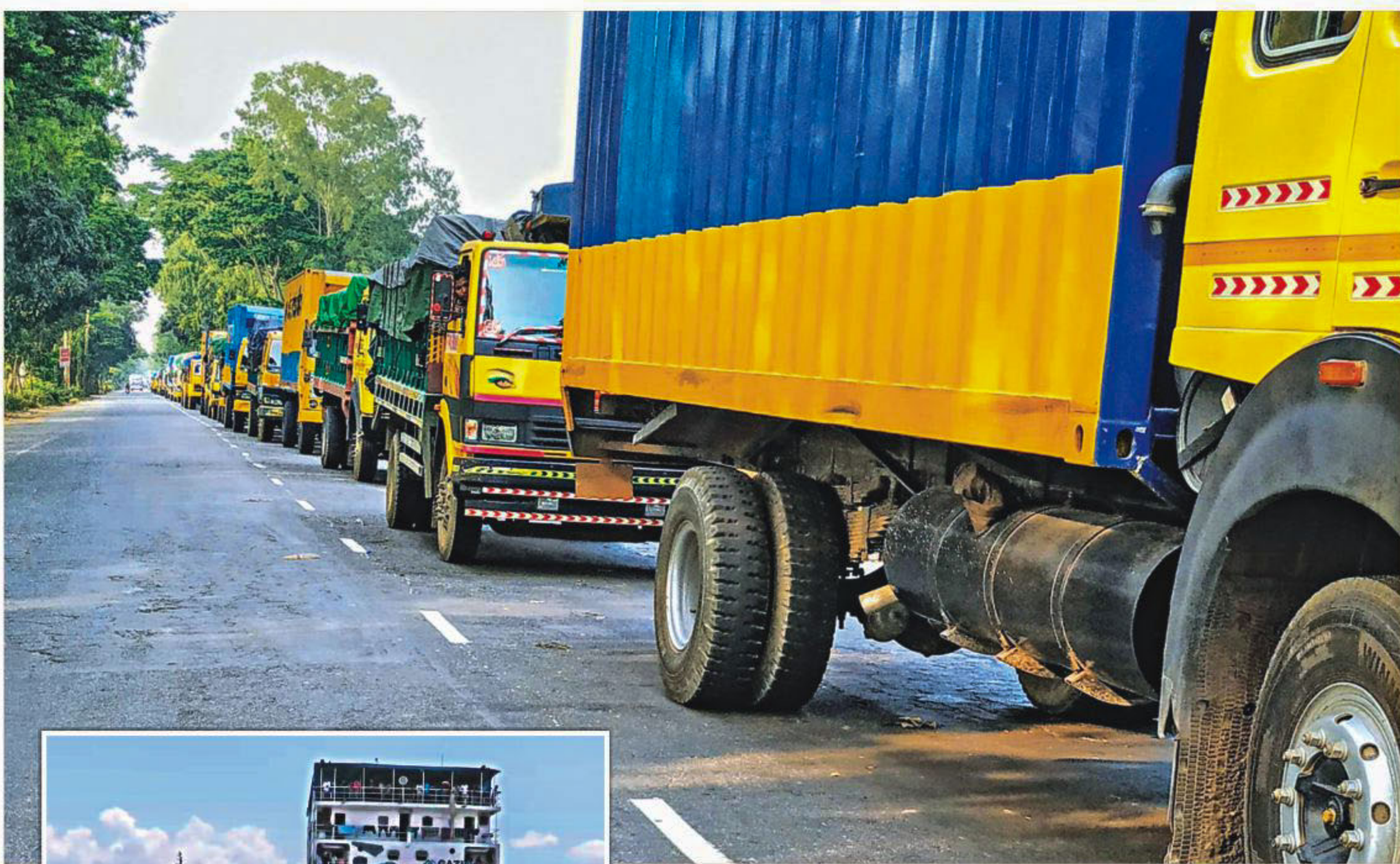
Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) officials said over 700 mostly large vehicles were waiting to cross the river.

"I have been waiting for three hours in the scorching sun. It is painful," Afsar Hossain, passenger of a Magura-bound bus, told this correspondent yesterday morning.

Mohiuddin Rasel, assistant manager (commerce) of BIWTC in Paturia, said ferries were taking twice the time needed to cross the river. It reduced the number of trips across the river.

Meanwhile, the number of vehicles at Paturia-Daulatdia further increased as many motorists, who would have been using the Shimulia-Kathalbari route at other times, are now using the Paturia-Daulatdia route, hoping to cross the river faster.

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Vehicles in a long queue wait to cross the Padma from the Paturia terminal in Manikganj yesterday afternoon amid disruption of ferry services due to poor navigability and strong currents in the river. Inset, ferries anchored at Shimulia terminal in Munshiganj as their operations on Shimulia-Kathalbari route remain suspended.

PHOTO: STAR

UN alarmed over India's Rohingya deportation

EU sends fact-finding mission to Myanmar to weigh sanctions

AGENCIES

The UN yesterday voiced alarm over India's deportation of seven Rohingya men to Myanmar despite warnings they could face persecution in a country where the military is accused of genocide against the Muslim minority.

The UN refugee agency said it was "greatly concerned" for the safety and security of the seven men who were returned to Myanmar from India on Thursday.

The men, who had been in detention for immigration offences since 2012, were handed over to Myanmar authorities at a border crossing in India's northeast state of Manipur.

Before their deportation, the United Nations had expressed concern that returning the men ignored

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AL man shot dead as two factions clash in Faridpur

10 more injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A man was shot dead and 10 others, three of them bullet-hit, were injured as two groups of ruling Awami League clashed over establishing supremacy in Faridpur's Boalmari upazila yesterday morning.

Some houses were damaged and looted during the clash in Joypasha village, locals said.

The deceased, Nadim Uddin Ali, 20, was son of Idris Ali of the village.

Locals said there had been a longstanding conflict between Syed Abul Bashar Mia, president of Boalmari upazila Krishok League and also former chairman of Boalmari Upazila Parishad, and Abu Sayed Mia, an AL activist and a former member of Parameshwardi Union Parishad, over establishing dominance in the locality.

Bashar is a supporter of Ariful Rahman Dolon, vice-president of Krishok League central committee, while Sayed is a follower of Kazi Sirajul Islam, former local lawmaker and also vice-president of Krishok League central committee.

A football match was scheduled to be held on AC Bosh Institute field around 3:00pm yesterday. Ariful was to be present there as the chief guest. So, Bashar "forced" Sayed's supporters in the morning to join the programme.

SEE PAGE 12 COL 3

India seals missile deal with Russia

To purchase \$5.2b surface-to-air missile defence system amid US warning of sanctions

AFP, New Delhi

Russia and India's leaders yesterday announced a raft of deals worth billions of dollars including for a military defence system, as New Delhi walks a tightrope between Moscow and Washington with a wary eye on China.

The flagship accord announced during a visit to India by President Vladimir Putin was for the formidable S-400 surface-to-air missile defence system, worth \$5.2 billion according to an Indian source.

Other agreements -- announced following a meeting between Putin and Prime Minister Narendra Modi that began with a hug -- were in railways, fertilisers and space, with Russia set to train astronauts for India's first crewed space mission in 2022.

"We welcome you as a leader of a country which has second-to-none relations with us," Modi told a joint news conference. "Today we have taken decisions that will make our long term relations even stronger."



Russia "reiterated its unwavering support to India for permanent membership in an expanded UN Security Council" and for India joining the Nuclear Suppliers Group of countries controlling access to nuclear technology, a joint statement said.

The talks also covered Russia potentially building a new nuclear power plant in India, and also India paying Russia \$2 billion for

SEE PAGE 12 COL 5

MEDICAL ADMISSION Tax official, 2 others held for selling 'fake questions'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

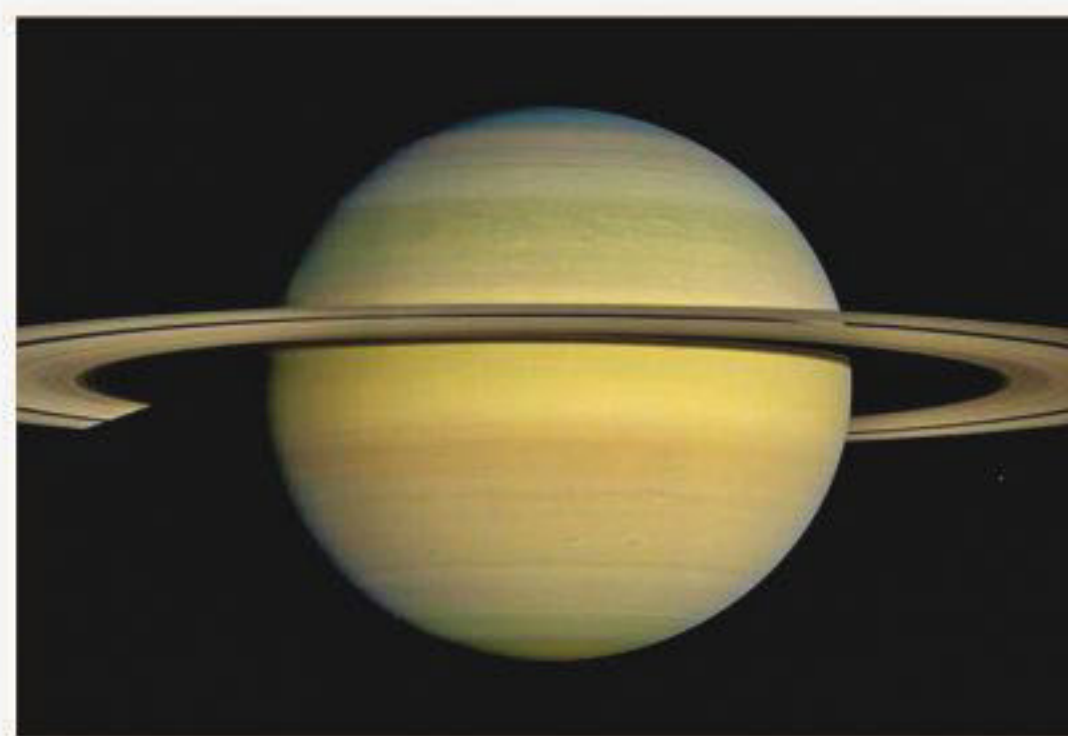
Detectives arrested three alleged fraudsters, including a tax official, in the capital early yesterday on charge of selling fake question papers of a medical college admission test.

The arrestees were identified as Abul Hossain, an official of Tax Zone-8, and his accomplices Ashiqur Rahman and Ehsanul Haq, both university students.

Acting on a tip off, a team from Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police conducted a drive in Mohakhali area between 12:00am and 2:00am and arrested the three along with fake medical questions, books, cell-phones and Tk 12,000 in cash, said

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Strange details of Saturn revealed



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Nasa's Cassini spacecraft has revealed new details about Saturn -- and found it much more strange than we'd ever expected.

The famous rings that sweep around the planet are far more chemically rich than scientists had previously imagined. They discovered expected things, such as water, but also found organic material present in there too.

And new findings about the planet's magnetic field show that it is more structured than expected. But it gave no clues about how it was actually formed, continuing to puzzle scientists study it.

The findings are the latest discovery from the last batch of data sent by Nasa's Cassini spacecraft. The

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Khaleda to be admitted to BSMMU soon

Says senior jail super

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will be shifted to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) for treatment shortly, Senior Jail Superintendent of Dhaka Central Jail Iqbal Kabir said yesterday.

The process is underway, said Kabir. But he did not disclose exactly when she would be brought to the hospital from jail.

Mahmudul Hasan, a physician of Dhaka Central Jail, said they informed Khaleda about the High Court order to send her to the BSMMU yesterday afternoon. She agreed to take treatment there, but sought one or two days before being shifted.

Sources at the BSMMU yesterday said two cabins

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The blockade of Shabbagh intersection continues for the third consecutive day yesterday to protest the scrapping of freedom fighter quota for class-I and class-II jobs in civil service.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Reinstate 30pc FF quota in govt service

Protesters ask govt; block Shabbagh for third day

DU CORRESPONDENT

Protesters demanding reinstatement of freedom fighters' 30 percent quota in class-I and class-II government jobs continued their demonstration in the city's Shabbagh for the third straight day yesterday.

As per their previous announcement, about 100 demonstrators, including people aged above 40, blocked the Shabbagh intersection around 3:00pm, disrupting traffic in and around the area on the weekend.

Under the banner of newly formed platform "Muktijuddho Moncho", the protesters placed barriers at the intersection and sat on the streets chanting slogans.

They started the protest in the afternoon to comply with a request from Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan to consider any possible suffering of medical college admission seekers.

Meanwhile, a group of physically challenged people staged another demonstration at the same place yesterday morning, protesting the scrapping of the quota system. They demanded keeping 5 percent quota for them in class-I and class-II government jobs, which was 1 percent before the abolishment of the quota.

Talking to The Daily Star, Aminul Islam Bulbul, one of the organisers of the protest, said ending the quota system was an "insult" to freedom fighters.

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SIBL
Social Islami Bank Limited
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PRAYER TIMING
OCTOBER 6

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-45 12-45 4-15 5-53 7-30
JAMAAT 5-20 1-15 4-30 5-56 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION