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## Homegoers' trips turn chaotic

Long wait at bus, ferry terminals; ferries take more time due to strong current; trains run one to three hours' late

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eid holidaymakers faced long delay on their way home yesterday due to disruption of ferry services, long tailbacks on highways and late departure of some trains.

People heading for southwestern districts such as Khulna Jessore, Barisal are among the worst sufferers, as they had to wait for hours, first at bus terminals and then at ferry terminals. Ferry services were disrupted because of strong current in the Padma River.

Those bound for northeastern regions were stuck for hours in tailbacks on Dhaka-Bogura, Dhaka-Rajshahi and Dhaka-Mymensingh highways.

And like the previous day, most intercity trains heading for northwestern districts ran one to three hours behind schedule.

"The overall situation is very bad," said Osman Ali, general secretary of Bangladesh Road Transport Workers Federation.

Although the three-day public holiday for the Eid will begin Sunday, a large number of government and non-government employees left Dhaka yesterday. Many of them took leave for Wednesday (August 14), the only working day next week, to make their vacation longer.

FERRY TERMINAL: ANOTHER NAME OF SUFFERING

Ferry services at Shimulia-Kathalbari terminals saw a huge pressure of vehicles yesterday as operation of ferries, launches and speedboats resumed after 17 hours of suspension due to rough wave and strong current.

More than 300 vehicles were waiting at Shimulia end at 7:00pm, said Abdul Alim, manager (commerce) of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) at Shimulia terminal.

Only four ferries were in operation in the morning due to bad weather. The authorities were able to operate all the 16 ferries only after 12:00noon, when weather became normal.

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Vehicles negotiate a flooded road in the capital's Nayapaltan area yesterday. Rain throughout the day inundated most of the streets in the city, causing people to suffer.

PHOTO:  
RASHED SHUMON

## PM returns home after 20 days

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina returned home yesterday morning from London, wrapping up her official visit to the United Kingdom.

A VVIP flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines carrying the PM touched down at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 10:45am.

Leaders of Awami League and its associate bodies greeted the PM at the Gono Bhavan after she reached there from the airport.

Obaidul Quader, Tofail Ahmed, Matia Chowdhury, Mahbubul Alam Hanif, Hasan Mahmud, Enamul Haque

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## DENGUE OUTBREAK

# Cattle markets to heighten risks

Water of wet hay in the markets suitable for Aedes breeding, says expert

HELEMUL ALAM and MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

The heavy rains in Dhaka since Wednesday have increased the chances of Aedes mosquitoes breeding in cattle markets.

A total of 24 makeshift cattle markets have been set up for the upcoming Eid-ul-Azha, where several lakh sacrificial animals have been gathered.

Experts fear the conditions there may become favourable for mosquitoes to breed.

"The water of wet hay is very suitable for breeding by Aedes mosquitoes. If the water from the hay pools some place, that becomes an even more favourable place," said entomologist Kabirul Bashir of Jahangirnagar University.

He said they usually make ovitrap to

collect Aedes mosquitoes and their eggs.

"We put water from wet hay into the ovitrap to attract Aedes mosquitoes to lay eggs," he said.

An ovitrap is a device which consists of a dark container with water and a substrate where mosquitoes can lay their eggs. The eggs then fall through the mesh into the water, where the larvae hatch and develop into pupas.

Bashar said straw was a staple in the diet for cows and many cattle traders would bring it to the markets. If there was heavy rain, the hay would get wet and then attract Aedes mosquitoes to lay eggs there.

"Cleaning the cattle markets properly is very important to destroy these breeding places," said Bashar.

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## RIFAT MURDER CASE HC rejects Minni's bail petition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court has refused to grant bail to Ayesha Siddika Minni in connection with a case filed over her husband Rifat Sharif's murder.

The bench of Justice Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman passed the order yesterday.

While hearing Minni's bail petition, the HC bench said it would issue a rule asking the government to explain why Minni should not be granted bail in the case.

Meanwhile, petitioner's advocate ZI Khan Panna withdrawn the bail petition from the HC bench saying he would move the same petition before another HC bench.

Additional Attorney General Momtaz Uddin Fakir, advocate for the

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## DHAKA-JASHORE HIGHWAY

# A trucker's trip not free at all

Star reporter travels on cattle-laden truck to learn about extortion on road

MOKAMMEL SHUVO, back from Jashore

There was no visible proof of illegal toll collection by law enforcers from cattle-laden vehicles on Jashore-Dhaka highway during a journey on the 250km route.

But extortion in the name of different transport workers' associations and municipalities and also by local goons was seen at seven points of this highway.

Besides, local drivers alleged that monthly toll collection from trucks by a section of unscrupulous traffic personnel was going on as usual.

This correspondent boarded a cattle-laden truck from Saatmile Bazar in Sharsa upazila of Jashore on Tuesday to get the first-hand knowledge of extortion from such vehicles.

Another purpose was to verify cattle traders' claim that illegal toll collection on highways is a big factor behind the high prices of the sacrificial animals.

According to truckers, police used to



charge up to Tk 400 each from cattle-laden vehicles at several points on the highway, including Ramnagar in Magura, Rajbari intersection and Kanaipur in Faridpur, and Paturia. But it stopped around a week ago.

During the journey, the driver told this correspondent that they pay Tk 2,000 per month to a certain traffic police officer, who provides them with "a pass for free movement" in any district.

If stopped by any traffic police anywhere

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Rahima Akhter taking care of her daughter Jannatul at Mughda Medical College and Hospital in the capital yesterday. The girl, 7, was admitted to the hospital with dengue fever on Wednesday.

PHOTO:  
SK ENAMUL HAQ

