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"He's (UK PM Boris Johnson) a proven liar who's engulfed in sleaze and we can't have another couple of months of this."

UK Labour's deputy leader
Angela Rayner



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Homegoers get stuck in tailbacks

Sufferings unbound on highways to northern districts; trip to South relatively smoother

SHARIFUL ISLAM and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

People going to their hometowns from Dhaka to spend Eid suffered immensely due to shortage of buses, long tailbacks on the highways and delayed trains.

Tailbacks reached about 25km on Dhaka-Mymensingh and Dhaka-Tangail highways at times yesterday.

Hundreds of people heading to the southern districts travelled on the flatbed of trucks and pickups paying exorbitant sums as there were not enough buses to carry them.

As the train schedules fell apart, some going to the north-western districts had to wait at Kamalapur Railway Station for seven hours.

In Elenga area on Dhaka-Tangail highway, SK Enamul Haq said, "My wife, son and I left Shyamoli [in the capital] in my car around 6:00am for my village home and I am still here on the road after more than 14 hours."

He added that the entire journey would have taken about two and a half hours if the traffic was normal.

Like him, thousands of people, including women, children and the elderly spent hours on the road in scorching heat.

Sadi Rosni Suchana, a TV presenter, told The Daily Star that her sister left for their home in Naogaon from Chattogram around noon on Thursday. "After 31 long hours on the road, the bus was only able to cross the Bangabandhu Bridge on the Jamuna."

She added that the bus had air conditioning, but it stopped working on the way.

Quader Mia, a trader from Karwan Bazar, was going to Gaibandha from Dhaka with his wife and three children. His bus left Gabtoli terminal around 11:00pm on Thursday and only reached the eastern side of Bangabandhu Bridge at 8:00am yesterday.

"The whole road is jammed. My children became sick being in the bus the whole night in this hot and humid weather. We do not have food, water, and there is no toilet," Quader told The Daily Star.

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ALAM KHAN (1944-2022)

Adieu, music maestro

AAQIB HASIB

"Hayre Manush, Rongin Fanush, Dom Furalei Thush".

These unforgettable lines, etched in Bangladeshi musical history, reminds us just how fragile our existence really is.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



Hope against hope

Govt's plan to reduce power outage by Sept may hit snag, experts suggest renegotiating capacity charges

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and ASIFUR RAHMAN

The government has assured people suffering from severe power cuts that the situation will improve after September when three new coal-based power plants start operation, but experts expressed doubts about it.

The new power plants are the Rampal power plant, the second unit of Payra power plant and Adani Godda power plant in India.

These power plants are to run on imported coal at a time when the forex reserves of the country are strained.

After a meeting at the Prime Minister's Office on Thursday, Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, energy adviser to the PM, made the assurance that there would be some relief from load-shedding from September.

He argued that three new coal-based power plants will come into operation by that time.

But the reality is, while the country's two running coal-fired power plants have the capacity to plug shortfalls in power generation, those are also suffering from a shortage of coal and lack of transmission lines.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Japan ex-PM Abe assassinated

Suspect held; world leaders condemn killing

AGENCIES

Former prime minister Shinzo Abe, the longest-serving leader of modern Japan, was gunned down yesterday while campaigning for a parliamentary election, shocking a country where political violence is rare.

Abe was pronounced dead around five and a half hours after the shooter opened fire on him from behind as he spoke to members of the public from a traffic island in the western city of Nara.

The murder of the 67-year-old stunned the nation and prompted an international outpouring of grief and condemnation.



It was all the more shocking given Japan's strict gun laws and low rates of violent crime, with Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, describing the killing as a "barbaric act" that was "absolutely unforgivable".

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed her deep shock and sorrow over the killing.

A suspect was arrested at the scene. Senior police officers later named the suspect as unemployed 41-year-old Tetsuya Yamagami, who said he had used a handmade gun.

PHOTO ON PAGE 12
BANGLADESH OBSERVES STATE
MOURNING TODAY -- SEE PAGE 2

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Politician who tried to reinvigorate Japan's glory

AGENCIES

Japan's longest-serving prime minister Shinzo Abe, who was assassinated yesterday, dedicated his life to reviving Japan's economy with his bold "Abenomics" policies, revising the post-WWII pacifist constitution, and restoring traditional values.

Abe, who left office in 2020, was shot and killed during an election campaign speech.

During a visit to the United States in February 2013, shortly after becoming Japan's PM for the second time, Abe declared, "Japan is back".



Holidaymakers on the packed Jamalpur Commuter head home to celebrate Eid. The other train, Dhaka-bound Bhawal Express, was almost empty at Gazipur's Sreepur Railway Station. There was intense rush of homebound passengers throughout yesterday.

PHOTO: ABU BAKAR SIDDIQUE

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Season-15

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GOT 20 LAC TAKA

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Md. Shahabuddin Ahmed
Father: Md. Ismail Hossain
Mahidia, Jashore

From Walton Plaza
Panishail, Kashimpur, Gazipur

Parvin Aktar, Father: Rahel Fokir
Latifpur, Kashimpur, Gazipur

GOT 5 LAC TAKA

From M/S. Faruk Agency
Trunk Road, Feni

Mr. Sabuj Miah, Father: Ruhul Amin
Dhumsadda, Feni Sadar, Feni

From Labib Marketing Company
Kalurghat, Chattogram

Mr. Mohammad Esha, Father: Md. Selim
Motora, Chandgaon, Chattogram

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OR PRODUCTS WORTH OF CRORES TAKA FREE

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- This campaign is conducted by fully computerized system fairly.
- Digital campaign facilities will be void in case of more than 3 registrations of fridge from the same mobile number in a year.
- The authority reserves the right to change the campaign anytime.

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