

## 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.

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.



PHOTO ON PAGE 12

BANGLADESH OBSERVES STATE MOURNING TODAY -- SEE PAGE 2

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

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".

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2



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

"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



**EID MUBARAK**

The Daily Star wishes its valued readers, patrons, advertisers and well-wishers a very happy Eid

### HOLIDAY NOTICE

#### The Daily Star

offices will remain closed for 3 days from today on account of Eid ul-Azha. There will be no issue of the newspaper from July 10-12. However, our digital version will serve the readers 24/7 during the holiday.



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## 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

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