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Eid rush home mostly hassle free so far

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thousands of homebound people left Dhaka yesterday via road, rail, and waterways for the Eid-ul-Fitr holidays, and their journey was mostly hassle-free.

Most trains left the capital as per schedule, while buses left 20 to 30 minutes late on average, citing a lack of passengers, and the Sadarghat launch terminal had yet to see a large crowd.

Meanwhile, there was no significant congestion reported on any of the country's major highways.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday assured Eid holidaymakers that there will be no traffic congestion on highways this time.

"There will be traffic pressure, but I can say there will be no congestion," Quader said at an inauguration programme at his secretariat office.

He opened one railway overpass, seven road overpasses, and two bridges on the Tangail-Rangpur Highway virtually from his office.

He also inaugurated the second

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BEATING THE HEAT... A mother removed her son's sweaty shirt and placed a wet towel on his head to keep him cool under the hot summer sun. She is one of many shoppers visiting Khulna city yesterday to do their shopping as Eid drew near. The photo was taken from Dakbanga Mor on Clay Road.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

C-SECTION DEATH IN RAJSHAHI

Probe team finds no error in treatment

Fingers pointed at IV fluid; deceased's husband rejects probe findings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A probe committee has found no negligence in the treatment of Asma Khatun, who died at RMCH after a caesarian section at Islami Bank Medical College Hospital (IBMCH) in Rajshahi last month.

Asma Khatun, 38, a manager at an NGO in Paba upazila, died of "acute renal failure" after she was rushed to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) on March 20, said Prof Abu Bakar Siddique, chairman of the six-member probe committee.

Another woman from Naogaon's Niamatpur upazila died at RMCH in a similar way that day, said Siddique, also a professor of the surgery department of IBMCH, a private hospital.

"We suspect an IV fluid used during the surgery caused the acute renal failure," he said, adding that the hospital authorities have sent a sample of the fluid to Dhaka to test if it was faulty.

The probe committee, formed by IBMCH authorities after Asma's death, is yet to submit the report to the Directorate General of Health Services, which is currently

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Galaxies become more chaotic as they age: study

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Galaxies become more chaotic the older they get, a study suggests.

According to the research, age is the driving force in changing how stars move within galaxies. Stars in galaxies start life rotating in an orderly pattern but in some the movement of stars is more random.

Until now scientists had been uncertain about what causes this, with the surrounding environment or the mass of the galaxy itself being possible reasons.

However, the new study found that neither of these things is the most important factor.

The findings show the tendency of the stars to have random motion is driven mostly by how old the galaxy is – things just get messier over time.

First author Professor Scott Croom, an Astro 3D researcher at the University of Sydney in Australia, said: "When we did the analysis, we found that age, consistently, whichever way we slice or dice it, is always the most important parameter."

"Once you account for age, there is essentially no environmental trend, and it's similar for mass."

"If you find a young galaxy it will be rotating, whatever environment it is in, and if you find an old galaxy, it will have more random orbits, whether it's in a dense environment or a void."

ELENGA-RANGPUR FOUR-LANE CONVERSION

More time, more money required

Bridges minister opens eight overpasses, two bridges

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The government in September 2016 approved a project to turn a 190km two-lane road from Elega to Rangpur into a four-lane highway with the view to boosting connectivity between the capital and the northern region.

The mega project, implemented by the Roads and Highways Department with loans mostly from the Asian Development Bank, was supposed to be implemented within June 2021 at a cost of Tk 11,899 crore.

However, the project authority could not start the physical works until 2020 and added some new elements, resulting in a major revision of the project.

Now, the revised cost of the project is Tk 19,016 crore and the deadline is December this year.

The project saw 75 percent progress so far as the authority could not even start construction of two major flyovers in Gaibandha due to long delays in land acquisition.

So, the project authority sought two more years, including a one-year defect liability period, and Tk 40 crore to complete the job.

The revision proposal is now

pending with the road transport and highways division and will be sent to the Planning Commission soon, according to officials informed with the proceedings.

If the proposal is approved, the

under the project.

"These are opened to traffic as the prime minister's Eid gift to homebound people," Quader said after opening the structures virtually.

If the proposal is approved, the project cost will rise to Tk 19,056 crore, which is 60 percent higher than the original estimate. The new deadline will be December 2026, which is five-and-a-half years more than the original timeframe.



project cost will rise to Tk 19,056 crore, which would be Tk 7,157 crore (60 percent) higher than the original estimate. The new deadline will be December 2026, which is five-and-a-half years more than the original timeframe.

In this situation, the Road Transport and Highways Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday opened one railway overpass, seven road

overpasses and two bridges built

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Gaza truce talks to resume today

UN humanitarian chief says war 'collective betrayal of humanity'

AFP, Palestinian Territories

American, Israeli and Hamas negotiators are expected in Cairo over the weekend in a renewed push for a ceasefire and hostage release deal in a war that reaches the half-year mark today.

Egypt's Al-Qahera News said CIA Director Bill Burns and Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani would join Egyptian mediators for today's indirect talks between the Israeli and Hamas delegations.

Ahead of the talks Hamas, confirmed its core demands – a complete ceasefire in Gaza and withdrawal of Israeli forces.

The ceasefire attempt comes after Israel's military made a rare admission of wrongdoing and said it was firing two officers over the killing of seven aid workers in Gaza where humanitarian aid is running low.

The admission did not quell calls for an independent probe, however.

The deaths of the workers from US-based World Central Kitchen (WCK) on April 1 led to a tense call between US President Joe Biden and Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Biden urged an "immediate ceasefire" and for the first time hinted at conditioning US support for Israel on curtailing the killing of civilians and improving humanitarian conditions.

Since October 7, Israel's relentlessly bombarded has killed at least 33,137 people, mostly women and children, according to the Gaza health ministry.

The UN humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths decried Israel's war against Hamas and called for a "collective determination that there be a reckoning for this betrayal of humanity".

Fears that the war could spread intensified after Iran

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'BALANCED ECONOMIC GROWTH' US, China agree to hold talks

AFP, Guangzhou

The United States and China have agreed to hold "intensive exchanges on balanced growth", the US Treasury Department said in a statement, after two days of talks between Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and her Chinese counterpart He Lifeng in Guangzhou.

The planned talks mark the latest step forward in joint efforts to stabilise rocky ties between the world's two leading economies since a meeting between presidents Joe Biden and Xi Jinping last November.

"These exchanges will facilitate a discussion around macroeconomic imbalances, including their connection to overcapacity, and I intend to use this opportunity to advocate for a level playing field for American workers and firms," said Yellen in a separate statement yesterday.

Overcapacity is seen by the United States as huge Chinese subsidies – to industries such as solar, electric vehicles and batteries – risking a surplus of cheap goods that threatens those sectors elsewhere.

After warning Friday that China's overcapacity could pose risks to economies around the world, Yellen told the media that she discussed the issue for "more than two hours" during yesterday morning talks with He.



Two farm workers have their work cut out as they take on the mammoth task of irrigating a vast watermelon field. As the watermelon plants reach their critical growth stage a month after seeding, they require more water for optimal growth. The photo was taken recently from Bajua village in Khulna's Dakop upazila.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

My health, my right

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PRAYER TIMING
APRIL 7

	Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	4:28	12:45	4:45	6:21	7:45
JAMAAT	4:38	1:15	5:00	6:31	8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

RAMADAN	APRIL	SEHRI	IFTAR
27	7		6:21
28	8	4:22	6:21
29	9	4:21	6:21