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It was a rough day for Dhaka commuters yesterday. The capital experienced severe traffic disruptions as students protesting quota system in government jobs blocked key intersections from morning to evening, causing immense suffering for commuters. Due to a scarcity of public transportation, many had to walk to reach their destinations. The situation became normal after 8:00pm. Students also declared to continue their anti-quota movement today. The photos were taken in Paribagh, Farmgate, Science Lab and Motijheel areas.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON, PALASH KHAN



WHAT THEY SAID ABOUT
ANTI-QUOTA PROTEST

“

We gained an independent state through the Liberation War, only to escape discrimination. The constitution emphasises that. The quota system in employment is unconstitutional.

GM QUADER
Jatiyo Party Chairman

“

We must respect the rule of law and since the issue is still pending with the High Court, and a definite verdict will be given by our Supreme Court.

MOHIBUL HASAN CHOWDHURY
Education Minister

“

We are observing the movements closely. I believe the issues will be resolved. The issue for which the students are protesting is not a decision of the government; it is a court ruling.

OBAIDUL QUADER
AI General Secretary

People suffer amid ‘Bangla Blockade’

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

Dhaka descended into a chaos yesterday as student protests demanding reforms in the government quota system for jobs brought traffic to a standstill. Long lines of vehicles, including private cars, buses, CNG-run auto rickshaws, remained stranded for hours, unable to move an inch.

The impact on commuters was immediate and widespread. Job holders and students found themselves running late, their schedules thrown into disarray. Rickshaw-pullers, CNG-run auto-rickshaw drivers, and ride-sharing app drivers all saw their earnings plummet as the gridlock brought the city to a standstill.

The ordeal began early in the day with Dhaka College students taking over the Science Lab intersection, triggering traffic jams that spread across major roads like Azimpur-New Market to Mirpur and Gabtoli.

By 4:00pm, the gridlock intensified as students blocked more intersections, including Shahbagh, Hotel Intercontinental turning, Banglamotor, Karwan Bazar, and Chankharpul.

This brought vehicular movement to a near halt, with reports of severe congestion in Tantibazar, Ray Saheb Bazar, Bangshal, Gulistan, Purana Paltan, Shahbagh, Karwan Bazar, Farmgate, Agargaon, Kazipara, Sheorapara, Mirpur-10, New Market, and Science Lab.

Private job holder Mahmudul Hasan described his ordeal traveling from Khilgaon to Farmgate.

“I got stuck in a massive gridlock near Hotel Intercontinental,” he said. “The journey typically takes 30-40 minutes, but due to the traffic, it took over an hour as I had to reroute through Moghbazar.”

College student Raid Hasan shared his frustration after being stuck in the Bijoy Sarani area for over 30 minutes. Similarly, Adnan Sejan, a commuter, said he was stuck in front of Square Hospitals in Panthapath for 40 minutes.

The situation worsened during the evening rush hour, leading to further congestion.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

PROTEST OVER PENSION Univ teachers carry on strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Academic and administrative activities at public universities across the country remain halted due to the indefinite strike by teachers, demanding the reinstatement of the teachers’ pension scheme.

Prof Nizamul Hoque Bhuiyan, secretary general of Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers’ Association (FBUTA) and president of Dhaka University Teachers Association, said they will continue their movement until their demands are met.

Teachers of 35 public universities have been refraining from work since Monday, demanding the reinstatement of the previous pension facilities instead of the newly introduced “Prottoy” scheme of the Universal Pension System.

Besides, Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader, while talking to reporters at the secretariat yesterday, said the government is closely monitoring the ongoing movements of the university teachers against a new pension scheme.

Quader, also the road transport and bridges minister, said he has been in touch with the teachers but couldn’t specify when a meeting would be held.

Meanwhile, Dhaka University Teachers

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

11.4pc in Bangladesh thalassemia carriers

Says BBS study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 11.4 percent of people in the country are thalassemia carriers, according to a new study by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).

According to BBS data, 11.9 percent of men are thalassemia carriers, while the percentage is 11.2 among women.

However, there is no government data on the number of thalassemia patients in the country or how many children have thalassemia.

Thalassemia is an inherited blood disorder that results in abnormal haemoglobin, leading to anaemia. A carrier of thalassaemia is someone who carries at least one of the faulty genes that causes thalassaemia, but does not have it themselves.

The findings of “National Thalassemia Survey 2024,” for which the blood of 8,680 people was tested across the country, were presented at BBS auditorium in the capital

According to the survey, the highest number of thalassemia carriers are found in Rangpur division (27.70 percent), followed by Rajshahi (11.30 percent) and Chattogram (11.20 percent). Dhaka division has 8.60 percent of the carriers.

yesterday.

Of the carriers, 11.9 percent are 14 to 19-year-olds, 12 percent are 20 to 24-year-olds, 10.3 percent are 25 to 29, and 11.3 percent are 30 to 35, the study result showed.

According to the survey, the highest number of thalassemia carriers are found

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal Hasan Mahmood Khan being adorned with the rank badge of Air Chief Marshal by Chief of Army Staff General Waker-Uz-Zaman and Chief of Naval Staff Admiral M Nazmul Hassan in presence of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Gono Bhavan yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

Armed forces, a symbol of our sovereignty PM tells event marking 49th anniversary of PGR

AGENCIES

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government has taken measures to make the armed forces more developed as they are the symbol of Bangladesh’s sovereignty.

The premier said this while addressing a programme arranged at PGR Headquarters in Dhaka Cantonment on the occasion of the 49th founding anniversary of President Guard Regiment (PGR), reports BSS.

She greeted the PGR members on the occasion of its founding anniversary

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6