

## Authorities ramp up measures for safe Eid travel

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Dhaka: The government as well as public and private service providers have taken several initiatives to ensure safe and smooth travel by road for home-bound passengers during the occasion of Eid al-Fitr.

As part of efforts, the government has opened new bridges and roads ahead of Eid. Relevant organizations have taken several initiatives, including reducing traffic congestion, ensuring passenger safety, stopping excessive ticket prices, and ticket black marketing.

Bangladesh Highway Police will be working nationwide to prevent any disruption during Eid travel. Members of Highway Police and various units of Bangladesh Police will be on patrol at 1,018 check posts and on 3,991 kilometers of highway, said reports citing police officials.

In a public notice issued on March 23, Dhaka Metropolitan Police said the movement of trucks, covered vans, and lorries on highways will be

banned from March 25 to March 28 and for three days after Eid.

To facilitate smooth travel during the Eid journey, the following roads should be avoided by all vehicles except those with urgent needs: Dhaka-Mymensingh Highway (Airport to Abdullaipur), Dhaka-Chittagong Highway (Jatrabari to Signboard), Purbachal Expressway (300 Feet Road), Dhaka-Aricha Highway (Mirpur Road: Shyamoli to Gabtali), Dhaka-Keraniganj Road (Fulbari to Tatibazar to Babubazar Bridge), Dhaka-Mawa Highway (Jatrabari to Buriganga Bridge), Mohammadpur Basila Crossing to Basila Bridge Road, and Abdullaipur to Dhour Bridge Road.

On the occasion of Eid, Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) is launching the 'Eid Special Service' from March 25. Advance ticket sales have started from BRTC depots from Thursday and Eid service buses will operate until April 5. BRTC has also provided the facility of bus reservation.

Apart from AC and non-AC buses, sleeper and business class suite buses are becoming popular in Bangladesh. Although these buses previously served only on the Dhaka-Chattogram-Cox's Bazar route, this time they will be operating across the country.

AC sleeper and business class suite services will be provided on Dhaka-North Bengal route, one of the longest highways. Burimari Express, Heritage Travels, Shanto Travels, and Shah Ali Paribahan have added luxurious buses to their fleets.

To avoid unnecessary crowding at the counters, save travel time and avoid excessive prices, the popularity of online tickets is increasing in Bangladesh. Many online ticket sales organizations have emerged in Bangladesh. Among them, BD Tickets, Sahojoyatri, Paribahan, and shohoz.com are notable.

In addition, this time, real-time updates of buses and a help center, for instance by shohoz.com, have been launched to reduce the suffering of passengers.

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