

Row Over Weekend Night Service Shuts London Underground



London, August 6 (RHC)-- Commuters in Britain's capital London face yet another day of chaos as staff on busy Underground lines have gone on a 24-hour strike. all Tube lines paralyzed by the strike which is second in a month over the night service dispute.

The walkout which began from 18-30 BST on Wednesday forced millions of Londoners to run for alternate services such as ferries and buses. Many people preferred to walk down or simply ride bicycles to reach their workplaces. There are reports of hundreds of traffic jams with most congested roads around Parliament Square where delays were close to one hour.

The industrial action brought by transport unions in dispute over introduction of 24-hour train services on weekends from September.

Unions have already rejected an offer made by London Underground (LU) and said they were left with no choice but to go ahead with the strike action.

The LU's offer included a 2% salary increase this year, plus an extra £200 per night shift for drivers for a limited time and a £500 bonus for night Tube staff. The offer did not impress the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers (RMT) that has been seeking guarantees about the number of weekend night shifts drivers and other staff will be forced to work.

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