

Consultant to assess traffic load of Dhaka City: Huda

UNB, Dhaka

The government is planning to appoint a consultant to assess traffic load of capital Dhaka in a bid to free the city dwellers from growing traffic congestion.

The consultant will find out pros and cons of Dhaka's traffic load capacity and thereby recommend how many cars, buses, rickshaws and other vehicles can be allowed to ply in the capital.

Communications Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda disclosed it while he was addressing the launching and contract signing ceremony of 2,000 pollution-free 800-cc taxicabs of Cab Express Bangladesh Limited at a city hotel on Sunday night.

He said the mega-city is apparently a small one with regards to load capacity.

Some new 800-cc black taxicabs launched by Cab-Ex already started plying the city streets and 2,000 such cars will go into operation in phases within next two

years.

State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar, Cab-Ex Chairman GM Siraj MP, DCCI President Matiur Rahman Mintoo, Cab Association of Bangladesh general secretary Anwarul Islam Tarek, Managing Director of Prime Finance & Investment T K Poddar and Cab-Ex managing director Khandaker M Azad also spoke on the occasion.

Disclosing another visionary plan of magnetic levitation electrical transport system, Communications Minister said that within next 3-4 years, people of Dhaka would be able to travel to Chittagong only by one hour.

"Sounds impossible? But I'm disclosing this immature plan that will be matured and you will be able to travel carrying your car in the train and return to Dhaka completing all your jobs," Huda said.

The Minister said by September 1, two-stroke auto-rickshaws

would be wiped out of the streets. He urged the cab businessmen to provide one taxicab against two two-stroke auto-rickshaws through exchange programme.

"And the government will consider so that two-stroke auto-rickshaws will be allowed to ply outside Dhaka, where pollution is till less," he said.

State Minister Lutfozzaman Babar said the government has taken some important steps to provide security to the taxicab drivers and passengers.

Mentioning the need for a modern city transport system, CAB general secretary Anwarul Islam Tarek said at present, some 2,500 taxicabs are plying on the street, but the number should be 10,000 to meet the demand of the city-dwellers.

DCCI president Matiur Rahman said that if the government allowed plying of taxicabs outside Dhaka, huge employment would be generated.

Belarus to open embassy in Dhaka soon

UNB, Dhaka

Belarus will soon open its embassy in Dhaka for strengthening bilateral relations, particularly for enhancing trade and investment.

Belarusian Ambassador to Dhaka based in New Delhi Vladimirov A Sakalouski disclosed the plan during a meeting with Commerce Minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury in the city yesterday.

The envoy of the breakaway Soviet Republic apprised the minister of his country's interest in importing jute and jute-goods, readymade garments and some other items from Bangladesh.

Laying emphasis on exchange of visits by trade delegations of the two countries, he said: "Existing

trade volume between the two countries is less than the potential."

As the Ambassador appreciated the investment policy of Bangladesh, the Commerce Minister requested through him his country's entrepreneurs to invest here.

For facilitating expansion of trade and business, the minister emphasised signing trade agreement between the two countries.

Welcoming the Belarusian ambassador, he said Bangladesh is keen to augment its trade volume in the entire CIS region, including Belarus, which is considered a potential market for Bangladeshi exports.

12 arms seized

BSS, Dhaka

Police recovered 12 firearms and 15 bullets during countrywide combing operation in the last 24 hours ending at 6:00 am yesterday.

Police during the drive also arrested 1,311 people including eight alleged identified criminals from across the country. Six people were held in connection with the arms recovery and six separate cases were filed under Arms Act against them, a police headquarter press release said.

Blair's photo presented to BRAC school

British High Commissioner Dr. David Carter yesterday presented the photograph of British Prime Minister Tony Blair's visit to BRAC School to the children of the school at Kelia, Dhamrai, says a press release.

The enlarged and framed photograph was signed by Tony Blair and his wife Cherie Blair.

The official photographer of 10 Downing Street took the photo when they visited the School on January 4 and saw the academic performance and extra-curricular activities of the schoolchildren.

Presenting the photograph, the High Commissioner said, "BRAC School was the most remarkable event for Mr. Blair during his visit to Bangladesh." He also added, "This photo is the mark of Prime Minister's and his wife's good will, good wishes and good fortune to the children."

Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Deputy Executive Director of BRAC, was also present on the occasion.



British High Commissioner Dr. David Carter presenting the signed photograph of British PM to the BRAC Schoolchildren at Kelia, Dhamrai, yesterday.

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PHOTO STAR
Amari League leaders saw Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and party chief Sheikh Hasina off at Zia International Airport in the city yesterday prior to her departure for London.

'Set up more poultry farms to create jobs'

BSS, Dhaka

"We have given priority to these sectors because of their potentials for creating job opportunities at home and making a place for agricultural and poultry products in the markets abroad," he said.

The minister assured the entrepreneurs of government's support and stressed the need for maintaining quality of the poultry products for increasing export.

Presided over by managing director of Kazi Farms Limited Jafedul Hasan, the inaugural function was also addressed by director of the Farms Kazi Jaheen Hasan, Laboratory Manager (Production) Dr Suwat and Deputy General Manager (Technical) Dr Joarder.

The minister called upon the authorities and the private entrepreneurs to take appropriate measures to help grow local market of the poultry products and increase purchasing capacity of the people.

He said the government of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has identified the poultry as a thrust sector and given priority to it along with the agri-sector.

CUTA polls today

CU CORRESPONDENT

The election to the Chittagong University Teachers Association (CUTA)

will be held today.

Three panels -- White, Pink and Blue -- are contesting the election.

The White Panel is backed by the ruling BNP and Jamaat coalition while the Pink

belongs to the opposition Awami League and the Blue is supported by its faction.

Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF), a left-leaning student organisation, submitted a memorandum to the Vice-Chancellor of the Dhaka University yesterday demanding steps to ensure the rights of the students.

Earlier, the central committee of the organisation decided to submit memoranda to all vice-chancellors of public universities of the country.

The SCF also brought out a procession and held a rally on the campus. Mahmudur Rahman Mamun and Janardon Dutta Nantu addressed the rally held at the Arts Building gate at about 12:00 Noon.

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PHOTO STAR
Maj Gen (retd) Ibrahim presented the National Flag and a bouquet to mayoral hopeful Sadek Hossain Khoka at a function on the Brothers Club premises in the city yesterday on behalf of the freedom fighters as a mark of support for him. Also seen in the picture (from left) are Naim Jahangir, ex-secretary general of the Mukti Joddha Central Command Council, and Rahat Khan, a veteran journalist.

Zaman new envoy to Philippines

UNB, Dhaka

The government has appointed M Munir-uz-Zaman as Bangladesh Ambassador to the Philippines.

A retired secretary, consultant and writer, Zaman, worked as an independent consultant on development projects, economic and public administration policies.

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Attractive compensation package will be offered to the eligible candidates.

Applications (3 copies) must reach to the Registrar, DIU on / before May 7, 2002

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