



PHOTO: STAR
Kendriya Khelaghar Asar took out a colourful procession in the city yesterday to mark the World Children's Day.

Measures to reduce traffic jam during Ramadan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Traffic Department of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) will take a number of measures including deployment of paramilitary

Bangladesh Rifles and Armed Police Battalion to ease traffic congestion in the city during the holy month of Ramadan.

Addressing a press conference at his office yesterday, DMP Commissioner Ashraf Huda said, 900 additional forces will be deployed in addition to existing 2,226 traffic policemen to ensure smooth traffic.

He said with the installation of electronic auto signal at 70 points in the city by the end of December, overall traffic jam will reduce significantly.

Huda said the Traffic Week that begins today will also help lessening traffic congestion making people aware of traffic rules.

Girls' guide and scouts alongside traffic police will be deployed at different bus stands to help people and transport workers know about the traffic rules, he added.

Pointing to various causes of traffic gridlock in the DMP area, Huda said 23,725 new mechanised vehicles are taking the city roads each year, but existing 3,000 kilometre-

roads are not increasing.

"An ideal city should have 22 to 25 percent areas for roads, but Dhaka has only eight percent areas for road," he added.

Huda said lack of coordination in giving route permit, frequent digging of roads by different utility services, people's ignorance about traffic rules, existing of 20 railway crossings, and political programmes on the roads are also responsible for traffic jam in the city.

A traffic police official said police and Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) will start seizing unauthorised rickshaws after October 12 and send them out of the city.

Some 79,000 licenses have been issued by the DCC for rickshaws, but now more than four lakh rickshaws are running on the streets.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Traffic South Zone Ansar Uddin Khan Pathan and DC North Zone Zahirul Islam were present at the press conference.

Bapa protests felling of trees at Panthakunja

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) and Osmani Udyan Tree Protection Movement yesterday strongly protested the felling of 60 trees at Panthakunja near the Hotel Sonargaon in the city.

They demanded explanation from the authorities concerned about why so many trees were cut down without any permission from the Dhaka City Corporation and Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk).

The leaders said trees were being removed from different areas in the name of beautification of the city for some time now.

They also called on the government to involve environmentalists in the policy-making process for beautifying the city.

A vested quarter cut down the

trees ignoring the demand of Bapa and other environmental organisations who formed a human chain and held a rally a few days ago calling for steps to protect all the parks, they said.

CU JCD to stage fast-unto-death programme for removal of VC

CU CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) of Chittagong University (CU) unit will begin a fast-unto-death programme on the campus on Monday demanding immediate removal of the vice-chancellor for his alleged corruption in appointing teachers, staffs and patronising Jamaat-Shibir activists.

The programme was announced by JCD leaders at a press conference at Nasiman Building in the port city yesterday.

JCD President Md Selim said VC Prof AJM Nuruddin Chowdhury appointed around 120 teachers after taking over the office. Of them, at least 80 are aligned with Jamaat-Shibir group.

JCD General Secretary M R Milton Chowdhury, Shafiqul Islam, Khorshed Alam and Nure Alam were present on the occasion.

The VC has, however, denied the allegations and said the JCD should be more responsible as it is the student front of the ruling BNP.

Boy found dead in goods train

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An unidentified boy was found dead in a goods train at Kamalapur Railway Station in the on Thursday.

Railway security guard Mohammad Amirul Islam found the body in the Surma Mail at around 12:45pm. The train arrived at the station from Sylhet at 10:05am.

The boy, aged about eight, was strangled, forensic experts at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital said.

US embassy closed tomorrow

The American Embassy offices, including the Public Affairs Section, Information Resource Centre and the student counselling service, will remain closed tomorrow on the occasion of Columbus Day, an American national holiday.

Columbus Day is celebrated to commemorate Christopher Columbus's arrival in the New World in 1492, says a US embassy special release.