

Check private cars to ease gridlock

Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday said controlling private cars and increasing facilities for walking would play an effective role in reducing traffic jam in the city.

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) Chairman Prof Muzaffer Ahmad said a jam-free balanced transportation system might be established by controlling private cars, increasing facilities for walking and incorporating rail and waterways in the system properly.

"Below five percent people in the city own a private car. It would turn out to be negative in bringing opposite result if elevated expressway is built considering such a low number of people," said Dr Mahbubul Bari, a communications expert.

In his keynote paper, Dr Bari said this at the roundtable 'Unbearable jam of Dhaka metropolitan city: An outline for practical solution' at Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. Bapa and WBB Trust jointly organised the event.



PHOTO: STAR

Prof Muzaffer Ahmad speaks at a roundtable on 'Unbearable jam in Dhaka city: An outline for practical solution' at Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. Bapa and WBB Trust jointly organised the event.

for a practical solution' organised by Bapa and WBB Trust at Cirdap auditorium.

Citing examples from foreign countries, he also suggested for not implementing the elevated expressway as the government has approved building the way spending Tk 80,000 crore.

Prof Mahbub-Ul-Nabi of Buet said the effort to build such a way would lead to the downfall of the country's economy.



PHOTO: PID
Members of the cabinet and high officials receive Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Zia International Airport in the city yesterday on her return from World Climate Conference-3 in Geneva.

PM returns home from Geneva climate confce

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina returned home yesterday after attending the World Climate Conference-3 in Geneva.

Deputy Leader in Parliament Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Finance Minister AMA Muhith, Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury, Health Minister Dr AFM Ruhal Hug, Chief Whip Abdus Shahid, chiefs of the three services, diplomats and high civil and military officials were present at the airport to receive the prime minister who alighted from Biman Bangladesh Airlines at 1:00pm.

Hasina went to Geneva on September 1. On September 3 she made a country statement at the conference seeking financial and technological assistance from the rich nations to help Bangladesh adapt to climate threats.

'Pay salaries, bonuses to workers by Sept 15'

DU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh National Council of Textile Garments and Leather Workers yesterday demanded payment of salaries and bonuses to workers of all industries, including garment factories, by September 15, says a press release.

It is called on all concerned to pay workers' wages and bonuses within the fixed date to help workers celebrate the upcoming Eid ul-Fitr with festivity as well as to ensure peace in the sector.

The council leaders placed the demand at a meeting in the city with labour leader Abdul Bashar in the chair.

They said paying salaries and bonuses to workers on time is a responsibility of the owners as well as BGMEA, adding that they cannot avoid it on any excuse.

Plan to set up multi-storey parking places

BSS, Dhaka

Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan yesterday said the government is planning to set up multi-storey parking places in the city's major important areas to avoid illegal car parking leading to reducing traffic jam.

"In this respect, an expert committee has already been formed," he said while addressing a discussion on 'Traffic jam and solutions' organised by Gono Odhikar Bastabayan Forum (GOBF) at Moni Sing-Farhad Trust in the city.

Tuku underscored the need for creating village-based employment opportunities for rural people so that they could stay at home in their respective areas.

Speakers at the discussion urged the government to take immediate steps to evict illegal occupiers from the city markets and other important establishments to ease congestion.

State Minister for Home Affairs advocate Shamsul Haque Tuku was present at the programme as the special guest.

GOBF convener and freedom fighter Syed Aftabul Alam chaired the function, which

was joined, among others, by a number of leaders and workers of GOBF.

Shahjahan said necessary steps would be taken soon to ease the gridlock that caused immense sufferings to the people here.

The minister held incoming of vehicles from outside Dhaka, rural migration and violations of rules and regulations by the drivers as mainly responsible for the jam.

As there was no lawyer for Mufti Hannan, he himself told the court that he is a convict for hanging to death, and questioned whether such an accused can be remanded or not.

He said he was tortured during his previous remand for 318 days.

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