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## No room for new vehicles

Vehicles already 7 times the road capacity

MUKHLESUR RAHMAN

The number of vehicles is around seven times the capacity of the roads in the capital.

In last six years, the volume of motorised and non-motorised vehicles has almost doubled, while the city has seen only two new thoroughfares--Doyaganj-Jurain and Bijoy Sarani-Agargaon--built in last two decades, said traffic management and road transport officials.

With 250-300 kilometres of roads, Dhaka has room for around 1.5 lakh vehicles. But it has to accommodate over 10 lakh vehicles, accounting for much of the unrelenting traffic congestion, they added.

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### TRAFFIC MESS

Vehicle status:

Over **10 lakh**

Vehicle capacity:

**1.5 lakh**

Vehicle arrival:

**180 a day**

Two new roads

since **1990**

**730 traffic men**

hired in **6 yrs**



This recent photo of Elephant Road shows an everyday scene of the capital overcrowded by exceeding number of vehicles. PHOTO: STAR

## 800 more buses to hit city roads

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is set to import 800 buses, including 400 from India, to ease transport in Dhaka city by replacing unfit buses gradually.

The new buses are expected to ply the city roads within next six months, Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain told The DailyStarThursday.

However experts said the new buses could cause more traffic congestion unless the government introduces bus rapid transit (BRT) system, a high-speed articulated bus service, before using the buses in the city.

Besides India, 300 buses will be imported from Korea and 100 from China.

"Indian auto manufacturers would be called soon for participating in a bidding process to supply the buses," said the communication minister adding that these buses will be imported under a

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TAXI STORY IN STAR BUSINESS

## Admission trade nets Tk 1cr in 3 colleges

NAJMUL ALAM NOBIN

Leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra League have made a huge sum of money from students seeking admission to first-year honours courses at different city colleges under National University.

They have grabbed over Tk 1 crore through this illegal admission trade at just three colleges in the capital--Dhaka College, Eden Women's University College and Kobi Nazrul College--promising them to ensure their desired subjects, said BCL insiders at these institutions.

Top two central leaders of the student organisation of the ruling Awami League are also involved in this admission trade, sources inside the BCL told The Daily Star.

In some cases, teachers of colleges concerned are also involved in this illegal practice under pressure from BCL leaders while a few teachers having connections with the BCL leaders get involved on their own.

The BCL leaders have recently raised their demand after the National University authorities decided to go online for the admission process for Dhaka College and Suhrawardy College, the sources said.

One leader of Kobi Nazrul College unit of BCL told The Daily Star that one student secured 524th position on the merit list in commerce group but he was given history, a

humanities group subject, instead of any subject of commerce group although there were some seats left in that group.

The student finally had to enrol for management paying top BCL leaders Tk 25,000.

The BCL leader said some 200 such cases have occurred in Kobi Nazrul College this year.

Sources said President Mahiuddin Sarkar and General Secretary Munna of BCL unit in that college control the admission trade.

Officials of the institution said the college has in total 1,520 seats for first-year honours courses, of which 600 are in humanities group, 520 in commerce and 400 in science group.

Usually, some seats are reserved for BCL leaders under what they call "political" quota. Teachers involved in the admission trade tell students that there are no seats left in some specific subject and later enrol students nominated by BCL leaders, the sources told The DailyStar.

At least 30 people were injured in a clash between BCL units of Jagannath University and Kobi Nazrul College over admission trade on January 28.

BCL sources said the clash ensued when a few BCL men of Kobi Nazrul College beat up Joy and Shafayet, members of Jagannath University unit of the party, who came to lobby for a student's admission.

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## Some HC judges warned over bail

AL leader HBM Iqbal asked to surrender before court by Feb 28

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The Appellate Division in a verdict cautioned a few High Court judges for granting bail to convicted fugitive Awami League leader HBM Iqbal, and for staying the order of his conviction ignoring "established principles of the law".

The apex court also cancelled the orders of the HC judges and directed Iqbal to surrender before a trial court by February 28 in connection with a corruption case, in which he was convicted and sentenced to 13 years' imprisonment.

The four-member bench of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice Md Tafazzul Islam in the judgment observed that this sort of orders of HC judges is deprecated. Three other judges of the Appellate Division bench were justices Md Abdul Matin, ABM Khairul Haque and Surendra Kumar Sinha.

"If the judges of the highest court ignore the established principles of law, such exercise of power in such circumstances would be deleterious to judicial discipline and in that event the administration of criminal justice will be jeopardised," the apex court said.

The Appellate Division termed Iqbal a fugitive since he had sworn in the affidavit for filing a writ petition with the HC, while staying abroad, challenging the order of his conviction and sentence.

"Besides, the learned advocates who move applications for fugitives shall also have to face the consequence of committing

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## Sylhet grassroots see Tarique adoration

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN and IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, from Sylhet

Bangladesh Nationalist Party started its meetings with grassroots leaders from Sylhet yesterday but the programme turned into a rally to praise Tarique Rahman with a mega participation of central leaders, who were mostly known

as Hawa Bhaban men during the BNP-led government's rule.

Even the name of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia was mentioned only for few times as most of the speakers praised the role of her son Tarique Rahman, senior vice chairman of the party.

None of the field level leaders got the

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## Dulal's double glory

Hosts take three more golds

SPORTS REPORTER

Golfer Dulal Hossain completed a delightful double when he won the individual gold of the 11th South Asian Games at the Kurmitola Golf Course yesterday.

The 19-year-old won the battle against compatriot Jamal Hossain Mollah, who took the silver, while another Bangladeshi Zakiruzzaman claimed the bronze to complete a sweeping success of the hosts in an event introduced for the first time in the regional gala.

Dulal, who shared the team event gold with Jamal and Sakhawat Hossain Sohel three days back, won the individual gold with a score of eleven under par 277 in the 72-hole competition.

Bangladesh also claimed two more gold on the ninth day of the competition with Sharmin Farjana Rumi making the nation proud by lifting the women's under-46kg event in taekwondo at the National Sports Council Gymnasium.

Away at the Sylhet BKSP, Eti Islam claimed the women's under-52kg wushu gold after a fierce battle with Sri Lanka's Wasanthi Lakmal.

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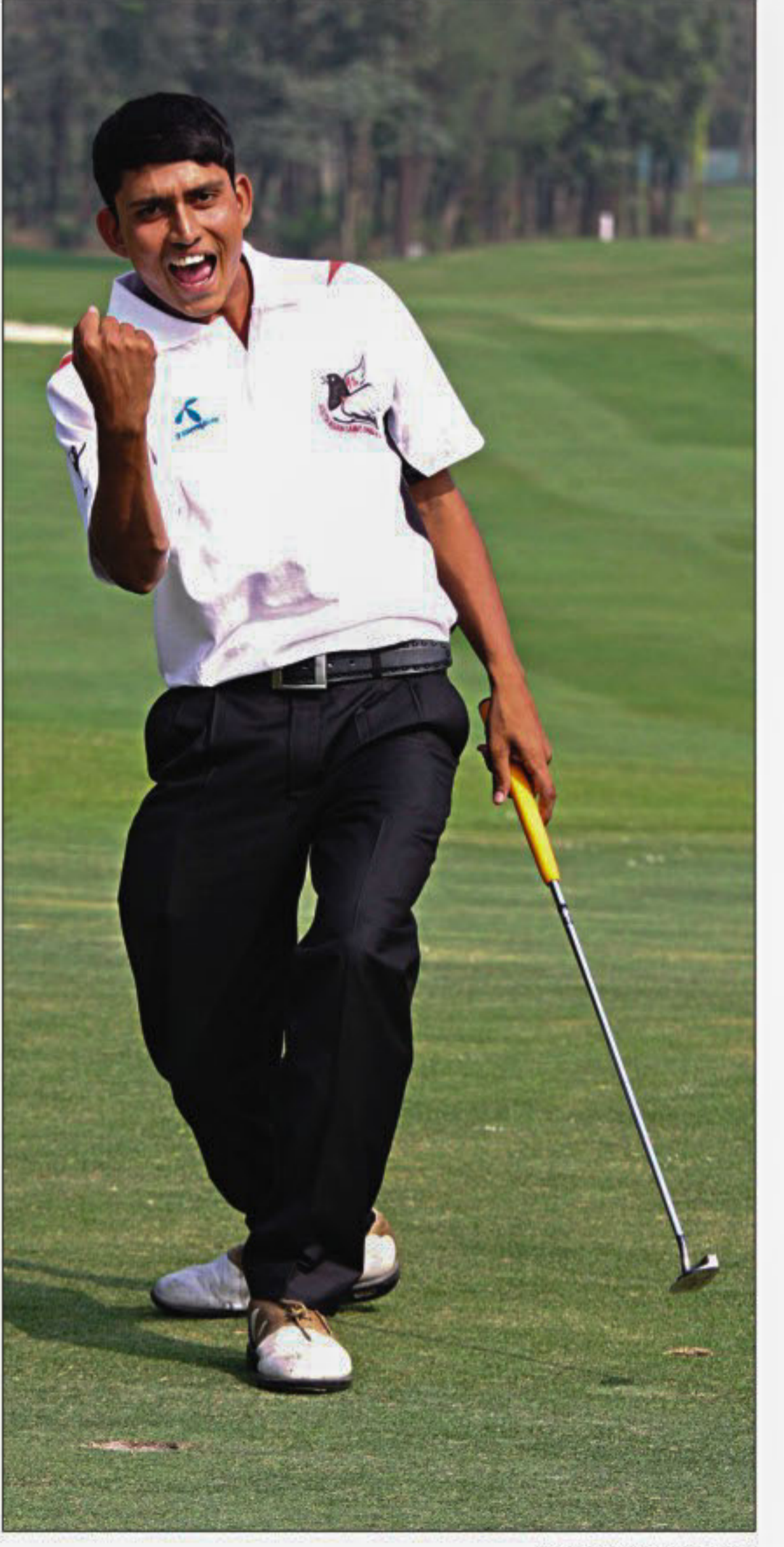


PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Bangladesh golfer Dulal Hossain clenches his fist after his final shot that confirmed his individual gold of the 11th South Asian Games at the Kurmitola Golf Course yesterday. He took the gold with a score of eleven under par 277 in the 72-hole competition after winning the team event gold three days ago.

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