

**READERS**

respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Sunday's The Daily Star report headlined 'Private cars fill 70pc city roads'.

**S Hossain**

It is very simple. Decentralise the country into eight to 10 divisions. Move all the industries from the capital city to those divisions. Stop grabbing lands for personal benefit. Stop import of any more cars for the next 10 years. Emphasise on using clean, sophisticated, public transportation. Improvements will be seen automatically.

**Junayed**

Most traffic congestions are caused by traffic personnel and inexperienced, uneducated drivers. The other day, I saw sergeant stopping a huge truck for inspecting its papers in the middle of the road in Mohakhali clogging the roadway. Now tell me who is to blame? I am sure, there are several more incidents like that we see in our daily life.

**Saklain**

If we think in a very simple way, we can find out that the main reason of traffic congestion in our city is because we have less room in the roads and a huge number of vehicles. Either, we should increase the room in the roads or reduce the number of vehicles.

The government cannot increase the room in the roads overnight, so we must go for the latter one for short-term solution. So, we must restrict private cars and introduce a huge number of comfortable/luxurious double-decker buses where even the car owners won't hesitate to get into with his family. Only then, we can reduce this horrible traffic problem.

**Saidur**

My economy is growing. Hence my life style should be improved. Hang on a second, we won't have a good transport system, still I will have to leave my personal car, I have to ration electricity, won't be able to open my shop to do business, etc. So, are we going ahead or going backwards!

**Zimmim Ahmed**

Security and quality of transport are

the major issues. Increasing parking charges, tolls and taxes is not going to do any good. All the vehicle prices have more than doubled over the last four to five years, but more and more new cars keep flooding the streets. Improving the present conditions just a notch will not attract people who travel by private cars. There has to be a significant change.

**Hossain**

No one has the hobby to buy a car and maintain such an expensive way to move. It's the fact that they have no other way but using a car as the condition of public transport is miserable. In addition, there is no sufficient public transport for the general people.

**Dr Shahidur Rahman**

Dhaka is now a city of shops and markets. Free footpaths from hawkers and construction materials and ensure parking discipline.

**Md Sirajul Islam Molla**

The number of private cars should be much less than 70 percent. Even then the number of private cars should be controlled. But, before that the government must ensure easy transportation for the car users. Until that can be ensured, more private cars will be coming on the roads.

**Md Shafiqul Bhuiyan**

Why don't the government stop the CNG stations for the cars and supply gas to the residential areas? If gas is not made available, the cars on the streets will vanish by 50 percent.

**Riyadh Hossain**

An alternative would be to introduce motorcycle usage to regular commuters through a financing programme, which would save fuel since these engines are merely 150cc each versus a car of 1300 cc. But for that, the government has to ensure safety mechanisms on roads.

The government has to implement a non-corrupt traffic system that is a complete and fresh new entity to maintain order.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, left, offers prayers during Akheri Munajat (concluding prayers) at the end of the first phase of Biswa Ijtema, one of the largest congregations of Muslims, at Ijtema ground in Tongi of Gazipur while Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, right, joins prayers from Atlas Industries Limited building there. (Story on Page 1)



PHOTO: PMO, BNP

**DUJA silver jubilee Feb 5**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University Journalists' Association (DUJA) will celebrate its silver jubilee with due festivity at TSC of the university on February 5.

All former members of the organisation and former DU correspondents of the different media are requested to complete their registration within January 30 for participating the daylong programme.

All members are requested to contact for registration Khairul Anwar Mukul, convener of the silver jubilee celebration committee, phone no 01713068944, Rakib Ahammed, president of Duja, 01552389208, Saidur Rahman, secretary, 01712996519 and Tariqul Islam, office secretary, 01710223878.

**Youth arrested**

UNB, Khulna

A youth was arrested along with two foreign made pistols at Potherbazar Check Post under Khanjahan Ali police station in the city yesterday.

The arrested was identified as Sumon, 22, son of Abu Taher of Mongla port area in Bagerhat.

**Sundarbans needs 20cr more votes**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh's vast mangrove forest, the Sundarbans, is still another whopping 20 crore votes away from being crowned as a new natural wonder of the world, according to campaigners.

They say problems arise, as overwhelming number of the country's 150 million people does not have access to the internet or telephones, the only vehicles to vote.

Because of high costs of long distance calls, a lot of people having mobile phones do not vote, said campaigner Abu Jubayer, also deputy director of Santo Mariom Foundation.

The foundation has been campaigning to collect votes for the Sundarbans and Cox's Bazar, two Bangladeshi sites nominated as natural wonders.

After Cox's Bazar was dropped from the list, the second phase of the campaign was launched on Wednesday with sole focus on the Sundarbans.

Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman, cricketer Khaled Masud Pilot, Indian actress Manisha Koirela, and singer Momtaz Begum

voted to launch the campaign's second phase.

The mangrove forest is now the only Asian forest to find place in the list of 28 finalists, said Abu Jubayer. "So, promoting the Sundarbans as a representative of Asia and Indian subcontinent is the priority of the campaign."

If selected as a natural wonder, the Sundarbans is expected to improve the country's national image and attract more tourists with other lasting economic benefits.

But the world's largest mangrove forest has long to go, as it contests against the likes of Mount Kilimanjaro of Japan, the Grand Canyon of United States, and the Cliffs of Moher in Ireland.

The campaign-ers said most of these places are more widely known to the world and people of the areas outnumber us and have wider access to technologies.

So, non-residence Bangladeshis should come forward and campaign for the forest from their respective countries as well, they added.

The new seven wonders of nature will be declared on November 11 this year.

**Rejoinder**

In a rejoinder to a report headlined "Rajuk stops drive under pressure" published in The Daily Star on Thursday (Jan 20), the International Recreation Club Ltd has said Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) demolished at least one third of the club's structure during its eviction drive on Wednesday (Jan 19).

Sanjay Saldanha, president of the club, signed the rejoinder on Thursday.

Talking to The Daily Star, the club president said, "We had no objection to what Rajuk did but we just want to clarify the profile of the club." Rajuk can demolish if the structures are illegal, he added.

He alleged that Rajuk has not taken any action against such other neighbouring clubs.

Formed in 1988, the club has 300 members from more than 50 countries including ambassadors, expatriates, and businessmen and that there is no Bangladeshi in the club, he said.

Sanjay Saldanha, however, admitted that the activities the club runs are of commercial nature though the plot is a residential one.

Rokon-Ud-Doula, executive magistrate of Rajuk, who had led the eviction team, said that there was no legal bar on the eviction drive.

*Overwhelming number of the country's 150 million people does not have access to the internet or telephones, the only vehicles to vote*

**Canada to help train nurses, midwives**

UNB, Dhaka

Canada has assured assistance for training nurses, midwives under its International Development Agency to strengthen the country's health sector.

The assurance came when visiting Canadian Minister for International Cooperation Beverly J Oda called on Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr AFM Ruhul Haque at the secretariat in the city yesterday.

Health minister described Canada as an important development partner and also thanked the Canadian minister for the cooperation.

Ruhul Haque said the government is working to bring the common people under the standard healthcare service, particularly to ensure healthcare for the poor who cannot afford.

He mentioned that community clinics could play an important role in ensuring minimum healthcare to the poor and marginalised people.

**'America Week' begins in Khulna today**

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Continuing the tradition to outreach across Bangladesh, the US embassy is sponsoring a three-day 'America Week' in Khulna beginning today.

America Week highlights the important ties between the people of the US and Bangladesh by taking the embassy's activities to people outside Dhaka.

This will be the second time that Khulna hosts America Week. Chittagong, Rajshahi, Barisal and Sylhet have hosted past America Weeks, says a press release.

This edition of America Week celebrates the theme of "partnership" and features presentations, outreach and site visits showcasing US government-funded programmes in Khulna.

Admission to all America Week events is free and visitors will have opportunities to learn about studying at US universities, applying for a US visa or participate in US government's development projects.

The programme highlights include a cricket match between local youths and Khulna Police Force, with guest appearances by national players Khaled Mahmud Shujan, Khaled Masud Pilot, Mehrab Hossain Opi and Salma Khatun.

A live concert featuring the band Groove Trap, a skit performed by characters of the acclaimed children's show Sisimpur along with film screenings and interactive theater performances will be also held.

The US embassy, USAID and its development partners and US companies will run more than 50 booths. The booths and most of the presentations will be held at Khulna Club, open from 11:30am to 5:00pm today and from 10:00am to 5:00pm tomorrow and January 26.



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The incumbent will work with the team of ASA International and will perform the following duties and responsibilities:

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- Prepare meeting notice, minutes according to company's law and submit to the respective authorities;
- Work for all relevant Acts & Rules etc. and examine the policy and follow-up the activities, drawbacks and benefits;
- Coordinate with the Company Secretaries jobs of other countries, where ASA provides technical services;

**Age limit:** 40 years (maximum) up to 1st January 2011.

**Salary:** Taka 55,000 and negotiable. One year probationary period, after successful completion of the probationary period the job will be extended.

**Conditions and procedures to apply:**

The applicant must have a post-graduation degree in any discipline. ICS/ICMA (inter) / CA (PE1) are preferable. S/he must also have at least 5 years relevant working experience.

The applicant must be a non-smoker, smart and should have fluency in both written and oral English and Bengali. Computer skills on MS Office software is required.

Interested candidates can send their applications addressing to the President, ASA mentioning the post applied for on the top of envelope along with a full CV, recent passport size photographs with n 3rd February 2011 to the following postal or email address.

No need to send photostat copies of certificates, testimonials and other documents with the application but the original copies should be shown at the time of interview. Only short listed candidates will be contracted.

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