

Star BUSINESS City

DHAKA MONDAY NOVEMBER 28, 2016, AGRAHAYAN 14, 1423 BS

আপনার সংসার গুছিয়ে দিচ্ছি আমরা

এসআইবিএল ইসলামিক কনজুমার ফাইন্যান্স

আপনার সংসার সাজানোর আসবাবপত্র, পিছা সামগ্রী, ইলেক্ট্রনিক ও অন্যান্য কোম্পানি কেনার সুন্দর সমাধান দিচ্ছি আমরা।

* ফ্রি অনলাইন সেবা
যে কোন প্রয়োজনে ০৯-৬৯২০০৯৯২২



Tofail sees politics in GSP, Bernicat disagrees

Ticfa meeting postponed as US poised for change in administration

STAR BUSINESS REPORT
Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed yesterday said the US excluded Bangladesh from duty privileges on political grounds -- an assertion that US Ambassador Marcia Bernicat publicly disagreed with.

out by the Obama administration in 2013. "There is no reason other than a political one for not giving back the GSP to Bangladesh," he said at a joint press briefing with Bernicat at his secretariat office to announce the postponement of this year's Ticfa meeting previously scheduled for December 13.

political basis for GSP suspension." The Obama administration suspended Bangladesh's GSP status in the aftermath of the Rana Plaza building collapse, citing serious shortcomings in workplace safety and labour rights. Ahmed said he does not agree with the claims that workers' rights in Bangladesh have not improved since the suspension of GSP.

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Uber excited about Dhaka potential

US-based firm wants 'constructive dialogue' with govt to end stalemate

SAJJADUR RAHMAN

Taxi-hailing app Uber witnessed massive growth since its inception six years ago, thanks to the rise of technology. Improved technology has also helped Uber ensure safe rides for its millions of users across 450 cities worldwide. Amit Jain, president of Uber India and South Asia, was sharing his views on the recently-launched Uber services in Dhaka, the abode of nearly 20 million people.



Amit Jain

"The app detects your location, tells you about your driver and the registration plate of the car," Jain told The Daily Star in an email interview. "You can track the exact location of the driver and even share details of your trip with anyone who is waiting for you at your destination or just wants to know that you are getting home safe." GPS or the global positioning system is used in all Uber rides, from the beginning to the end.

including criminal records.

He said Uber is a smartphone app that helps connect riders with drivers providing an on-demand mobility option. Before a ride, Uber scrutinises new drivers by checking their background,

When someone applies to be a driver, Uber collects the applicant's personal data, such as their name, address, identity number, vehicle registration, and a copy of their driving licence.

"New technology enabled Uber to build up safety," Jain said, adding that users can also provide feedback via the app. Presently, Uber operates in 74 countries, with its daily average trips shooting up to eight million globally.

Uber was launched in China just two years ago and grew fast in that market, to more than 150 million trips a month.

To establish its foothold in China, Uber has merged its business with Didi China, a local firm.

India is a priority market for Uber as it is the biggest business place after the US. Uber began its journey in India three years ago and currently it is operating in 29 cities and growing steadily. Jain said Uber is excited about the business potential in Dhaka, which is one of the most densely populated cities in the world.

"We are thrilled to be in Dhaka to harness technology for the benefit of riders, drivers and the city," he said.

On the fare, he said Uber is always looking to make its services the most affordable for its riders. "We want to provide the most convenient and reliable ride at the most affordable price."

On the traffic congestion in Dhaka, he said, "Uber is offering a real alternative." He said cities are changing fast but technology is changing too: in many ways faster than the cities.

"Technology allows us to track how we use city resources, develop increasingly clever ways of analysing data, and effectively manage projects," he said.

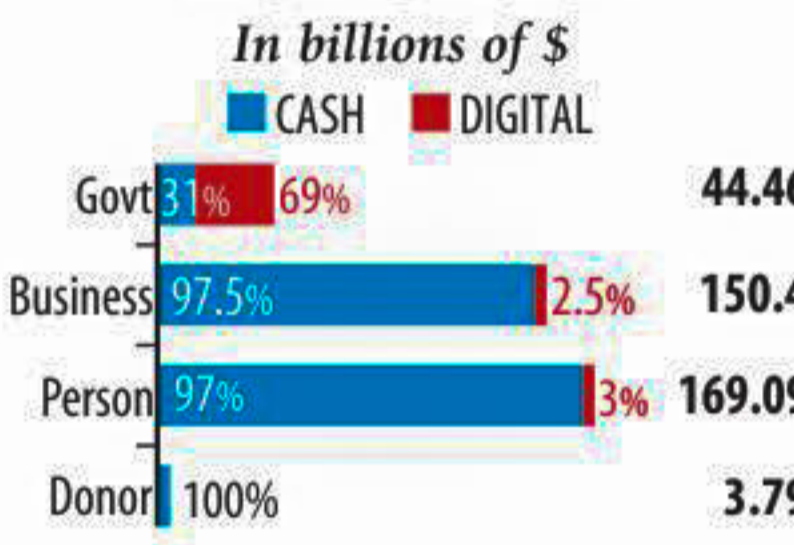
He, however, said there is not a simple solution to challenges of congestion and pollution, but getting more people to share their journeys and providing credible alternatives to car ownership are important parts of the answer.

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Digital payment making strides

STAR BUSINESS REPORT
Bangladesh has made a significant stride towards a digital economy as around 69 percent of government payments, or about \$45 billion, are now being transacted through digital channels, according to a study by a United Nations organisation Better Than Cash Alliances (BTCA).

YEARLY TRANSACTION VALUE IN BANGLADESH



Digital Bangladesh: The Way Forward for Digitising Payments.

The study also found that only 2.5 percent of individual payments and 3 percent of business transactions are

made digitally. Banking literacy is a major factor here and that is why digital payments are still low in the country, said Finance Minister AMA Muhith.

Digital money increases efficiency and brings down corruption, added Muhith. "Here in our country, it has helped us curb corruption."

All government transactions can be paperless in the next two years, said Muhith. The report, authored by pi Strategy Consulting, comes soon after a McKinsey Global Institute study found that digital finance was particularly important for a country like Bangladesh.

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Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus; Prof HI Latifee, managing director of Grameen Trust; and Wang Jiong, president of Zhongyuan Bank of China, witness the signing of an agreement at Yunus Centre in Dhaka. Under the deal, the Chinese bank will replicate Grameen Bank's microcredit model in China with the help of Grameen Trust.

China's Zhongyuan Bank to replicate Grameen microcredit model

STAR BUSINESS REPORT
Zhongyuan Bank Co Ltd, a leading banking group in China, has signed an agreement with Grameen Trust for replicating Grameen Bank's microcredit model on a large scale in China.

in Zhengzhou, capital of Henan province, the heartland of China.

A tripartite agreement was signed among Zhongyuan Bank, Grameen Ltd (China), a social business promoting company, and Grameen Trust.

The agreement aims to set up Grameen microcredit programme for Zhongyuan Bank based on the principle of social business.

The bank will immediately start prototype development in several experimental branches in Henan province with experts from Grameen Trust.

After successful prototype development, the bank will expand its microloan programme through its nationwide branch network, according to the statement.

Aman prices set higher

STAR BUSINESS REPORT
The government has set the rice procurement price for aman season at Tk 33 a kg, up 6.45 percent over last year.

A total of three lakh tonnes of rice will be procured from December 1 this year to March 15 next year, according to a decision made by the food ministry yesterday.

Last year, the government procured two lakh tonnes of aman rice at Tk 31 per kg.

The rice procurement price has been increased as the production cost went up, Food Minister Qamrul Islam told reporters after the meeting. This year, the production cost of rice is Tk 29 per kg and that of paddy Tk 19, which were Tk 28.5 and Tk 18.5 respectively last year.

It was also decided that from next boro season the government will not procure rice from a mill that is not automated or semi-automated, Islam said.

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