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It's hard to end traffic woes

New study finds multiple reasons for public suffering due to perennial gridlock in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Checking the ever increasing cars and freeing the streets and pavements from illegal occupation are crucial to easing the city's perennial traffic congestion, experts say.

Proper enforcement of traffic rules can solve much of the problem, they said while revealing the findings of a research at the Brac Centre in the capital yesterday.

The research done by the Brac Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD) blamed the inefficiency of the traffic regulatory agencies and the lack of governance for the traffic woes of the city commuters.

The research titled -- "State of Cities 2016: Traffic Congestion in Dhaka City: Governance Perspective" -- was led by Dr Shanawez Hossain.

It also identified effective enforcement of traffic laws, proper traffic management, prevention of illegal car parking and checking private cars on the streets as the foremost measures for solving the problem.

Traffic crisis in the capital is getting deeper and deeper every day due to

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97 pc commuters surveyed for effective traffic law enforcement

Average traffic speed 7 kmph in 2015 from 21 kmph in 2004

\$11.4 billion annual loss for traffic congestion (Revised Strategic Transport Plan)

Footpaths under illegal occupation

Vendors pay Tk 1825 cr annually (to police, middlemen and local politicians)

Lack of coordination among DMP, Rajuk, DTCA, DSCC, DNCC and BRCA



The fish pass in Devdaha village in Bogra's Shariakanda upazila remains useless in the winter due to lack of water. Bangladesh Water Development Board had built the structure in 1996 to enable passage of fish to and from the Jamuna and the Bangalee rivers. But the fish pass has no use now as the Jamuna has almost dried out there. The photo was taken last week.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

NCC polls
'flawless only
on surface'

Claims Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Narayanganj City Corporation election was not fair as it "looked flawless on the surface" but underneath it were various plots, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia claimed yesterday.

"The Narayanganj polls looked perfect from the outside, but there were some hidden conspiracies. And people of all walks of life, even children, can understand it," she said

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Cheetahs 'sprinting' towards extinction

AFP, London

Cheetahs are "sprinting" to extinction due to habitat loss and other forms of human impact, according to a new study out this week which called for urgent action to save the world's fastest land animals.

Cheetah numbers in Zimbabwe have plunged

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**EKUSHEY BOOK FAIR
Demand raised
for lifting ban
on publisher**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of writers and rights and cultural activists yesterday demanded that the Bangla Academy immediately withdraw its decision of banning Shraban Prokashani from the Amar Ekushey book fair for the next two years.

At a demonstration before the Academy, they also urged the government to suspend the director general of the academy for "making the illegal decision" and vowed to continue the protest until the academy revoked its decision.

On November 10, the Bangla Academy authorities decided that it won't allow Shraban Prokashani to participate in the book fair "for taking a stance against the Academy's action" during this year's book fair, an official said on Monday.

Robin Ahsan, owner of Shraban Prokashani, alleged that the DG made the "unjustified" decision in retaliation for his protest at the arrest of another publisher.

He said he came to know the decision on

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PHOTO ON PAGE 3

**NEW LOOK
AT BANKING**

Today is the 19th Death Anniversary of
Engr. Ejabuddin Ahmed



We request all relatives, friends
and well-wishers to remember him in their
prayers and to pray for eternal peace of his soul

IS 'will be eliminated' from Iraq in 3 months

Says the country's prime minister; slow progress
in Mosul forces him to revise his prediction

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

It will take "three months to eliminate" Islamic State in Iraq, according to the country's prime minister, Haider al-Abadi.

Backed by US forces, the Iraqi military has been battling to dislodge the militant group from Mosul, the largest city held by the group in either Iraq or Syria and the de-facto capital of IS' self-styled Islamic caliphate.

But more than two months into the operation, only a quarter of the city has been taken. Commanders have blamed the slower pace on the need to protect civilians who have mostly stayed in their homes rather than fleeing as was expected.

Abadi previously said the city, around 250 miles north of the capital Baghdad, would be retaken by the end of the year.

But with elite Iraqi forces entering a planned "operational refit" this

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**Govt blocks
over 500
porn sites**

MUHAMMAD ZAHIDUL ISLAM

The government has started an initiative to block several hundred pornography websites and already sent a list of more than 500 sites, mostly locally hosted, to internet providers.

The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission on Monday evening sent the list to all the mobile phone operators, international gateway operators, international internet gateway operators, interconnection exchange operators, internet service providers and other telecom service providers to block the domains from their respective networks.

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