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SHAH CEMENT

Govt to take stock of them

To conduct survey to determine road capacity, find solution to traffic jam

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The government is planning to find out how many vehicles operate in the capital as well as the capacity of its streets.

As part of the plan, the Accident Research Institute (ARI) of Buet and Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) will conduct a survey at different points of the city, aiming to find a solution for the perennial congestion.

The move follows a decision made by a home minister-led taskforce, formed to oversee implementation of 111 recommendations given by a high-powered committee to reduce road crashes and bring discipline on the roads.

Officials of the ARI and DMP held a meeting, and the ARI is now working on the technical and financial proposal for the survey. The proposal will be submitted in two weeks, ARI Director Prof Md Hadiuzzaman told The Daily Star on Wednesday.

Traffic congestion in Dhaka eats up 3.2 million work hours every day and the average speed of vehicles during rush hours was 7kmph, according to a 2017 World Bank report.

Experts say the situation deteriorated further in the last three years.

Different government bodies, including the city corporations and police, had taken different initiatives in the past and failed to find a solution to traffic jams.

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An Indian paradise flycatcher feeding her chick. This bird comes from India and Sri Lanka in the summer and breeds in Bangladesh. It catches insects while flying. This photo was taken from Laxmikola village in Bogura's Shibganj recently.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF SHABBOSACHI DAS

'BEGUM PARA' IN CANADA ACC for list of officials who own houses

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) asked the government to provide a list of its officials who own homes in "Begum Para" of Toronto, Canada.

"We're looking into the matter and sought a list from the government," ACC Secretary Dilwar Bakht told journalists yesterday at his office in the capital's Segunbagicha.

The ACC commissioner has already talked about the matter, he said. "Once we get [the list], we'll start working."

On Sunday, the High Court asked the ACC chairman, secretaries concerned of the ministries of home and foreign affairs, governor of Bangladesh Bank and its financial

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

NIDs FOR ROHINGYAS ACC sues 3 cops, EC high-up

13 Rohingyas also accused in the case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday sued three police inspectors, a senior official of the election commission, and 13 Rohingya refugees for being involved in providing Rohingyas with Bangladeshi passports and National ID cards.

This was the sixth case the ACC filed last week over the issue of Rohingyas receiving Bangladeshi National ID cards.

Several Election Commission employees, a former ward councillor, a former union parishad chairman and Rohingyas were among the accused.

Sharif Uddin, deputy assistant director of ACC's Chattogram Integrated

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ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Yahya requests Nixon to persuade India

JUNE 18, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

YAHYA'S LETTER TO NIXON

Pakistan President Yahya Khan, in a letter dated June 18, 1971, drew attention of American President Richard Nixon to the "rapidly mounting threat to peace and security in the sub-continent."

"In the last few days belligerent statements have been made by the Indian prime minister and her cabinet ministers which amount to a threat of war," he added.

Yahya further said, "It makes it obvious that the speaker is determined to exploit the presence of displaced persons in India to aggravate a tense situation and justify military intervention in East Pakistan. Should Indian leaders be allowed to continue on this course, consequences would be disastrous not only for the sub-continent but for the entire region."

Yahya claimed that his government had taken adequate measures to ensure safe return of Bangladeshi refugees to their home. He further

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



Russia ready for further talks if US is willing

Says Putin

AFP, Moscow

The Kremlin was guarded about future dialogue with Washington yesterday, a day after the first face-to-face meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and US counterpart Joe Biden.

The two leaders met in Geneva on Wednesday to ease soaring tensions between Moscow and Washington, with relations at their lowest since the end of the Cold War.

Putin said Russia was ready to continue the talks provided Washington was also willing to do so.

"We are ready to continue this dialogue to the same extent as the American side is," Putin said in televised remarks.

The Russian leader said

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

First astronauts arrive at China's space station

AFP, Jiuquan



The first astronauts arrived at China's new space station yesterday in the country's longest crewed mission to date, a landmark step in establishing Beijing as a major space power.

The trio blasted off on a Long March-2F rocket from the Jiuquan launch centre in northwest

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

BRANDISHING ARMS Licences of two pro-AL contractors cancelled

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

The authorities yesterday cancelled the firearms licences of two pro-Awami League contractors in Pabna on charges of illegally using those.

According to police, AR Khan Mamun, organising secretary of Pabna poura unit AL, and Sheikh Lal, a Jubo League activist in the district, abused their licenced firearms illegally.

On June 6, the duo, along with some other pro-AL contractors, entered the Public Works Department (PWD) office in the district.

Led by Hazi Faruk, science and technology affairs secretary of Pabna Sadar upazila unit AL, the group showcased their firearms inside the government office.

A CCTV footage of the incident spread online and sparked huge criticism.

After media reports, the two contractors submitted their firearms to Pabna Police Station on Sunday.

Although the PWD did not file any case against the duo, police conducted an investigation and submitted a report on Tuesday.

In the report, submitted to the district commissioner's office

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

COVID CASES IN UK Delta variant caused 50pc rise since May

Chinese expert says Covid origins probe should shift to US

AGENCIES

The rapid spread of the Delta coronavirus variant has driven a 50 percent rise in infections in England since May, a large prevalence study led by Imperial College London found yesterday after Prime Minister Boris Johnson delayed the end of restrictions.

The government said the data supported Johnson's decision to push back the end of Covid restrictions in England to July 19, citing the threat of the Delta variant first identified in India, and the need to

vaccinate more people.

The latest round of the REACT-1 prevalence survey, conducted between May 20 and June 7, found prevalence was 0.15%, compared to 0.10% in the last set of data from late April to early May.

"Prevalence is increasing exponentially, driven by younger ages... and it appears to be doubling every 11 days. Clearly, that is bad news," Steven Riley, professor of infectious disease dynamics, Imperial College London, told reporters.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

No Mask No Service

সেবা পেতে মাস্ক ব্যবহার করুন

অতিরিক্ত চিনি, মিষ্টি ও লবণ জাতীয় খাবারঃ

- ❖ ক্ষুধা বাড়ায়, ❖ ইনসুলিন হরমোনের কার্যকারিতা নষ্ট করে,
- ❖ লিভারের ক্ষতি করে, ❖ উচ্চ রক্তচাপ বাড়ায়, ❖ কিডনির রোগ বাড়ায়,
- ❖ বাতের ব্যথা বাড়ায়।

লবণ খাওয়া কমিয়ে আনতে আপনি কি করতে পারেন?

- ❖ পাত্রে লবণ একেবারে খাবেন না,
- ❖ রান্নার সময় কম লবণ ব্যবহার করুন,
- ❖ চিপস, বিট লবণ, লোনা ইলিশ, শুটকি, ফাস্ট ফুডসহ অন্যান্য লবণে ভরা খাবার পরিহার করুন।

অতিরিক্ত চিনি ও লবণ পরিহার করুনঃ সুস্থ থাকুন

লাইফস্টাইল, হেলথ এডুকেশন এন্ড প্রমোশন স্বাস্থ্য শিক্ষা ব্যুরো, স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়

PRAYER TIMING JUNE 18

Fajr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-05 12-30 5-00 6-50 8-15

JAMAAT 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-55 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

টেকসই ও নবায়নযোগ্য জ্বালানি উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ (শ্রেডা)

বিদ্যুৎ বিভাগ

জ্বালানি দক্ষ যন্ত্রপাতি স্থাপনে, ৫% হারে ঋণ গ্রহণ করুন।

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