

## Honouring innovators in entertainment

'Blender's Choice-The Daily Star OTT and Digital Content Awards 2021' unveiled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To honour innovators in the OTT industry and digital space, the "Blender's Choice-The Daily Star OTT and Digital Content Awards 2021" was unveiled yesterday.

The awards -- presented by The Daily Star and Ispahani -- will be the first major attempt in the country at honouring ground-breaking content creators in these spheres of entertainment.

"Content creators, in this era, have access to endless possibilities -- they have the freedom to make projects within the scope of their budgets," said Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star.

"The most wonderful part about OTT is its ease of access and distribution. It takes a lot of determination and courage to open your own OTT platform, and gain popularity within a short period, as many have done. We are proud to be partnered with Ispahani Tea Limited, who are also helping us promote the talented individuals and stars of the digital arena," he added.

Omar Hannan, general manager, marketing at Ispahani Tea Limited, said, "OTT platforms are somewhat new for our audience. Amidst the pandemic, many Bangladeshi contents have done well in the streaming platforms. We felt like these content creators need to be rewarded, and thus, we took the initiative alongside The Daily Star."

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The unveiling of "Blender's Choice-The Daily Star OTT and Digital Content Awards 2021" took place at The Daily Star Centre yesterday. The awards will honour content creators across 36 categories, including "Best Film and Dramas", "Individual Category", "Critics Choice", "Director's Choice" and "Music or Songs".

'Hold at least one meeting every week'

DNCC mayor directs councillors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) mayor Md Atiqul Islam yesterday directed all DNCC councillors to hold at least one coordination meeting every week.

The mayor announced the directive at its 11th board meeting at Gulshan's Nagar Bhaban.

"We have been elected with the mandate of the people, and we must ensure their protection. This responsibility should not be neglected in any way," said the mayor.

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## Highways set to get 'smart'

Intelligent Transportation System to be introduced on Dhaka-Mawa Expressway for traffic management, road safety

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Large LED displays will be set up on highways to notify road users about changes in road and weather conditions, including traffic congestion, accidents and foggy atmosphere. They can also get the information through a mobile app and a dedicated website.

Speed and other vehicular metrics will be detected using a specialised piece of equipment. In case vehicles over-speed, the incidents will be automatically reported to relevant authorities for action.

All these are features of the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) that the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) is set to introduce for the first time in the country.

On pilot basis, ITS will be introduced on a 40-kilometre section of Dhaka-Mawa Expressway, under a Tk 115 crore proposed

### PILOT PROJECT

ITS to be introduced on 40km section of Dhaka-Mawa Expressway

Cost of proposed project Tk 115cr

Koica to provide Tk 77cr as grant, technical support

RHD authorities expected to start operation within September

Masterplan for ITS to be developed under project

### FEATURES

LED displays to inform highway users

Vehicle speed, other metrics to be detected using specialised equipment

If vehicles over-speed, incidents to be automatically reported to authorities

project. Korean International Cooperation Agency (Koica) will provide Tk 77 crore as grant and technical support.

RHD authorities are expected to start operation of the pilot project within September this year.

An inception ceremony of the project, titled "Improving the reliability and safety on national highway corridors of Bangladesh by introduction of ITS", was held at a hotel in the capital yesterday.

Under ITS, modern information and communication technologies are used to facilitate transport infrastructure and vehicles to improve traffic management and safety, as well as reduce traffic jams and road maintenance costs, engineers said.

After attending the ceremony, Nazrul Islam, secretary of Road Transport and Highways Division, said ITS is being used

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'Bangladesh an important partner in diplomacy'  
Says EU ambassador at event marking 50yrs of Bangladesh, Germany relationship

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The European Union considers Bangladesh a very important partner in the regional and global diplomatic landscape, as the country has been able to demonstrate its economic and diplomatic strengths in recent years, EU Ambassador to Bangladesh Charles Whiteley said yesterday.

The ambassador made the remarks while addressing a discussion on the 50 years of Bangladesh-Germany relationship at a city hotel, organised jointly by the Centre for Governance Studies (CGS) and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) Bangladesh.

He also said the European Investment Bank is looking to provide sizable low-cost loans to Bangladesh for development financing.

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Construction works for a drain are ongoing right outside the boundaries of Central Veterinary Hospital on Old Dhaka's Kazi Alauddin Road. However, as the walls of the hospital have become weaker due to the works, DSCC decided to precariously balance them on a few bamboos.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Biman to resume Dhaka-New York flights SOON  
Says state minister for civil aviation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Biman Bangladesh Airlines has taken all preparations to resume direct flights on Dhaka-New York route soon, State Minister for Civil Aviation M Mahbub Ali has said.

The state minister said this while speaking at an event organised by Biman and Bangladesh High Commission in Canada on the occasion of experimental flight of Dhaka-Toronto route at a hotel in Toronto on Sunday.

He said: "We have come a long way to resume direct flights on Dhaka-New York-Dhaka route."

Besides, he said, the national flag carrier's flights to Japan's Narita, Sydney, Male and Guangzhou will be launched too, the civil aviation ministry said in a press release.

He said Biman will procure state-of-the-art aircraft like other countries.

"Operating flights to Canada was our prestige issue," he said. "Many big countries of the world did not get a slot to fly to Toronto. It is a matter of pride that we have got it," he added.

Dhaka-Toronto flight will be operated three days a week from next June, he added.

About enhancing the country's airport facilities, he said the third terminal of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport will be inaugurated by mid September, 2023.

The runway of Osmani International Airport in Sylhet has also been extended and work on a new international airport is underway, the minister said.

Cox's Bazar Airport is being developed to international standard to promote international tourism, he added.

"We have brought some reforms in Biman. During pandemic, we have also earned Tk 273 crore even after paying off the debts of 2019," the state minister said.

Meanwhile, RAM Ubaidul Moktadir

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PRAYER  
TIMING  
MAR 29



	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
Azan	4-45	12-45	4-45	6-20	7-45
Jamaat	5-20	1-15	5-00	6-25	8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

ডিউরেবল প্লাস্টিক লিমিটেড-এর  
পরিবেশক সম্মেলন অনুষ্ঠিত হয়েছে তুরস্কে



Durable Plastic Limited (DPL), a concern of RFL Group, manufactures and markets household products. Our first International Distributors' Conference was held at a renowned hotel in Istanbul, Turkey on 24 March. 63 distributors from around the globe attended the conference where Group's Managing Director R N Paul spoke about RFL realising its ambition on becoming a global brand. Executive Director Md. Toukirul Islam, Senior General Manager (Sales) Mohammad Shahalam, and Deputy General Manager (Brand & Marketing) Muhammad Rashed ul Alam participated with other high officials of DPL.

আন্তর্জাতিক  
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