

PM to open several projects at Payra port

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to inaugurate and lay the foundation stones of several development projects, worth Tk 11,072 crore, at Payra seaport today.

The premier is expected to virtually inaugurate the capital dredging of the port, eight ships, the first terminal, and construction of a six-lane approach road and a bridge, said a press release.

Once capital dredging of the seaport's Rabnabad channel is done, the port will have the capacity to dock 40,000 tonnes of cargo or 3,000 container-laden ships.

The eight vessels include two pilot vessels, two heavy-duty speedboats, a buoy-laying vessel, a survey boat and two tugboats.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

Nod of city corporations must to build buildings
DNCC mayor demands

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) Mayor Atiqul Islam yesterday said that city corporations should have a say in approving building constructions in Dhaka.

"Open spaces and trees are being destroyed for constructing one building after another in the city... Now, the time has come to seek city corporation's approval before constructing a building," he said.

"Destruction of greenery and open spaces will not be allowed. We have to think about future generations," he added.

He said this at a programme in the capital arranged by World Vision Bangladesh, Center for Urban Studies, UN-Habitat and DNCC.

The mayor also recommended demolishing all buildings that were built without approval from the authorities concerned.

Speaking as chief guest, LGRD Minister Md Tajul Islam said, "People's income should be taken into account in determining the price of water, gas, electricity and other utility services."

Recommending zone-based pricing of utility services, he said, "The people living in Jatrabari or Old Dhaka do not get the quality of civic facilities residents of areas like Gulshan, Baridhara and Banani get."

"Everyone has to work together to build a liveable Dhaka. Lower class, middle class and upper class people live in Dhaka, so the city should be developed keeping everyone's interests in mind," he added.

Selim Reza, chief executive officer of DNCC, delivered a welcome speech on the occasion, while Maqsood Hashem, chief planner of DNCC, presented the keynote speech.

Among others, Prof Nazrul Islam, chairperson of Center of Urban Studies; Project Manager of United Nations Development Bangladesh, and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

PRAYER TIMING
OCTOBER 27

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-50 12-45 4-00 5-32 7-15
JAMAT 5-25 1-15 4-15 5-35 7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A heavy construction vehicle squeezes through the narrow road near Tejgaon rail crossing while work for Dhaka Elevated Expressway goes on during rush hour. This has become a common issue at the area, and so, office-goers and students frequently get stuck in gridlocks while trying to pass by. This photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

How many meetings till things change?

Decisions taken in meetings remain unimplemented, as road crashes keep rising

UNIMPLEMENTED SUGGESTIONS

Appointment letters for transport workers

Setting economic service life for buses, trucks

Registration numbers, uniforms for ride-sharing bikers



days after Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader expressed discontent over poor road conditions in the country.

At least 5,043 people were killed in 4,225 crashes in the first nine months of this year. The numbers were 6,284 and 5,371, respectively, in 2021 and 2020, according to Road Safety Foundation.

Talking to a discussion marking National Road Safety Day on October 22, Quader expressed his disappointment over the undisciplined transport sector in the transport sector.

With most of its previous decisions unimplemented, the taskforce is going to sit for its sixth meeting today, just five

Khondaker Enayet Ullah, secretary general of Bangladesh

Road Transport Owners Association, also a member of the taskforce, told the same programme that the taskforce is holding meetings regularly, but no decision has been implemented yet.

Sadiqur Rahman Hiru, vice president of Bangladesh Road Transport Workers Federation, raised the same issue at the taskforce's fifth meeting on July 27.

He said 12 decisions were taken on the fourth meeting, and all of them remain unimplemented, reads the meeting minutes.

In March 2019, while placing the 111-point recommendation, a committee called for setting the economic service life of buses at

At least 5,043 people were killed in 4,225 crashes in the first nine months of this year. The numbers were 6,284 and 5,371, respectively, in 2021 and 2020, according to Road Safety Foundation.

20 years and trucks at 25 years, identifying old vehicles as a key reason behind road accidents.

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) in November 2021 wrote a letter to RTHD to implement the recommendation.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Cops' power to bar gatherings challenged at HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A writ petition has been filed with the High Court challenging the rules that allow police to prohibit assemblies and processions as well as give law enforcers impunity from liabilities of any damage.

Supreme Court lawyers Abdul Momen Chowdhury and KM Zabir, Chandpur court's lawyer Salim Akbar, and Dhaka residents Shah Nuruzzaman and Mohammad Yasin collectively submitted the petition as a public interest litigation to the HC on October 20, saying that two sections 29 and 105 of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Ordinance, 1976 are contradictory to the constitution. The two sections grant law enforcers these privileges.

In the petition, they said that sections 29 and 105 are against article 37 of constitution, which ensures freedom of assembly.

Article 37 says, "Every citizen shall have the right to assemble and to participate in public meetings and processions peacefully and without arms, subject to any reasonable restrictions imposed by law in the interests of public order or public health."

After a brief hearing on the petition, the HC bench of Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Kazi Md Ejarul Haque Akondo yesterday fixed today for further hearing.

Lawyer Abdul Momen Chowdhury argued for the petitioners, while Deputy Attorney General Arobinda Kumar Roy represented the state during yesterday's hearing.



Recyclable waste had been collected from Amin Bazar landfill and loaded onto this van to be carried to the capital. However, an overloaded van, coupled with the fact that it plies on the main road alongside heavy vehicles, makes it a traffic issue and potentially a risky affair. The photo was taken recently on Mirpur Road near Ghatoli.

'We will resist rogue Ranga'

Pro-GM Quader JP members burn Ranga's effigy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The faction of Jatiya Party leaders and activists loyal to party chairman GM Quader yesterday burnt an effigy of opposition chief whip Mashru Rahman Ranga.

JP leaders at a rally in front of Jatiya Press Club vowed to resist Ranga for his derogatory remarks on GM Quader and JP Secretary General Mujibul Haque Chunnu.

In a discussion organised by the JP faction loyal to Raushan Ershad on October 23, Ranga, also lawmaker from Rangpur-1, vowed to oust Quader and Chunnu from the party for going against Raushan.

Ranga claimed that Quader is seeking money from the party's leaders in exchange for giving them nominations in the next election.

He said by uniting all leaders and activists who were sacked from JP, they will besiege the party offices in the capital.

Jatiya Party's Dhaka north city unit yesterday organised the rally, where JP leaders loyal to Quader blasted Ranga -- who was recently relieved of all party duties.

Presided over by Shafiqul Islam Sentu, convener of the JP unit, the party's leaders said Ranga will be resisted strongly regardless of where he is. "JP founder and former president HM Ershad gave him [Ranga] the position in the party. But Ranga has now become subservient to the government and gone against the party for personal interests."

The fresh conflict between Quader and Raushan, widow

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

India not China's strategic rival
Says Chinese ambassador to Bangladesh

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

China does not want any armed race in the Bay of Bengal region, rather roots for a peaceful environment for development, said Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh, Li Jiming, yesterday.

He also said China does not consider India as a strategic rival or competitor and is ready to work together for solving regional problems and beyond.

He was addressing the DCAB Talk, a flagship event of the Diplomatic Correspondents Association, Bangladesh, at the Jatiya Press Club.

"We would not like to see any armed race in the Bay of Bengal," he said when asked how China would deal with competition from the global powers over the Bay, which is a location of great strategic importance.

For China's development and modernisation, we need a peaceful regional environment. Bangladesh also shares the same view... we oppose any war and advocate for peaceful negotiations for resolving conflicts.

CHINESE AMBASSADOR LI JIMING

"For China's development and modernisation, we need a peaceful regional environment. Bangladesh also shares the same view... we oppose any war and advocate for peaceful negotiations for resolving conflicts," Li Jiming said.

The ambassador also said China wants a peaceful and stable Bangladesh. He called for all stakeholders concerned of Bangladesh to solve any problems democratically and peacefully.

He also mentioned that China considers Bangladesh as a strategic partner.

Jiming said in the first eight months this year, trade in goods between the two countries amounted to \$18.83 billion, which saw an increase

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1