

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.

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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 greeneries 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

JAMAAT 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

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

During its fourth meeting in February this year, a taskforce – formed to bring down road crashes and bring discipline in the transport sector – decided to form a committee to fix the economic service life of commercial vehicles, meaning for how many years they can be used.

The taskforce, led by Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, in its fifth meeting in July, discussed the issue again and asked Road Transport and Highways Division (RTHD) to formulate a guideline for scraping outdated vehicles.

However, none of the goals have been achieved yet.

In its second meeting in December 2020, the taskforce decided that transport workers have to be given appointment letters. The issue was discussed in the following three meetings as well.

This decision too remains unimplemented.

Formed in October 2019, the taskforce was made to oversee the implementation of 111 recommendations of a high-powered committee to reduce road crashes and bring discipline in the transport sector.

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

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 despite the progress of major development projects.

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.

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Two die of
dengue,
923 more
hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least two dengue patients died, while 923 were admitted to different hospitals across the country in the last 24 hours till yesterday.

According to Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), this year's total dengue cases have now risen to 33,923. The death toll now stands at 120.

Of the deaths, 71 were in Dhaka, 22 in Cox's Bazar, 13 in Chattogram, five in Barishal, three each in Khulna and Mymensingh, and one each in Narsingdi, Narail and Feni.

A total of 30,423 patients, 9,099 from outside Dhaka, have already been released. Some 3,380 patients, 1,173 from outside the capital, are still undergoing treatment.

Experts urged the authorities concerned to conduct extensive drives identifying clusters of Aedes mosquitoes immediately.

A monsoon survey of DGHS, conducted between August 11 and 23, found the presence of Aedes mosquitoes in 13.4 percent of houses under DNCC and 11.75 percent of homes under DSCC.



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

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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 Gabtoli.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN