



Boatmen wait for passengers under the shade of trees on the bank of the Buriganga river in Kamrangirchar, as the midday heat keeps commuters away. With rows of wooden boats lying idle along the riverbank, many boatmen said they had to wait for hours before getting passengers. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Don't forget
Rohingyas

UNHCR urges
continued global
support

DIPLOMATIC
CORRESPONDENT

The UN Refugee Agency and its partners have called on the international community not to forget the 1.2 million refugees in Bangladesh, as the world marks nine years since the large-scale forced displacement of Rohingya. At a briefing in Geneva yesterday, UNHCR spokesperson Babar Baloch said generous support from Bangladesh and the international community had been critical in meeting the refugees' basic needs and providing protection. Since 2017, humanitarian funding has allowed Bangladesh to sustain life-saving assistance and make major progress in refugee education, health and protection, but significant humanitarian needs persist. "Without continued international solidarity, the plight of Rohingya families will deteriorate," Baloch said. Amid sharp reductions in humanitarian and development support, Rohingya refugees remain largely reliant on aid. Limited economic opportunities and reduced assistance continue to

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From chaos to
compliance

AI enforcement brings early signs of
discipline on Dhaka roads

SHAMIMA RITA and HELEMUL
ALAM

Dhaka drivers are gradually changing their long-ingrained traffic habits as AI-based enforcement and semi-automated traffic signals reshape behaviour at major intersections across the city. At several key junctions where the government has installed semi-automated signals and introduced AI-driven monitoring, vehicles are increasingly obeying traffic lights. Motorcycles, private cars and CNG-run auto-rickshaws are now frequently stopping at zebra crossings when the signals turn red, leaving pedestrian spaces clear. Many drivers are also waiting for green lights before moving. The AI-based traffic prosecution system, launched by Dhaka Metropolitan Police to automatically detect violations and penalise offenders, currently operates at eight locations: the Hotel InterContinental intersection, Bangla Motor, Kakrail, Karwan Bazar, Bijoy Sarani, Jahangir Gate, Rampura, and the Gabtoli-Airport Road corridor. On-the-spot observations at Bangla Motor, Karwan Bazar, Bijoy Sarani and Jahangir Gate found improved compliance



Bijoy Sarani intersection.

PHOTO: MEHEDI HASAN

among both public and private vehicles, although traffic police still intervene manually in some situations. AI-enabled cameras detect five violations: signal jumping, wrong-way driving, lane violations, illegal parking and entering closed left lanes. Officials said the cameras instantly capture violations, retrieve vehicle information from the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority database, and send notices to owners via SMS or email. DMP Traffic Division Additional Commissioner Md Anisur Rahman said those who fail to pay fines

within the stipulated period could face summonses and, if necessary, arrest warrants. According to DMP officials, the initiative has reduced pressure on manual enforcement. The cameras have captured over 2,000 clips of traffic violations, with around 502 cases currently being processed. More than 120 AI-enabled cameras are now operating at around 60 locations across Dhaka, with coverage set to expand further within six months. "Drivers who ignored manual instructions earlier are now more careful because enforcement is

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Bangladesh
elected vice-
president of
114th ILC

DIPLOMATIC
CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has been unanimously elected vice-president of the 114th International Labour Conference (ILC), marking a diplomatic milestone for the country on global stage. Bangladesh Ambassador and Permanent Representative to UN in Geneva, Nahida Sobhan, assumed the role of vice-president alongside President of the Conference, Juan Castillo, also Uruguay's Minister of Labour and Social Security, and two other VPs, Kristen Kaufman of the US and Gerardo Martinez of Argentina. The ILC is the premier global forum on labour and employment issues convened annually by ILO. The election, held on June 1, was endorsed by delegates from 187 countries, reflecting the confidence and trust of the international community in Bangladesh's leadership in global labour governance. "This prestigious position underscores Bangladesh government's commitment to promoting democratisation of the ILO, advancing social justice and protecting labour rights," said the Bangladesh Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva.

DMP to hold
drivers directly
accountable

At least 50% traffic cases
to be filed against drivers,
not owners

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police plans to file at least 50 percent of traffic violation cases directly against drivers instead of vehicle owners to strengthen accountability and improve road discipline in the capital. The announcement was made by DMP Additional Commissioner (Traffic) Anisur Rahman at a press briefing at the DMP Media Centre yesterday. "Currently, most traffic cases are filed against

Under the proposed
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driving licences.



vehicle owners. We are taking an initiative under which at least 50 percent of cases will be filed against drivers," he said. Under the proposed mechanism, drivers found violating traffic laws will not only face fines but will also have demerit points deducted from their driving licences, he added. Anisur said the system aims to ensure that a driving licence reflects a driver's behaviour and competence on the road, rather than merely serving as a certificate. He said the demerit point system will help establish greater accountability among drivers and may eventually allow employers to assess a

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