

Staff Reporter

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader on Wednesday said political parties will not be allowed to hold rallies anywhere except four designated points at the city's Suhrawardy Udyan.

The minister disclosed the decision while talking to reporters during his visit to Gabtoli Bus stand area.

Obaidul Quader said the decision was taken at the board meeting of Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority (DTCA) at Nagar Bhaban earlier in the day.

The meeting decided to impose a ban on holding any big rally on the streets to keep the city roads free. "The political parties are allowed to hold rallies at the four points of Suhrawardy Udyan, not by blocking roads of the city," he said.

During the meeting, some proposals were made to hold rallies in the city on Fridays or Saturdays, the Minister said. "We couldn't take any decision in this regard, but we'll discuss the matter with the Prime Minister," he added.

The minister said holding meetings here and there is the main reason behind the tailbacks in the city. "That's why the DTCA has taken the decision," he said.

Quader also said no cattle market will be allowed to be set up anywhere on roads. "Action will be taken against those who will set up cattle markets on roads without government permission," he warned.

Replying to a question over extortion, the minister said no allegation of extortion has been made yet. "Action will be taken if anyone is found involved in extortion," he added.