TRANSPORTATION

# Student commutes to clog traffic

By ZHAO XINYING

With most schools in Beijing starting a new semester

and large numbers of parents driving their children to school on Monday, traffic will be extremely heavy, transportation authorities said.

The so-called congestion index - which runs from 0 to 10, indicating traffic from light to heavy - may reach 9.2 on Monday morning, the Beijing Commission of Transport said in a news release.

Monday is opening day for all universities, middle schools, primary schools and kindergartens.
"The official opening of

school often raises traffic pressure in the city," Zhou Zhengdirector of commission, was quoted by Beijing News as saying.

He said the commission conducted a survey of primary and middle school students and found that 26 percent planned to go to school in cars driven by their parents, meaning at least 200,000 cars would be added to the morn-

"According to our esti-mate, about 400,000 automobiles will be on the road when schools start," Zhou told Beijing News. "School openings bring traffic con-

gestion." Liu Changwen, a 36-year-old resident of Beijing's Chaoyang district, needs about 30 minutes to drive his son to a primaschool in Dongcheng district. He said he had fore seen the congestion and would adjust his departure time.

"My impression is that September is the most crowded month in recent years, especially on the first day of school," he said, adding that he and his son will leave home 20 minutes early to avoid possible congestion.



Vehicles clog East Second Ring Road in Beijing on Sunday. Transportation authorities expect traffic congestion to be even worse on Monday. zou hong / china daily

# 26 percent

of surveyed primary and middle school students plan to go to school in cars driven by their parents, according to the Beijing Commission of Transport.

Figures released by the transport commission supported Liu's impression. From 2010 to 2013, the congestion index in September has topped that of all other months. It was 20 percent higher than the average level of each year.

This month is expected to be no exception. Earlier, the commission said that eight days this month would have extremely heavy traffic: Sept 6, 7, 11, 14, 18, 21, 24 and 25. On each of those days, the congestion index was expected to be over 9.0.

Sunday's index was not that high, however. It was the first working day after the national three-day vacation. The index ranged between

8.1 and 8.5 in the early morning and dropped after 8:30

Zhou said the situation was

better than estimated because some people didn't return to work and some schools didn't start on that

However, it will be hard to repeat the performance on Monday, he said.

He also said rain, during this busy month, will make things worse. The commission, together with other departments, will pay close attention to the traffic situation and will take measures – for example, allowing students to leave school early if rain is forecast, Zhou said.



#### Two suspected of taking bribes Two officials in the Ningxia

**Briefly** 

BEIJING

Gift cakes out,

watchdog warns

High-priced moon cakes are

tumn Festival, which falls on

Sept 27 this year, according

prohibited as gifts for offi-

cials during the Mid-Au-

to a notice issued by the

Information Office of the

try's top anti-graft

Central Commission for Dis-

cipline Inspection, the coun-

watchdog. The commission

solicited help from the

form a watchdog role

media nationwide to per-

detecting and publicizing

**Guidelines issued** 

The State Council has issued

guidelines to boost the devel-

opment and promotion of big

data, it announced in a state-

ment released on Saturday.

The framework, ratified by

Premier Li Kegiang, aims to

forge a new model for social

governance in the upcoming

to promote big data

Hui autonomous region and another from Hainan province are under suspicion of accepting bribes, the Supreme People's Procuratorate announced on Sunday. Prosecutors believe that Yang Youming, former deputy head of transportation in Ningxia, took advantage of his post to seek profits for others and illegally accepted and extorted property. Li Jie, former deputy mayor of Haikou, capital of Hainan, and Ma Zhanlin, former deputy head of the Ningxia bureau of housing and urban-rural development, are also under

# **Square dancing**

gets lift from govt Four ministerial-level departments including the Ministry of Culture and General Administration of Sport, issued a circular regulating dancing in public areas on five to 10 years while highlight-Sunday, Square dancing in ing accurate management and public areas is a popular multidimensional cooperation. community activity for Chi-

among elderly female retirees. The circular said square dancing is encouraged in China and local authorities should provide convenient outdoor venues and facilities for residents. The circular urged local governments to offer free lessons and promote the creation of more dance rou-

SHANDONG

#### Death toll rises to 13 in plant blast

Thirteen people were confirmed dead in an explosion at a chemical factory in Lijin county, the publicity bureau of Dongying, which administers Lijin, said on Sunday. The Dongying city government said on its website that 11 people injured in the incident were still hospitalized. It also said some of the victims' bodies had been cremated. Relatives of the victims were emotionally stable, the city government

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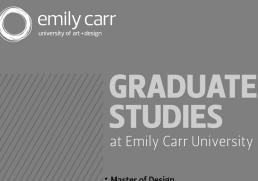
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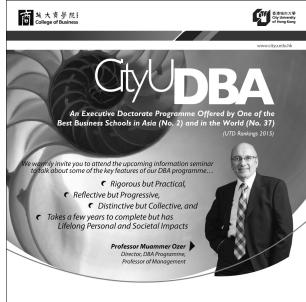
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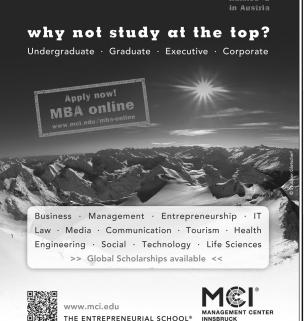
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