

# DCC finally to rationalise waste disposal tax

CITY CORRESPONDENT

A homeowner has been paying Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) 2 percent of the total tax for waste disposal for the last 20 years, which officials called discriminatory, as an industrial unit generating more waste pays at the same rate.

The total tax levied on a holding owner is 12 percent of the total rents collected: 7 percent in household tax, 3 percent for streetlight and 2 percent for waste disposal.

Although a homeowner, an industrial unit and a hospital do not produce the same amount of waste, each pays 2 percent in waste disposal tax.

The recently formed Solid Waste Management Cell of the DCC has sent a proposal to the mayor, to rationalise the waste disposal tax.

On August 23, Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka ordered formation of the cell to have a better coordination among the conservancy, mechanical, transport and store departments of the DCC.

"We have suggested that

commercial units should pay more than the houses because an industrial unit produces more waste," said DCC Chief Conservancy Officer Sohel Faruqi.

The DCC earns only about Tk 14 crore from the taxes and spends about Tk 60 crore for waste disposal a year. "The reason behind the proposal is to reduce the gap between income and expenditure on waste disposal," Faruqi said.

The proposal also suggested a revision of the 78 article of the DCC 1983 ordinance to make the waste disposal more contemporary.

A nine-member team of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) from Tokyo will visit Dhaka at October-end and stay a year to prepare a master plan of waste disposal with the help of a 16-member counterpart unit of the DCC.

"During its stay, the team will survey the waste disposal in the city and prepare a comprehensive policy," Faruqi said.

Another JICA team carried out a preliminary survey on the city in 2000.



DCC spends about Tk 60 crore for waste disposal a year but earns only Tk 14 crore from taxes.

# Link roads still remain shabby, bumpy

SABRINA KARIM MURSHED

Dhaka as a mega-city does not have much to offer its people. Rather, a series of miseries always wait for the *Dhaka*ites to confront the moment they step out of the door. Commuting through shabby link roads is the most common one that tops the list of their inconveniences.

The city possesses 1200-km roads that belong to Dhaka City Corporation (DCC). The number of roads is less than requirement, said most of the experts. Any metropolitan city in the world has minimum 25 per cent road surface of its total area while Dhaka has a road surface of 6 per cent of its area said Ashiqur Rahman, Executive Engineer of Traffic Division of DCC. This includes all type of link roads and alleys with only 2 per cent of major roads of its total area.

The trouble is ever continuing for the people commuting through the link roads of the city. Most of these link roads house numerous pot-holes that make them extremely bumpy. Moreover, encroachment, illegal occupation or even extended gateways of houses have made the link roads devoid of proper functioning.

Links roads like Crescent Road, Kathalbagh Bazar Road, Central

road, Free School Street, part of Kalabagan and especially Bhuter Gali, all bears the sign of commuters' plight. "It becomes hard for my mother to bear the jerks while commuting by a rickshaw to the nearest hospital for check-up," said Fazlul Haque living in Central Road whose mother comes for a medical check-up at the Central Hospital.

Areas like Gulshan that is known to be one of the posh areas of the city suffers the same fate when it comes to link roads. Most of the alleys in Gulshan are in dilapidated state. Road no.126, 127 and 128 of Gulshan 1 are left at a run down state since last three years. Commuting through these pockmarked alleys became tough for the residents of the area. "It turns to be a nightmare to commute through the link roads while it rains," said Zaid Amin living at road 128. The authorities made footpath by covering drains on both sides of the roads but cannot be used properly to walk on since it is narrow and slant, he added.

The authorities always mend major roads used by the VIPs and ignore the plight of commoners, commented most of the people.

Despite repeated attempts, the DCC Chief Engineer could not be reached for his comments.



A virtually abandoned toilet at the national stadium.

# Toilet trauma at national stadium

During big matches and events, fans and spectators often urinate in the open and even from top of the galleries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cricket lovers are once again eagerly waiting for the gala start of Test and one-dayers between Bangladesh and England from Tuesday.

But for years, the country's prime sporting arena the Bangabandhu National Stadium (BNS) has only offered dilapidated, unhygienic and totally unusable public toilets much to the discomfort and annoyance of the connoisseurs.

The situation is so wretched that during big matches and events, fans and spectators often urinate in the open and even from top of the galleries straight onto the walkway below.

"This is only happening because of the insufficient number of toilets or urinals," said a frequent visitor to the BNS.

Most of the latrines on the first floor gallery are clogged with filth and are hardly ever used. Urinals on the same floor are mostly without pans.

When asked about this uncivilised atmosphere, stadium administrator of the National Sports Council (NSC) Mobarak Hossain Liton claimed that a section of the spectators were responsible for the present condition of the toilets.

"It is hard to maintain these facilities as unruly

fans often damage them," said Liton.

Recently, this correspondent discovered a befouling toilet inside gate No. 88 abandoned and the passage closed behind a collapsible grille.

When his attention was drawn to it, Liton said that the gate had been sealed off.

The door of one of the two toilets at one end of gate No. 19 was found closed as it was obviously in no condition for use. The toilets of gate 18 were also soiled and damp.

There are two pay-toilets on both sides of the stadium. These are a little less dirty but frankly speaking, just as appalling.

"All the old toilets along with the entry passages to the gallery were demolished back in 1984 and in their place, the 16 latrines and 24 urinals that you see now were constructed," said NSC's director administration Major (retd.) Enam.

"We have undertaken a thorough renovation drive and A-one standard toilets will be built in the places of the present ones," said Enam who incidentally was holding the same office in 1984 when that useless demolition and reconstruction took place.

# A mountaineer's 'peak of confusion'

BISHAWJIT DAS

It is still unsettled which is the highest mountain in Bangladesh, and Ginge Fullen, the world record holder for climbing the world's highest peaks, was in a dilemma over which one to conquer when he was in Dhaka on October 12.

Conflicting surveys say two mountains are higher than the other, whereas Mowduk, a third, unknown to Bangladeshis themselves, seems to be the highest.

The 1986 survey by the government found Keokradong 3,450 feet high, followed by Mowdak at 3,292 feet and Bijoy Hills or Tajindong at 3,141 feet.

But the 1991 government survey states Keokradong is 2,950 feet high -- 91 feet lower than in the previous survey.

The website, [www.alpeenergy.com](http://www.alpeenergy.com) states Keokradong is the highest peak with a height of 4,034 feet, but another site [www.discoverybangladesh.com](http://www.discoverybangladesh.com) marks it at 4,632 feet.

The internet-based information opposes the statistics provided by the surveys of Bangladesh government.

Pilot in Charge, an American organisation, claims that Mowdak is higher than the other two.

Fullen, an English diver for Royal Navy of Britain, could not decide which one to climb since there is contradiction. He visited Bangladesh as part of his

world record programme and finally decided to climb all the three mountains finding no other way.

He started climbing mountains in 1991 after he broke his neck while playing rugby.

"Though I started with a plan to conquer the world and I would do that for my record; but now travelling, knowing people and making friends have also become one of the reasons for my visit," he said.

But he had a beetle bite in his right hand and was so severely injured that he had to cancel the programme. "I saw three doctors in Dhaka but could not rely on any because one prescribed me without even touching my wrist," he said.

"I would hopefully come again in January next year to conquer all the *highest* peaks of Bangladesh."

Fullen faced both natural and manmade obstacles to step on mountains of 47 countries. He had to cross through snakes, dangerous animals and odd weather. He even had a heart attack while climbing the Mount Everest.

He was mugged, arrested, saw wars and met rebels to name just a few of the social problems he faced.

"It is fun to meet people of different countries and cultures, with the amazing sights and moments on the peaks in different countries. Each of them is unique," he said.

Ginge Fullen, the world record holder for climbing the world's highest peaks, was in a dilemma over which one to conquer in Bangladesh when he was in Dhaka last week

# useful telephonenumber

## OURIER SERVICES

**International**  
Air Borne Express- 9561371, 9561372, 9550724  
Air Couriers Intl (BD) Ltd.- 8815970  
Aramex International Courier- 9558003, 9559582, 9565075  
Airspeed Express- 9563494  
Asian Courier Services Ltd.- 8313543  
Baishakhi Courier Service- 9558606  
Banmgladesh Express Co. Ltd.- 9565114  
Bangladesh Courier Service- 9563989  
Bengal Express- 9560642, 9552666  
Bangladesh Intl Courier- 953636  
Continental Service Ltd.- 9552948, 9558425  
DHL Worldwide Express- 9881703-7, 9886305-9, 9882057  
Enem Express- 9330699  
Fedex Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.- 9565114  
Modhuban Courier Service-

9550884  
Overseas Courier Service- 9352431, 8321169  
Pacific Courier- 9568446  
Reliance Express Service- 9558515, 7110249  
Sky International Service- 9660442  
Skynt world Wide Express- 9558062, 9560258, 7114787, 7113184  
TNT Express- 9566662, 9558239, 8618155  
Union Courier Service- 9341722  
United Parcel Service Air alliance Ltd- 8826429, 8810223  
**National**  
Asian courier Service Ltd- 8313543  
BAE- 9884851  
Central Courier Service- 9881118  
Confidence Courier Service Ltd. 9567036  
Chisty Courier- 7110177-9, 7100842-4  
Cosmopol Services- 9552793, 9557975

Dhaka Courier Services- 7236222  
Dolphin Courier- 9558802  
Dreamland Courier Service- 9550326, 9566975  
Pioneer Courier Services- 9561727, 9569759  
Probashi Courier Services- 9346359  
Rainbow Express Parcel Services Ltd.- 8322773, 8315703  
Reliance Express Services- 9558515, 7110249  
Sundaban Courier Services- 9551984, 9556189, 9551656  
Sunrise Courier Services- 9568751

## TIPS

Do you know according to Dhaka City Corporation, you must deposit your waste at the collection site between 4pm and 10pm

## LIBRARY & INFO-

**Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers**  
**Central Public Library-** 8626001-4,  
**Shishu Academy-** 9564128  
**Shilpakala Academy-** 8614673  
**Bangla Academy-** 8619550  
**Islamic Foundation-** 9550280, 9556407  
**Nazrul Institute-** 9114602  
**Ford Foundation-** 8116133  
**Alliance Francaise-** 8611557  
**British Council-** 8618867-8, 8618905-7  
**Community Development Library-** 8113769, 8113604  
**Goethe Institute Int'l- Dhaka-** 9126525-6  
**Indian Information Centre & Cultural Library-** 8615096  
**The Russian Cultural Centre-** 9116314, 9118531, 9118314  
**Drik Photo Gallery-** 9120125, 8112954, 8123412

## OUTING

**Museum and Zoo**  
**National Museum-** 8619396-9  
Open: 10 am 5 pm, Friday 3 pm- 8 pm, Thursday closed  
**Muktijuddha Jadughar-** 9559091  
Open: 10:30 am 6:30 pm, Sunday Closed  
**Bangabandhu Smiti Jadughar-** 8110046  
Open: 10 am 5 pm, Wednesday closed  
**Ahsan Manzil**  
Open: 10 am 5 pm, Friday: 3 pm - 7 pm, Thursday Closed  
**Shishu Jadughar-** 9666466  
Open: 10 am- 6 pm, Sunday Closed  
**Sonargoan Jadugha**

## CITY BUS ROUTE

Bus No.	Route	Starts from
1	Gulistan-Shahbagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 10, 11, 12	Golap Shah Mazar
2	Gulistan-Shahbagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 1, 2	Phoolbaria bus station
3	Gulistan-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Mahakhali-Airport-Azampur	Phoolbaria bus station
4	Shyampur-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Airport-Tongi	Shyampur
5	Sayedabad-Kamalapur-Motijheel-Airport-Joydebpur-Gazipur	Sayedabad
6 A	Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Gulistan 1, 2	Kamalapur
6 B	Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 1, 2	Kamalapur
6 C	Motijheel Shapla chattr- Malibagh- Farmgate- Gulshan 2	Motijheel Shaplachattr
7	Sadarghat-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 2	Sadarghat
8	Chittagong-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Asad Gate-Kalyanpur-Gabtoi	Chittagong Road
9	Demra Rani mahal-Motijheel-Kalbagan-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 10, 11, 12	Demra Ranimahai
10	Sadarghat-Gulistan-Kakrail-Malibagh-Rampura-Biwa Road-Tongi Bridge	Sadarghat
11	Sayedabad-Motijheel-Fakirapool-Maghbazar-Mohakhali-Tongi Bridge	Sayedabad
11/A	Sayedabad-Khilgoan-Malibagh-Rampura-Airport-Tongi Bridge	Syedabad
12	Shanir Akhra-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Asadgate-Mohammadpur	Shanir Akhra
13	Motijheel-Shahbagh-New Market-Jhigatola-Shangkar-Mohammedpur	Motijheel
14	Signboard -Motijheel-Shahbagh-New Market-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 12	Signboard (Chittagong Road)
15	Chittagong Road-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Mirpur 12	Chittagong Road
24	Gulistan-Maghbazar-Mohakhali-Airport-Uttara-Bipile	Gulistan