

Five bucks extra, please!

CNG autorickshaw, cab drivers continue to demand unfair fares since bus service is limited and many major roads are off-limits to rickshaws

AVIK SANWAR RAHMAN

The use of meters to control transportation cost did not yield the expected result, as commuters pay CNG autorickshaws and taxis Tk 5-10 in excess of the metered fare a ride.

But city dwellers have no option but to commute by CNG autorickshaw or taxicab, since bus service is limited and many major roads are off-limits to rickshaws.

"I am tired of paying Tk10 extra to autorickshaw drivers. I don't have other means to go to office," said Jahangir Sarder, a regular CNG autorickshaw commuter.

The condition is even worse for women and children, who travel by bus. Inconvenient bus routes and traffic jams also aggravate the transportation problem.

"It's all but impossible for a woman to ride a bus because of its suffocating condition inside," said Monowara Sultana, a nurse, who heads for a clinic in Dhanmondi during morning rush hours every day.

According to Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), the CNG autorickshaws and taxicabs should go anywhere commuters ask for and the drivers cannot charge more than the fare on the meter.

"We have asked the commuters to call 999, if the drivers demand extra fare and don't want to go to the places passengers ask for," a DMP traffic

sergeant said of the rules to control runaway drivers.

"They (drivers) demanded extra fare as they needed to wait in long queues for gas at the filling stations before. But now the problem is almost over. It has become a practice," said Apurbo Roy of Tikatuli, who travels to work in Gulshan by CNG autorickshaw.

The rickshawpullers are also following in the footsteps of the autorickshaw drivers and cabbies.

A rickshawpuller demanded an additional Tk 2 from Abu Bakar Mina, a lawyer, who commutes to court three kilometres by rickshaw from home every morning. When he did not want to pay him, the rickshawpuller said, "You can give Tk 10 in excess to the cabbies. Then why not to us?"

The drivers agreed that the crisis of gas was over but said other problems like the increase in the living cost and price spiral of essentials forced them to demand more than metered fare from passengers.

One of them, Shahjahan Khandaker, made a different point to justify the need for more fare from passengers: "I will have to pay the owner of the vehicle more than Tk 300 a day, -- the rate fixed by the government."

Commuters came up with an allegation that the drivers tamper with meters to collect extra fare from riders.



SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN

In quest of young talents

CITY CORRESPONDENT

A month-long science festival to search for young talents all over the country is being jointly organised by the Wonderland Amusement Park and the Bangladesh Astronomical Association (BAA).

The festival will take place in the Wonderland premises at Gulshan between this December and January 2004.

Though the spotlight will be on the young talent, the festival will also motivate people in science and technology, said the organisers.

They dedicate the programme to the Wright Brothers on the 100th anniversary of the discovery of the airplane.

The competition will be held at three levels, namely schools, colleges and universities, and general and will be organised in specified districts. The competitors will first send in the written project proposal to the festival committee, who in turn will write to them requesting that their model projects be submitted to the respective districts. Of them selected models will be submitted to the divisions and then to the festival organisers who will exhibit them at the main competition.

The four selective subjects (disciplines) of the competition

are Astronomy, Computer and Electronics, Physics and Space Science. The written projects have to be sent in by November 30, 2003.

"We have to get our children out of the unhealthy entertainment atmospheres they have been motivated into and the aim

A month-long science festival will begin this December. The organisers, the Wonderland Amusement Park and the Bangladesh Astronomical Association (BAA), have dedicated it to the Wright Brothers.

of the festival is to lure the youth of today to involve themselves in a 'fun with work atmosphere,' said Mustafizur Rahman, chairman of Wonderland Science

Festival. The exhibition will include walking robots, soil from Moon, and different models. Documents, photographs and documentary films on aeroplanes from classical age to the present day will also be exhibited.

The committee led by Dr. Arshad Momen of Dhaka University and BAA will select the projects for further competing levels and make the award winning decisions.

The first to fifth prizes to be awarded are Tk. 50,000, Tk. 40,000, Tk. 30,000, Tk. 20,000 and Tk. 10,000 respectively. The next five winners will be awarded with a prize of Tk. 5,000 each and those placed 11th to 20th will too be awarded with consolation prizes.

Three different groups will be awarded individually. "These awards will, we hope, encourage the competitors to proceed in further inventions, and will cover the costs of the projects," said Rahman.

The festival committee has invited Neil Armstrong, the first astronaut to step on the Moon, to grace the occasion. A real sized model of the Wright Brothers' plane, earth from the Moon and the first walking robot are expected to encourage young investors as well as amuse all the visitors to the festival.

Multipurpose malls

With life getting busier every day, people today want to get all their daily necessities under one roof...And these malls have made their life easier...



Supermarkets in new shopping malls increase convenience for shoppers, offering all items under one roof.

CITY CORRESPONDENT

From groceries to jewellery, a growing number of shopping malls in the city cater to every variety of product under the same roof these days.

"Shopping is a kind of entertainment for some people while it is a basic need for many others. Newly established modern markets offer a decent environment for shopping to both types of people," said Paroma al Mujaheedy, who usually shops in these trendy malls for her daily needs.

In the past few years, several shopping centres have established themselves in the city.

The Eastern Plaza is one of the early malls. Besides that Mascot Plaza, Rifles Square, Meena Bazar, Rapa Plaza, Dhanmondi Plaza, to name a few, have already attracted city dwellers. A good number of new malls with the same philosophy are presently under construction.

Mascot in Uttara has made their life very convenient for the local residents. Rifles' square and Meena Bazar in Dhanmondi are probably the hottest shopping get-aways.

Rifles' Square is in the heart of Dhanmondi and is adjacent to the BDR Park. This mall provides adequate parking, while the spacious atrium is in the centre of the mall and it houses Bangladesh's first supermarket Agora.

Meena Bazar another modern shopping complex at Satmasjid Road offers you special organic food with the slogan of 'Proti Din Kom Dame.' (At low prices, everyday).

"We are getting everything that we need under one roof and no longer need to shuffle between markets for variety of items we wish to purchase. That saves us a lot of time too," said Afrin Alam, a customer.

RAMADAN'S BRISK BUSINESS



COURTESY: COOL EXPOSURE

With Ramadan at our doorstep, clothes shops are already gearing up for brisk business this Eid season. Fashion outlet Ecstasy launched its month-long Eid Festival 2003 at the Banani branch last Wednesday, with model couple Faisal and Joya inaugurating the show. Featuring traditional Eid wear like salwar kameez and punjabi, the collection also features jeans, shirts, winter clothes, imported perfume and accessories.

marketprice

Dhaka New Market, Dhaka

CEREALS
Rice (HYV) Aman Medium KGS 19.00
Rice coarse (HYV) KGS 14.83
Rice Chiniguri (Aromatic) KGS 35.33
Wheat Grain (Local White) KGS 11.33
PULSES
Masuri Dal (Desahi) KGS 44.67
Masuri Dal (Imported) KGS 39.33
Khesari Dal (Desahi) KGS 23.00
SPICES
Onion (Desahi) KGS 29.00
Onion (India big) KGS 25.33
Garlic Deshi (common) KGS 35.00
Garlic Big (Imported) KGS 30.00
Ginger (Desahi) KGS 29.00
Ginger (Imported) KGS 41.00
Turmeric KGS 72.67
Turmeric (India) KGS 74.00
Chili Green KGS 20.67
Chili Dried (Desahi Bogra) KGS 87.33
Chili Dried (Imported) KGS 87.67
VEGETABLES
Potato (Holand) KGS 11.67
Bitter Gourd KGS 28.00
Okra KGS 19.00
Barbati Green (Long bean) KGS 25.00
Cauliflower Average Size KGS 15.00
Cabbage Average Size KGS 13.00

Lau (Water Gourd) KGS 25.00
Patal KGS 17.00
Brinjal (Long purple) KGS 26.67
Pumpkin (Sweet) KGS 13.00
Papaya Green KGS 7.33
Radish White KGS 14.00
FRUITS
Banana Sagar (Medium) 4 PCS 10.00
Pineapple PCS 12.00
Apple (Australia) KGS 70.00
Coconut PCS 13.33
FISH
Rui (Desahi) KGS 131.67
Hilsha KGS 190.00
Mesua Bazar, Mymensingh
CEREALS
Rice (HYV) Aman Medium KGS 14.15
Rice coarse (HYV) KGS 13.25
Rice Chiniguri (Aromatic) KGS 31.75
PULSES
Masuri Dal (Imported) KGS 39.33
Khesari Dal (Desahi) KGS 20.50
OIL & OIL SEEDS
Mustard seeds KGS 59.50
SPICES
Onion (India big) KGS 25.00
Garlic Big (Imported) KGS 29.00
Ginger (Imported) KGS 27.00
All prices in Bangladeshi Taka
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Department of Agricultural Marketing
Daily Market Summary
Retail Price
Selected Markets Saturday, October 25, 2003
Commodity Unit Price
Turmeric KGS 75.00
Chili Green KGS 23.50
Chili Dried (Imported) KGS 85.00
VEGETABLES
Potato (Holand) KGS 11.17
Bitter Gourd KGS 28.50
Barbati Green (Long bean) KGS 18.00
Lau (Water Gourd) PCS 15.83
Patal KGS 14.00
Brinjal (Long purple) KGS 20.50
Papaya Green KGS 6.50
FRUITS
Banana Sagar (Medium) 4 PCS 8.00
Apple (Australia) KGS 65.00
FISH
Rui (Desahi) KGS 175.00
Fertilizer
Urea (Local) KGS 5.95
Reazuddin Bazar, Chittagong
CEREALS
Rice (HYV) Aman Medium KGS 16.50
Rice coarse (HYV) KGS 14.60
Rice Chiniguri (Aromatic) KGS 33.20

Wheat Grain (Local White) KGS 10.96
PULSES
Masuri Dal (Desahi) KGS 43.50
Masuri Dal (Imported) KGS 39.60
Khesari Dal (Desahi) KGS 25.20
SPICES
Onion (India big) KGS 26.20
Garlic Deshi (common) KGS 41.20
Garlic Big (Imported) KGS 23.80
Turmeric (India) KGS 71.40
Chili Green KGS 23.80
Chili Dried (Desahi Bogra) KGS 76.80
Chili Dried (Imported) KGS 68.20
VEGETABLES
Potato (Holand) KGS 11.80
Bitter Gourd KGS 25.20
Okra KGS 21.80
Barbati Green (Long bean) KGS 19.20
Tomato Ripen (Imported) KGS 33.40
Lau (Water Gourd) KGS 11.60
Patal KGS 19.80
Brinjal (Long purple) KGS 17.40
Pumpkin (Sweet) KGS 11.80
Papaya Green KGS 7.80
Radish White KGS 15.40
FRUITS
Banana Sagar (Medium) 4 PCS 8.40
Pineapple 4 PCS 44.60
Apple (Australia) KGS 61.20
FISH

Rui (Desahi) KGS 139.00
Hilsha KGS 135.00
FERTILIZER
Urea (Local) KGS 6.00
TSP (Imported) KGS 12.30
Comilla Chaka Bazar, Comilla
PULSES
Masuri Dal (Desahi) KGS 45.00
Masuri Dal (Imported) KGS 36.00
Khesari Dal (Desahi) KGS 21.60
SPICES
Onion (India big) KGS 25.20
Garlic Deshi (common) KGS 35.60
Garlic Big (Imported) KGS 27.60
Ginger (Desahi) KGS 35.60
Ginger (Imported) KGS 40.00
Turmeric KGS 75.00
Turmeric (India) KGS 63.00
Rajganj Bazar, Comilla
SPICES
Chili Green KGS 29.20
Chili Dried (Desahi Bogra) KGS 95.00
VEGETABLES
Potato (Holand) KGS 11.40
Okra KGS 21.20
Barbati Green (Long bean) KGS 17.20
Cauliflower Average Size KGS 37.60
Cabbage Average Size KGS 31.60
Patal KGS 19.80
Brinjal (Long purple) KGS 22.80
Pumpkin (Sweet) KGS 14.80

Papaya Green KGS 8.80
FRUITS
Banana Sagar (Medium) 4 PCS 9.20
Apple (Australia) KGS 59.00
Apple (India) KGS 48.00
Apple (Pakistan) KGS 68.00
Coconut PCS 9.20
FISH
Rui (Desahi) KGS 144.00
Hilsha KGS 186.00
Chingri Small KGS 136.00
Khulna Sadar Bazar, Khulna
CEREALS
Rice coarse (HYV) KGS 13.35
Rice Chiniguri (Aromatic) KGS 34.80
PULSES
Masuri Dal (Desahi) KGS 43.60
Masuri Dal (Imported) KGS 41.20
Khesari Dal (Desahi) KGS 23.20
SPICES
Onion (Desahi) KGS 27.60
Onion (India big) KGS 25.20
Garlic Deshi (common) KGS 38.80
Garlic Big (Imported) KGS 31.20
Ginger (Desahi) KGS 29.20
Turmeric KGS 72.00
Chili Green KGS 18.00
Chili Dried (Desahi Bogra) KGS 77.00
Chili Dried (Imported) KGS 86.00
VEGETABLES
Potato (Holand) KGS 11.80

Bitter Gourd KGS 21.60
Okra KGS 12.60
Barbati Green (Long bean) KGS 15.00
Cabbage Average Size KGS 14.60
Lau (Water Gourd) KGS 10.00
Patal KGS 12.80
Brinjal (Long purple) KGS 16.80
Pumpkin (Sweet) KGS 12.80
Papaya Green KGS 8.80
Radish White KGS 13.20
FRUITS
Banana Sagar (Medium) 4 PCS 8.00
Hilsha KGS 180.00
Apple (Australia) KGS 62.00
Apple (India) KGS 57.00
Coconut PCS 11.20
FISH
Rui (Desahi) KGS 126.00
Hilsha KGS 180.00
FERTILIZER
Urea (Local) KGS 6.25
TSP (Imported) KGS 13.60
Barisal Sadar Bazar, Barisal
CEREALS
Rice coarse (HYV) KGS 13.20
Rice Chiniguri (Aromatic) KGS 34.40
PULSES
Masuri Dal (Desahi) KGS 40.80
Masuri Dal (Imported) KGS 38.80
Khesari Dal (Desahi) KGS 22.80
OIL & OIL SEEDS
Mustard seeds KGS 36.80

SPICES
Onion (Desahi) KGS 28.80
Onion (India big) KGS 26.80
Garlic Deshi (common) KGS 39.20
Garlic Big (Imported) KGS 30.80
Ginger (Desahi) KGS 42.00
Ginger (Imported) KGS 54.00
Turmeric KGS 72.00
Chili Green KGS 21.60
Chili Dried (Desahi Bogra) KGS 94.00
VEGETABLES
Potato (Holand) KGS 11.40
Bitter Gourd KGS 24.80
Barbati Green (Long bean) KGS 18.80
Cabbage Average Size KGS 14.80
Lau (Water Gourd) KGS 7.40
Patal KGS 14.80
Brinjal (Long purple) KGS 20.80
Pumpkin (Sweet) KGS 13.40
Papaya Green KGS 6.40
Radish White KGS 12.80
FRUITS
Banana Sagar (Medium) 4 PCS 6.40
Apple (Australia) KGS 62.00
Apple (India) KGS 52.00
Coconut 4 PCS 40.80
FISH
Rui (Desahi) KGS 134.00
Hilsha KGS 184.00

sources: Bangladesh Agricultural Marketing Department.