

Slow move for quick waste disposal

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Despite getting the approval of an Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC) meeting in 2000, the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) is yet to buy 75 hydraulic compacting trucks for waste disposal purpose. A compacting truck can carry at least four times the waste than a normal truck as it can squeeze the volume of the garbage using hydraulic power. "Earlier, we tried to get a Chinese grant but the talks failed due to some last minute disagreement. Now we are trying to get financial assistance from Japan. If our talks are fruitful then we expect to buy these hydraulic trucks," said Chief Conservancy Officer of DCC Sohel Faruqi. "Although the fuel consumption of a compacting truck is much more than a normal truck, it still will be very effective for

Dhaka city as the time for waste transportation will be drastically reduced," Faruqi said. Many countries in the world prefer the compacting trucks as they can dispose off waste in a short time. The Conservancy Department of the DCC has been loaded with problems regarding garbage disposal as some 100 of its trucks, 10 bulldozers and 2500 hand trolleys have remained out of order for more than a year. Now 370 open trucks and 124 container trucks are transporting the waste of the city. "We are being forced to manage Dhaka's waste with only 6,500 cleaners. According to an estimate, three cleaners per thousand residents are needed. If we consider the city's population, our strength is less than half of our requirements. We have calculated that at least 14,000 cleaners are necessary for the city," said Faruqi. The city produces six thousand tons of waste each day and

the DCC is always facing criticism for their failure to deal with it properly. Lack of coordination among four departments of the DCC — conservancy, mechanical, transport and store also reportedly adds to this problem. On August 23 this year, Mayor Sadque Hossain Khoka gave his instructions for forming a Solid Waste Management Cell for better coordination among the concerned departments. "The cell has started working and I think, Dhaka is now much cleaner than before," claimed Faruqi. A nine-member Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) team from Tokyo are expected to arrive in Dhaka in November. They will be staying in Bangladesh for one year to prepare a master plan for waste disposal with the help of the DCC's personnel. "Once this master plan is completed, waste disposal of Dhaka will improve a lot," said Faruqi.

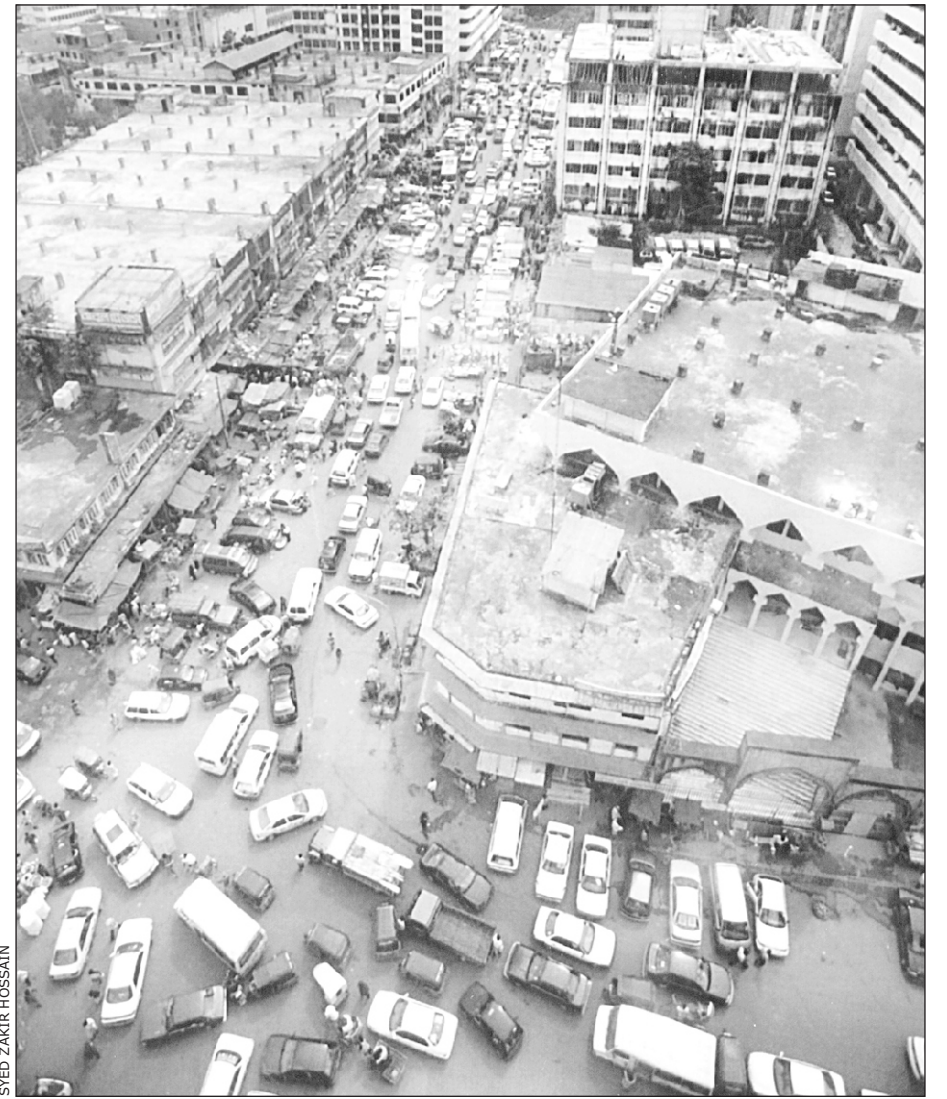
Ramadan comes, iftar follows

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Streets and footpaths of the city will be flooded with varieties of colourful and delicious iftar items, from tomorrow. "The variety of items of iftar entice fasting people therefore the selling of iftar becomes a reasonably profitable business," said an owner of a Chinese restaurant at Dhanmondi. International and joint venture hotels and restaurants have also prepared a variety in the menus so that city dwellers will have a different taste of iftar each day. The largest numbers of iftar sellers are found at Chawkbazar in the old town. The area is famous for certain special iftar items. There are seasonal iftar sellers who take their place on the streets of Chawkbazar with varieties of delicious food and fruits during the whole month of Ramadan. The selling starts from 2 pm till maghrib, which is the prayer before breaking the fast. "The street becomes off limits for any traffic during this time. This area would become a place full of small iftar sellers and people from all over the city from old and new town come to buy the special iftars of Chawkbazar," said the Cashier of Alauddin Sweet Meats. Many types of kebabs like suti, zally, hari, shik, boti, shami, and reshami are sold during the time. Halim in various flavours like chicken, beef, paya or legs is another common but never-too-

stale item sold in the market. Various types of Pithas or Bangla cakes, sweets like zeelapee, doi bora, beguni, piazu and other items are out in the market. Innovative items and new names appear on the iftar list in the markets all round the city. The brand names of iftar items, such as Armenian Khasir Halim and Mama Halim are also a part of the culture and tradition of the iftar sellers. One such item called 'Boro Baper Beta Khae' which is a combination of chira, suti kebab and boneless chicken which is sold Tk. 180 per kg takes to sales immediately laid on the table. After the daylong fast city dwellers depends on the iftar markets of the city to break the fast as dusk draws into the night and prepare for another day of fasting. "After the days work in the office I don't have the time to prepare iftar at home for my family. I am worried about the price. If the government can't curb the price of essentials we have to cut short our iftar," said Samsunnahar, a business executive. "The cost of iftar items would increase because of the high cost of essential goods. The market price is rising and no sign of any price control by the government can be seen. The government talks of reducing prices but in reality the opposite is taking place," said a confectionery owner who is planning to sell iftar in the month of Holy Ramadan.

TRAFFIC SNARL-UP



Dhaka's second business hub Karwan Bazaar is choked by uncontrolled flow of traffic during business hours every day.

Waking with winter

Throughout the year, the work of bedding makers is limited to making two to three mattresses or pillows a day. But only in winter, their business shoots up.

SYED TASHFIN

With winter right around the corner, bedding makers anticipate their business booming over the next three months from late November. Throughout the year, the work of bedding makers is limited to making two to three mattresses or pillows a day. But only in winter, their business shoots up. "Last winter we had more orders than in other nine months of the year combined," said Abul Kalam, an employee of a bedding shop at Green Road. But cotton merchants, anticipating the 'boom period' for such bedding stores, have already raised the prices of cotton by Tk 4 to 5 a kilogram. "Cotton is priced at up to Tk 150 a kilogram," said Kamrul Islam, owner of a bedding store at Basiruddin Road in Kalabagan. As is known, karpash and

shimul are the most demanded varieties of cotton, with the first having two to three varieties -- available at different prices. And shimul, used only to make the pillows, has only one variety with feather-like softness. The original varieties of both karpash and shimul are not available in the market, hiking the prices of other varieties. Making a mattress or quilt requires three to five hours and the bedding stores outsource workers to catch up with the demand for more products in winter. "The more efficient we are in our work, the better as we can earn more money," Kamrul said. The bedding stores sell mattresses, quilts and pillows, among others -- of which pillows are most popular all year round. Quilts and mattresses sell mostly in winter in all sizes -- single, semi-double and double.



Blanket, bedding makers go into action with the market warming up as the weather gets cooler day by day.

Wasa vigilant

7 special teams formed to stave off crisis. Army will be deployed too. New tube wells will be installed during first week of Ramadan

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Seven vigilance teams headed by a superintendent engineer of Wasa will work round the clock in seven zones to ensure the smooth supply of water to city dwellers during the period of Ramadan. "Besides the deployment of the army, these seven teams will try to secure the continuous supply of water in Ramadan," said Managing Director of the Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) ANH Akhtar Hossain. At recent meeting the Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD) decided to deploy the army at strategic points of the city so that citizens do not face acute shortages of water. The army is expected to be deployed from the very first day of Ramadan. "Despite our effort, the water supply may prove inadequate as Wasa only supplies water to two lakh houses of the city. A recent study says that the city consists of 3.6 lakh houses," said

Hossain. "How do the remaining 1.6 houses survive? They cannot subsist on hand tube wells and surface water. This section of people is surviving by pilferage of Wasa water," said Hossain. Wasa supplies water to dwellers from about 400 pumps and two water treatment plants located at Syedabad and Chandi. The demand of water in the city is 170 crore litres per day while Wasa can barely supply upto 160 crores. Replying to water crisis in some areas of the city before Ramadan, Hossain said, "Due to sudden breakdowns of pumps, the water supply may be disrupted in some areas. We are already taking measures to solve these problems. Seven new deep tube wells will be installed and another seven will replace the ones that are malfunctioning, in the first week of Ramadan." "In many areas like Sobhanbag, Mohammadpur and Dhanmondi, the water crisis has already been solved. Now we

are struggling to supply water to Mirpur since the ground water level in that area has gone down drastically," said Hossain. "As the natural recharge of water is being hampered by the indiscriminate filling-up of wetlands around the city, the problem of water will multiply in the near future. We still heavily depend on surface water," he added. Among 160 crore litres, Wasa can produce only 26 crore litres of water from two water treatment plants and the rest comes from the 400 deep tube wells. "I am still learning about the Wasa affair as I took over office only on October 15. I am working out the short and long term strategies to solve the immediate problems of water supply," he further said. The city dwellers in many areas face acute shortages of water every Ramadan. "This year, I can say that the people of the city will suffer least," said Hossain.

healthouting, taxicab & train timing

HEALTH

- Hospitals**
Heart
 National Institute of Cardio Vascular Diseases (NICVD), - 9130800, 9122560-59
- Burn**
 Dhaka Medical College Hospital
 Burn Unit-8626812-6
- Cancer**
 National Cancer Institute-8014914, 8826561-65
 Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University-8612550-4, 861455-9
- Diabetes**
 Diabetic Research Hospital (BIRDEM)- 9661551-5, 8616641-50
- Mother & Child Care**
 Shishu Hospital- 9119119, 8116061-62
 Azimpur Mother & Child Health Training Institute- 8624827, 8624980

- Eye**
 Islamia Eye Hospital-9110794, 9119315
 National Eye Hospital- 8117202, 8114807
- Dental**
 Dental College -9002035
- Orthopaedics**
 National Orthopaedics (Pangu) Hospital- 9114075, 9112150
- General**
 Dhaka Medical College Hospital- 8626812-6
 Rushmono General Hospital- 8317819
 Holy Family Hospital- 83111731-25
 Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital- 8612550-4, 8614545-9
 Bangladesh Medical College & Hospital- 8115443, 9118202,
 Shamaria Hospital- 9131901
 Suhrawardy Hospital - 9130800,

- 9122560-69
 Salimullah Medical Collage Hospital -- 7310061-4, 7319002-6
 Cholera Research Hospital (ICDDR,B)- 8611751-60
 Monowra Hospital 8319802, 8318135
- Blood Bank**
 Red Crescent Centre- 9116563
 Sandhani (DMCH)- 8624040
 Sandhani (SMCH)- 7310061, 7310061, 7319022
 Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital- 8626812-9
- Eye Bank**
 Sandhani International Eye Bank- 8614040
- Ambulances For Dead Body**
 Anzuman Mafidul Islam (Kakrail) 9336611, Gandaria 7319808, 7318166,
 Al-Markajul Islam 9127867,

MARKET CLOSED

- Gulshan 1, 2 markets-Friday
 Elephant Road-Friday
 Bishal Center-Friday
 Baitual Mukarram Market-Friday
 Polwell Market-Friday
 BCS Computer City-Friday
 Isha Khan Shopping Complex-Friday.
 Rajlaxmi Complex-Friday
 Stadium Market-Friday
 Bangabazar Market-Friday
 National Museum-Thursday
 Ahsan Manzil--Thursday.
 New Market-Tuesday
 Gausia Market-Tuesday
 Mouchak Market-Sunday
 Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday
 Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday
 Eastern Plaza-Sunday
 Farmview Super Market-Sunday
 Muktiyudha Jadughar-Sunday
 Dhaka Zoo-Sunday
 Shishu Jadughar-Sunday

TAXI CAB

- Yellow Cab**
 Navana 9558065
 Salida 9344477, 0171620881
 Cosmo 9112959 and 8127191
 Cab One 7113282-3
 Nihon 8624741-2
 Orion 9347277
 Anudip 8125285 and 8127611
 Capital 9352847
- Subarna Express**
 Leaves Dhaka at 4:00 pm
 Leaves Dhaka at 7-30 am
 Leaves Dhaka at 3-05 pm
 Leaves Dhaka at 11-00 pm
 Leaves Dhaka at 6-30 am
 Leaves Dhaka at 12-30 pm
 Leaves Dhaka at 9-30 pm
 Leaves Dhaka at 7-00 am
 Leaves Dhaka at 5-00 pm
 Leaves Dhaka at 6-00 am
 Leaves Dhaka at 9-20 pm

LIBRARY & INFO

- Black Cab**
 Cab Ex 9358401
 Cabline 8321162
 JBS Cab 019364575
 Sajan 018126036
 Anudip - 8125285 and 8127611
 Cab One 7113282-3
- Union** 8130485
 Kool 0171826731
- Palki** 0171052500
 Cab I 7113282
 Jatri 0171540074
 Nipun 9572277
 R-Cab 8914782
 Star Cab 9571919
 Shihab 018202477 & 018228675
 KGN 8620011

TRAIN TIMING

- Reaches Chittagong at 10:15 pm
 Reaches Chittagong at 2-55 pm
 Reaches Chittagong at 9-11 pm
 Reaches Chittagong at 7-05 am
 Reaches Sylhet at 2-30 pm
 Reaches Sylhet at 9-20 pm
 Reaches Sylhet at 6-40 am
 Reaches Bahadurabad at 1-05 pm
 Reaches Bahadurabad at 11-55
 Reaches Noakhali at 1-35 pm
 Reaches Jagannath at 2-30 pm

- 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