



Hawkers have set up shops in front of the General Post Office building.

# Hawkers claw their way back



Fruit sellers near Motijheel are selling their items openly on the footpath.

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Hawkers have staged a comeback and occupied footpaths at important city points especially around the busy shopping malls.

In the last few days, thousands of illegal traders threw up makeshift shops at Gulistan, GPO, Baitul Mukarram, Dainik Bangla Crossing, Purana Paltan, Motijheel, Bangabazar, Mouchak, Rampura, New Market and other places under the very nose of the mobile courts and law enforcers.

The authorities set up at least 22 mobile courts ahead of Ramadan to maintain law and order in the city till Eid.

A home ministry meeting chaired by state minister Lutforzaman Babar and attended among others by Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka promised to ensure security for the city dwellers 'so that they can do their Eid shopping without any trouble.'

It decided deployment of paramilitary BDR, police, ansars and Armed Police Battalion (APBN).

It also decided to set up summary courts and 40 patrol teams as strike forces to check crimes and traffic snarl-up.

As shopping perks up, plainclothes policemen were supposed to keep watch in and around the city's important shopping malls.

The meeting even decided not to allow sale of iftar items alongside roads as it causes traffic jam and chaos.

But all the promises fell flat as the pedestrians have again been pushed out of the footpaths. Traffic situation has gone out of control and mugging incidents are steadily on the rise, according to newspaper reports.

This correspondent yesterday observed that hawkers and illegal parkings are the two main causes of traffic jam at Motijheel, the city's busiest commercial hub.

As hawkers took control of most of the footpaths, the situation becomes worse after the office hour.

The story goes similar for the areas between North Gate of Baitul Mukarram Mosque and Dainik Bangla Crossing or from Shapla Square to Tikatuli Crossing.

Some disgusted shoppers alleged that police are now busy collecting toll ahead of Eid rather than keeping law and order.

In New Market and Baitul Mukarram areas some hawkers admitted that they bribe police on daily basis but remained tightlipped on who collect the money and how.

# 'Duronto' stays crippled

Tale of a damaged statue at Shishu Academy

SABRINA KARIM MURSHED

'Duronto,' the sculpture at Bangladesh Shishu Academy premises symbolising the exuberance and innocence of a child, has not been repaired even four months after it was damaged.

The bronze casting sculpture made through lost wax process, was already in a fragile state because of lack of maintenance, and was torn apart when a nor'wester lashed it.

It used to be a statue of a child running a ring-shaped wheel and a stick. But after the storm hit it, only a leg and the ring could be spotted on the pedestal. The remnants of the sculpture are kept on the rooftop of the academy building.

The Duronto was created in 1982 by sculptor Sultanul Islam. Originally, It was made of cement and placed at the centre of the front lawn of the academy.

In 1996, a group of fundamentalists took out their rage on it while protesting publication of a book 'Gyaner Kotha' by the Shishu Academy and completely destroyed it. The book had mentioned the names of Goutam

Buddha and Jesus Christ before Prophet Mohammed (sm) since it followed a chronological order in describing the birth of religions.

The sculpture was rebuilt in 1987 in bronze casting by Sultanul Islam and Enamul Haque.

Now, the Shishu Academy authorities want the sculptors to come forward and oversee the repair work.

"We can not do it on our own since this is a work of art," said Md. Feroz Salahuddin, Director of Shishu Academy.

Salahuddin admitted that they had hesitated at first when Islam estimated a cost of Tk. 50,000 to mend Duronto but were now prepared to go for it.

"When it was re-built in 1987, it cost us Tk 30,000. Although the expenditure will be nearly doubled this time, we are now ready to sanction the fund required by Islam and have already contacted him to start repairing Duronto," the director added.

The sculptor however contradicted Salahuddin's claim saying he hasn't received any formal letter from the academy concerning the repair work of Duronto. Islam also

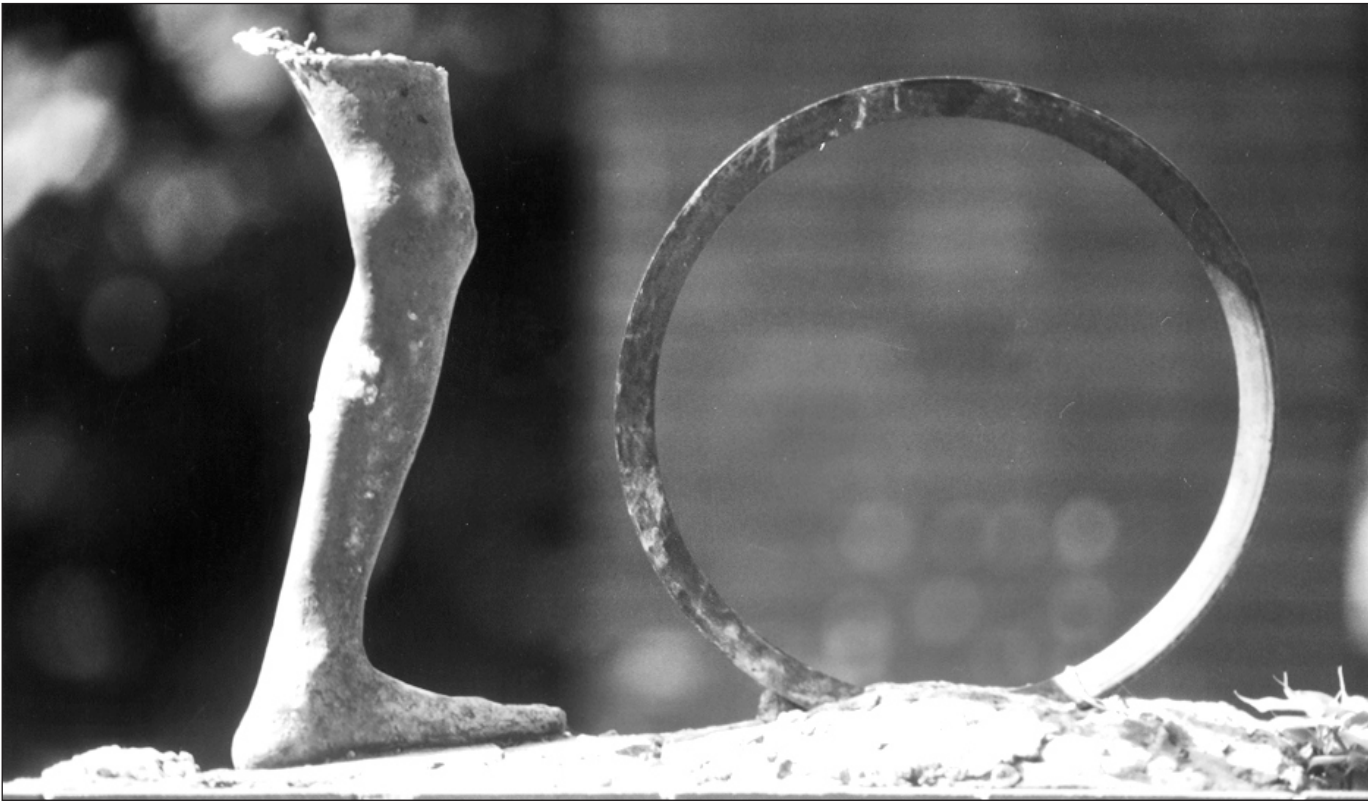
informed that the bronze sculpture had cost more than Tk one lakh when it was re-built in 1987 and the academy only paid Tk 30,000 out of the total amount.

"There was a clause in the contract that said that if the expenditure exceeded Tk 30,000, the remaining amount had to be paid by the sculptor. So I had to pay Tk. 70,000 from my pocket," said Islam.

Islam expressed his frustration at the mishandling of the sculpture by academy people. He said that they damaged it while moving Duronto from the front lawn to front of the porch.

"The hands, toe and the stick of the statue were broken. I had sent at least 30 letters to the authorities to do something about it but they never responded. Obviously, it became so weak that it broke down in the storm," said Islam.

The sculptor however said that he was willing to start mending the Duronto as soon as he received a formal letter from the Shishu Academy.



The damaged statue 'Duronto' stands without repair at the Shishu Academy Premises.

# DCC setting up libraries, mini cultural centres

CITY CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) is implementing a plan to set up public libraries, one in each of its 90 city wards along with five or more mini Shilpakala (cultural) centres.

The DCC has already turned five empty rooms into libraries in some of its city community centres. These were the first of its planned 90 libraries.

The action came following a directive from Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. The five community centres where the libraries have been set up are Suchana at Mohammadpur, Paltan, Moghbazar,

Bansal and Sutrapur. The other 85 libraries will follow soon.

The cultural affairs ministry will provide books and the ward commissioners have pledged to equip the libraries with necessary furniture and fixtures, DCC sources said.

In September, Mayor Sadeq Hossain Khoka formed a committee headed by DCC's Legal Officer to build the proposed mini *Shilpakalas*. The centres that will house the *shilpakalas* are Moghbazar, Suchana, Palntan and the two community centres at Azimpur.

The cultural activities of these areas will centre

round these *Shilpakalas*. "We will appoint dance and music teachers for children interested in these subjects. This will help the children of these areas to cultivate their own talents." Besides, the centre will become the spot of entertainment for the people of that area, the sources said.

Each *shilpakala* will be built at an estimated cost of Tk 10 lakh which will be jointly borne by the DCC and the cultural affairs ministry.

"A plan is there to buy musical instruments and essential accessories for dance. The DCC will pay salaries to the teachers, too," said a DCC official.

## 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,

Shamarita Hospital- 9131901  
Suhrawardy Hospital -- 9130800,  
9122560-69  
Salimullah Medical Collage  
Hospital -- 7310061-4, 7319002-6  
Cholera Research Hospital  
(ICDDR)- 8811751-60  
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  
Baitul 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-Tuesdeay  
Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday  
Eastern Plaza-Sunday  
Farmview Super Market-Sunday  
Muktijuddha 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

Union 8130485

Kool 0171826731

#### Black Cab

Cab Ex 9358401  
Cabline 8321162  
JBS Cab 019364575  
Sajan 018126036  
Anudip -- 8125285 and 8127611

### TRAIN TIMING

Subarna Express  
Mahanagar Prabhati  
Mahanagar Godhuli  
Turna  
Parabat Express  
Joyantika Express  
Upaban Express  
Tista Express  
Ekata Express  
Upakul Express  
Padma 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

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

### 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