

# Traffic congestion at Mohammadpur

IMRUL HASAN

The traffic situation is hazardous and unbearable along Asad Avenue in Mohammadpur before and after school and university hours with poor traffic management and negligence of the institutional authorities.

Almost a 100 vehicles and rickshaws with students and guardians rush to schools and universities, creating gridlocks on the roads.

Commuters, and office goers get stuck in traffic congestion for almost an hour daily. "It takes more than 30 minutes to reach my child's school from Asad Gate," said Salma Akhtar, a guardian who travels from Savar to pick her child from Saint Joseph's High School.

"I leave home with at least one hour in hand to reach the school in the morning as I know that I will be stuck at Asad Gate at least for half an hour," she said.

There are five schools and three private universities along the stretch from Asad gate to Mohammadpur.

Commuters face gridlocks in front of The People's University of Bangladesh (PUB), Bangla-desh University, Northern University, St. Paul's International School,

London Grace International School, Mohammadpur Preparatory High School, St. Francis Xavier's Green Herald International School and St. Joseph High School because of unwanted parking along the roads.

"I know it is illegal, but what choice do we have," said a driver of a vehicle parked in front of the Bangladesh University.

"There is no space for parking near any one of the institutions," said Raisul Islam, another driver in front of Green Herald.

Guardians said that school hours are the same for all institutions. This causes heavy traffic congestion. There is no proper traffic management in the area as well, they said.

Brother John Rozario, principal, Saint Joseph High School said: "We changed our school hours because of this problem. We believe the situation has now improved."

A guard of one of these schools asking not to be named said that wards of ministers and high officials of police department study here. These drivers believe they have the liberty to park wherever they wish."

He added that this newspaper report might not serve the

purpose of solving the problem.

"The traffic police must take effective action to free Asad Avenue from illegal and hazardous parking," said Ratul Ahmed, a government official and resident of Iqbal Road.

The on-duty police officer at Mohammadpur Preparatory High School (Boys Section) said that drivers of private cars do not care about disciplined parking.

"We try our best to minimize the problem but drivers too must be cooperative, else the congestion cannot be reduced," he said.

The police officer also said that the school bus system could reduce the congestion. Schools could provide transport at a reasonable cost, and will aid in bringing down the number of private vehicles parked along the

road. Brother John said that his school has no bus service, as it would not be possible for the school management to maintain school buses for such a large number of students.

When asked how the traffic congestion can be reduced, he said: "It is difficult to tell. I have no authority to regulate the situation outside the school premises."

A high official of Northern University requesting anonymity said: "At least 90 percent of the students of these schools and universities have private vehicles. Even if a bus system was introduced, they will not utilise it."

"So school or university buses is not the solution," he added.

# Selling lottery tickets in banks

## Disturbance or moral obligation?

NOVERA DEEPITA

When Tamanna Islam, a service holder in a private company, went to the IFIC bank to cash her salary cheque, the officer at the counter forced her to buy a heart foundation lottery ticket. Tamanna did not buy the ticket.

But what she found amazing was the reaction of the other officers at the counter. They looked at her as though she had committed a crime in refusing to buy the ticket.

Lottery ticket sales have now become a common scene at leading banks of the country. While some customers and clients find it annoying others look at it as a way of doing something for the welfare of the society.

But Kamrul Hassan, a student of Dhaka University, looks at this practice as a chance for ordinary people like him to serve the society.

"I would never get any chance to donate huge amount of money for any good cause or welfare of the society. But by buying a lottery ticket I can contribute to something good and at the same time stand a chance of winning a big amount of money," he said with a smile.

Tamanna said that it was not just the IFIC bank. "Whenever I go to any bank to cash cheques or deposit money, I face such problems," she said. "These people force us to buy tickets. I find it quite a disturbance. It is my discretion whether or not I buy a ticket. No one can force me to do so," she added.

A manager of one such bank, preferring anonymity, said: "The government or the authorities arranges these lotteries for charity give the banks a certain amount of tickets to be sold to its customers."

"This does not bring us any profit; we do it as a sense of moral obligation. We



STAR PHOTO

**Lottery tickets are sold all over the city.**

sometimes have to push our customers to buy tickets. especially when it comes to contributing money," he added.

Ordinary people of the country are usually reluctant to do any social welfare oriented work.

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