

DCC officials charging extra for birth certificates

IMRUL HASAN

Obtaining birth registration certificates from Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has become a tough job for city dwellers, as they are being victimised with excessive charges by a section of brokers.

"Filling forms have also become a complication because of the bureaucratic systems adopted," said a DCC official on condition of anonymity, adding that the middlemen or brokers in collaboration with a section of DCC officials and employees make the process rather complicated.

Many city dwellers crowd the Central Birth and Death Registration Cell under the DCC's department of Health to obtain birth registration certificates.

The certificates have become essential for students, for travelling abroad, obtaining trade licenses of permits, getting children admitted to schools and colleges, opening bank accounts, applying for passports, driving licenses or work permits etc.

Explaining the cost involved in obtaining these certificates, the officer in charge of the Central Birth and Death Registration Cell, on the 12th floor of Nagar Bhaban at

There are allegations that the employees at the cell of the DCC often try to take advantage of ignorance of the applicants. When applicants seek help, they readily agree but are asked to pay more to procure the court fees and stamps, getting seal and signatures from the magistrate or notary public, transport fare and other expenses incurred.

Fulbaria, said that, an applicant needs to fill up two forms, each of Tk 5 denomination.

Besides, the applicant has to pay Tk 25 as corporation fee and Tk 15 for another prescribed form.

If the child's age is more than 90 days, the applicant has to submit an affidavit, either from a first class magistrate or from a notary public, stating detailed information related to the birth of the child on a stamp of Tk 50 denomination.

The information should include time, date and place of birth, names of father, mother, and grandfather of the child, along with the certificate of birth issued by the hospital or clinic, names of two witnesses, attested photocopies of the

passport or certificates of the parents.

In total, an applicant has to spend Tk 100 to obtain a birth registration certificate, which could be obtained within three days of applying.

The officer also said that there are other expenses, which he declined to elaborate.

But a senior official of the Central Birth and Death Registration Cell acknowledged the existence of a group of middlemen at Nagar Bhaban, who extract excessive charges to obtain birth registration certificate.

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they readily agree but are asked to pay more to procure the court fees and stamps, getting seal and signatures from the magistrate or notary public, transport fare and other expenses incurred.

Those who do not want to go through the hassle of running around agree to pay this amount to get the birth registration certificate without much trouble.

When Abir Ahmed, a businessman, on August 4, went to obtain two birth certificates, he was given two applications each Tk 5 denomination and after completing the form they demanded Tk 500 each.

When Abir asked why the registration was so high, one of the brokers said: "The usual charge is Tk 700 to 1,000, but I am doing you a favour and demanding only Tk 500."

Abir became very angry at the large amount demanded.

On the other hand, Azad Alamgir, a Dhaka University student, looked at the situation differently. "I have to submit this birth certificate within two days, as I have to face UK embassy for visa, so I am in a hurry," he said. "I wouldn't mind the extra payment," he added.

Surprisingly DCC's chief health officer Colonel Md Azizul Haque said: "If you try to complete the procedure yourself, you will be in great trouble every step of the way, which will cost you more money and time."

"We are sometimes under tremendous pressure from influential persons to complete this elaborate process within a day. So, we have no alternative other than showing the backdoor process," he said.

Women workers deprived of maternity leave

SHARMIN MEHRIBAN

Most garment factories around the city are flouting government regulations in granting of paid maternity leave to workers and six were mere display.

"The proprietors use such crèches to impress overseas buyers," said Marufia Noor, the assistant coordinator of policy and research unit at KN.

The survey also showed that in 18 factories had work duration of 12 hours a day, and

one factory provided maternal leave with a one-month's pay.

Only 18 of the factories provided crèches among which 12 were used by the workers and six were mere display.

"There used to be a certain room at our factory where there were toys and mattresses and the factory officials would ask us to keep our children there whenever there were any foreign visitors. Other times that

inspect facilities provided to workers," said one official.

When asked about the absence of children in the crèche, another factory official said that the workers usually leave their children at home.

"There used to be a certain room at our factory where there were toys and mattresses and the factory officials would ask us to keep our children there whenever there were any foreign visitors. Other times that

had to work until 8 pm or even longer. She remained silent when asked about paid maternity leave and crèches.

Workers of both factories visited did not speak up in the presence of the factory authorities.

"These workers would not dare to talk about their plight in the presence of the authorities for fear of losing their jobs," said Noor.



STAR PHOTO



Officials at DCC's Central Birth and Death Registration Cell at work.

regulations, women workers are entitled to four months paid maternal leave and can go to court if they are deprived of such rights or forced to work during the crucial period or immediately after childbirth.

No employer can fire, suspend or fine a woman worker for absence in the final stages of pregnancy.

According to Factory Act regulations, factories with 50 or more women employees must provide crèches for children less than six years of age.

Crèches must be hygienic and handled by trained and experienced women babysitters, with optional provisions for washing and changing children's clothes. The factories can also provide infant milk and nutritious food for the working mothers.

However according to KN's survey, only 31 factories out of 100 in the city granted paid maternity leave, while 60 granted no leave at all.

Seven factories provided unpaid maternity leave whereas

47 factories had 14 hours. Four factories have 16 hours and five -- 15 hours.

In all the factories surveyed, workers are not allowed to go home between working hours to tend to domestic chores. Work on an average at all factories start at 8 am.

Officials of Impressive Garments, an export-oriented factory, told this correspondent that 70 percent of the factory employees are women and they are entitled to maternity leave of three months before childbirth with full pay.

Working hours are between 8 am to 5 pm with an additional two hours of paid overtime. The factory also has a doctor, nurse and a caretaker for a crèche situated within the factory's premises, said the officials. Employees were not charged for using the crèche.

Though the crèche seemed well kept, neither the caretaker nor any children were in sight. "We have to deal with a lot of overseas buyers and they often

room would be empty," said Nargis, a former garment worker and currently a domestic help.

The proprietor of Sincere Garments, another export-oriented factory, admitted that the factory has no crèche. Echoing Noor's statement, he claimed that factories provide crèches just to impress overseas buyers.

He also claimed that 'perhaps' according to factory regulations, women workers are entitled to a paid maternity leave of three months but he added that the factory authorities have so far not received any applications for maternity leave and crèches.

"According to local tradition, women leave their children at their mothers' places while they go off to work," he said bluntly.

Though he claimed that the factory's working hours are between 8 am and 4:30 pm with two and a half hours of paid overtime, Hosna, a factory worker turned domestic help, said that sometimes that they

However she cited the case of two garment workers at two factories who fought to obtain maternity leave and ultimately succeeded.

She also agreed with the possibility that a majority of garment workers do not demand crèches, as most of them are too young, unmarried girls or mature women with grown-up children past the breastfeeding stage.

"We are constantly fighting to establish crèches at the garment factories but organisations such as ours can only succeed in our cause if the workers themselves are aggressively fighting for their rights. But in most cases, helplessness and ignorance hold them back," she said.

"Many high officials neglect their duties so why blame us for flouting regulations?" questioned the proprietor of Sincere Garments.

healthouting, taxicab & train timing

HEALTH

Hospitals

Anjuman-e-Mofidul Islam 9336611, 7411660
BARDEM 8616641-50
 Cholera Hospital (ICDDR) 8811751-60
CMH (Dhaka) 9870011
 Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital 8628612-6
 Holy Family Red Crescent 8311721-5
 Islamia Eye Hospital 9119315, 8112156
 Lion Eye Hospital 9129127
 Medinova Medical Services 8620353-4
 Mirpur General Hospital (Pvt) Ltd 9007873, 8015444
 Mitford Hospital 7319002-6
 National Heart Foundation Hospital 8014914, 8010491, 8021399
 Orthopedic Hospital 9112150

Salimullah Medical College Hospital 7319002-6
 Samorita Hospital 9131901
 Shahid Suhrawardi Hospital 9122560-78, 9112086, 8114856, 9130800
 Shishu Hospital 8116061-2, 9119119
Clinics
 Akand Clinic 8015855, 8022581
 Aroggaya Niketan 9333730
 BAVS Maternity 8016413-4
 Dhaka Monorog Clinic 9005050
 Gulshan Mother & Child Clinic 8822738, 8812992
 Ibn Sina Clinic 8119513
 Jahanara Clinic (Pvt) Ltd 8912929
 Judi Maternity 9113322
 Paltan Poly Clinic 9557385
 Retina Eye Center (Clinic) 9884588, 9884566
 Shishu Bekash Clinic 9351625

The Eye Clinic 9333238

Blood Bank

Red Crescent Centre- 9116563
 Sandhani (DMCH)- 8624040
 Sandhani (SMCH)- 7310061, 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.
 Stadium Market-Friday
 Bangabazar Market-Friday
 National Museum-Thursdays
 Ahsan Manzil-Thursdays.
 New Market-Tuesdays
 Gausia Market-Tuesdays
 Mouchak Market-Sunday
 Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday
 Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday
 Eastern Plaza-Sunday
 Farmview Super Market-Sunday
 Mujibuddha Jadughar-Sunday
 Dhaka Zoo-Sunday
 Shishu Jadughar-Sunday

TAXI CAB

Passenger's Complaint

01711-000990, 01711-000991, 01711-000992, DMP-999, 2627.

Cab Salida Ltd. 9344477, 01711-620888, 01711-610405
Cosmo Cab Ltd. 9112959, 8127191, Nitol Cab Co. Ltd. 8125285, 01711-621953
JBS Cab Ltd. 0191-364575
Coal Cab Ltd 8130485, 01711-826731
Limujin Cab Ltd. 9318351, 9337204
Multi-Cab Ltd. 9666502, 9570740
Nihon Taxi Cab Ltd. 8624742,

8624741
Orion Taxi Cab Ltd. 934727, 9347277, 01711-155144
Reliance Cab Ltd. 9339563-4
RMS Cab Ltd. 8118536
Shatarupa Taxi Cab Ltd. 731083, 01711-458740
Tinni Cab Ltd. 9662009, 01711-645257
Teletex Cab Ltd. 7202201
Alif Cab Co. Ltd. 0191-357838, 83116948
Cab One Ltd. 9563054 Ext.-3077, 3178
United Cab Ltd. 7510166, 01711-

348474
Ulka Express Ltd. 9359885, 01711-313554
Cab Bangla Ltd. 9563077 Ext.-3054, 3178, 01711-622644
Cab i Ltd. 9563054, 9563077, 01711-629585
Cab line Ltd. 8321162
Capital Cab Co. Ltd. 9352847-9
Classic Cab Ltd. 200825, 01711-233851, 01711-812415
Comport Cab Ltd. 8817610-4
Cab Express Ltd. 9341389, 9339337, 9348401 Ext.-111

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
 Information Resource Center, The American Center- 8813440-4, 9886395-9
 British Council- 8618867-8, 8618905-7
 Community Development Library- 8113769, 8113604
 Goethe Institute Int'l- Dhaka- 9126525-6
 Indian Information Centre & Cultural Library- 8850141-2
 The Russian Cultural Centre- 9116314, 9118531, 9118314
 Drik Photo Gallery- 9120125, 8112954, 8123412
 Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) 9330081-4

TRAIN TIMING

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

Leaves Dhaka at 4:30 pm
 Leaves Dhaka at 7:30 am
 Leaves Dhaka at 3-15 pm
 Leaves Dhaka at 11-00 pm
 Leaves Dhaka at 6-40 am
 Leaves Dhaka at 12-45 pm
 Leaves Dhaka at 9-45 pm
 Leaves Dhaka at 7-00 am
 Leaves Dhaka at 5-00 pm
 Leaves Dhaka at 8-00 pm
 Leaves Dhaka at 9-20 pm

Reaches Chittagong at 10:35 pm
 Reaches Chittagong at 1-55 pm
 Reaches Chittagong at 10-55 pm
 Reaches Chittagong at 6-40 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 11-15 pm
 Reaches Noakhali at 5-00 am
 Reaches Jagannath at 2-30 pm