

SHORTAGE OF GARBAGE LORRIES

DCC sings the old tune

KAUSAR ISLAM AYON

It was 5:20pm on last Sunday. A huge garbage lorry carrying waste from Karwan Bazar was going to dumping ground through Moghbazar intersection. Just 25 minutes before Iftar, fasting Muslims at the busy intersection were seen covering their nose to save themselves from the bad odour coming from the truckload of waste.

"This is sheer irresponsibility of Dhaka City Corporation," said an angry pedestrian. "What is the necessity of carrying waste at this time? Is DCC trying to show its efficiency? If they were really efficient, they would have collected waste on time."

Drivers of buses, private cars and CNG autorickshaws were seen trying to remain at a safe distance from the lorry, though they were in a hurry.

When contacted, acting Chief Conservancy Officer (CCO) of DCC Dewan Shah Alam said the lorry came out of workshop on that day and it was sent for clearing garbage as there was urgency of collecting waste piled

DCC sources said they have 370 trucks and container carriers which are not sufficient for the city's waste management. Around 40 percent of them always lie in the workshops. Only 200 to 230 trucks and container carriers are available now, which is insufficient to collect waste from about 5,000 collection points in the city," said a source.

up at Karwan Bazar.

Sources said the DCC is now facing serious problems in collecting and dumping garbage due to insufficient logistics as a big portion of the existing conservancy equipment are lying in workshops for repair and maintenance.

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Chief Engineer, Mechanical Engineering Division-1, DCC, Abdus Sattar, however said only 15 percent of the vehicles are now in workshops, which is not unusual.

The acting CCO said they cannot use all the logistics at a time due to some unavoidable technical problems but they are undertaking different initiatives to solve the problem.

"We are reducing the number of dustbins and garbage

containers as well as collection points in the city to increase the capacity of the vehicle fleet," he said.

Although the DCC has spent Tk 9.75 crore out of sanctioned Tk 10 crore for a project for repair, maintenance and improvement of the equipment in the last three fiscal years, there is no sign of progress in the situation.

The Mechanical Engineering Division-2 of DCC is responsible for the repair and maintenance of solid waste management equipment, such as bulldozers and excavators for the disposal of

waste at the dumping ground.

The sources also said that more than 50 percent of the total 46 solid waste management equipment always remain in the workshops for repair.

"The division spends more than Tk 1 crore for the repair and maintenance of bulldozers and excavators but it has failed to improve the situation," said the source.

Due to lack of a modern recycling plant, the garbage are being dumped in different landfill sites, although 80 percent of 5,600 tonnes of waste that is produced in the city is biodegradable. The conservancy officials of DCC said dependence on the two landfill sites in the city is responsible for this worse situation.

"We have started using Aminbazar landfill site recently. We are looking forward to establishing two more sites in Kamragirchar and Gulshan-Badda area. Then the situation would improve," said Dewan Shah Alam, the acting CCO.

Bringing business to the fore

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over Pakistan took part," she said.

"I was instrumental in policy making for women while I was working as an officer at the Export Promotion Bureau in Pakistan. Now we have a strong policy for them," she added.

"When I came to Bangladesh I thought that I should organise a fair for women of this country too. I discussed the possibility with Nasreen Awal Mintoo (president, WEAB) and considered Ramadan the best time because the Eid shopping spree starts around this time," Roubina said.

The first fair had only five women entrepreneurs from Pakistan but this year we have over 20, she added.

"The effort behind their participation is tremendous. We had to wind up their cargo for shipment and organise the whole trip. This is a part of the training. There are also many participating in a fair for the first time. They come here in the hope of getting a good sales and an exposure. The cost here is very low," she further said.

"Many women approached us and said that they cannot afford a stall. We allotted stalls free of charge, and we bore the cost that was quite big, because

our objective is to make way for them," said Roubina.

"There is one new phenomenon in this fair. That is men from Pakistan also came with the

The objectives of this fair are to develop market strategies suitable for women entrepreneurs and to train and equip them in production techniques, time and finance management, local and export marketing...

women to take part, which was very interesting," she said.

"The response is very good. Women entrepreneurs from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Iran and Indonesia are taking part in the fair. In Bangladesh

grassroots level business-women from Jessore, Bogra, Sylhet, Rajbari and Rajshahi came to take part," said Nasreen Awal Mintoo, president, WEAB.

"It is very important for them because they are having an opportunity to interact with women entrepreneurs of other countries and get new ideas about trade and production," she added.

The objectives of this fair are to develop market strategies suitable for women entrepreneurs and to train and equip them in production techniques, time and finance management, local and export marketing, packaging, pricing and communication skills, said the organisers.

On the sidelines, three seminars titled 'Fair participation and marketing'; 'Finance and managing growth' and 'Promoting regional women entrepreneurship' will be held during the fair.

Over 60 stalls were set up at the fair, and will be open from 11am to 10pm everyday. Entry fee to the fair is Tk 10. Bank Al-Falah is the lead sponsor and JOBS Bangladesh, the supporter. The fair will end on October 6.

INDONESIAN BIKER IN DHAKA

Spreading the message of peace in the world

CITY CORRESPONDENT

An Indonesian motorbike rider Jeffrey Polnaja, who set out on a mission titled 'Ride for Peace' to spread peace worldwide, left Bangladesh last Tuesday for India, to send a message of peace of family and brotherhood.

44 year old Jeffrey, fondly called JJ, undertook the motorbike ride across the world in an attempt to preach the message of peace worldwide by person to person contact, forsaking his private business and cosy family life.

Indonesian Ambassador to Bangladesh Warmas Hasan Saputra emphasised the need for peace in 'this world of turbulence' at a press conference at the Indonesian Embassy last week.

Jeffrey evidently felt embarrassed being late to meet reporters at the press conference organised by Indonesian Embassy, as he got stuck in traffic standstill on his way back from the sports ministry.

"I was late because of awful traffic jam on Dhaka streets, which I was not aware of," JJ said.

"The people here are very good, but the traffic jam..." JJ paused while talking to the reporters.

Undaunted by any elemental adversities in course of his journey on a motorbike across the world, JJ was visibly besieged in Dhaka's horrendous traffic

congestion.

Having travelled across Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and China, JJ landed in Bangladesh, as the ninth country of his journey, on September 20 to campaign for peace and solidarity at the common-man level.

But he had to waste seven days to initiate interaction with people, as his bike arrived late from Bangkok by air because of the political trouble there. He left Dhaka on October 2.

A professional road-captain in his country having started riding motorbikes in 1978, JJ undertook the arduous venture on April 23 from the Indonesian capital Jakarta.

The Ride for Peace will last five years covering 100 countries of Asia, Africa, Europe, America and Australia in two phases.

In the ongoing first leg of journey, JJ aims to cover 45 countries of Asia, Middle East, North America and Europe in 750 days.

"My mission of riding my bike around the world is dedicated to world peace to strengthen people-to-people ties," JJ said. "We all need peace," he added.

"I sold off my rubber industry business before I embarked on this venture," JJ said. "I spent all the money, left my family and dedicated it all for peace," he said.

When JJ asked his wife and elder son about his plan for the peace tour plan five years ago, they gave him their approval. "But of course, now I miss them," said JJ.

"I am all alone on the road, with only the bike -- my second wife," JJ said.

In the course of his journey, JJ meets his wife at certain intervals. He last met her in Beijing and expects to meet her again next in New Delhi.

According to Jeffrey, riding is a source of spirit and adventure. Out of his belief that independence and freedom is the key to establishing peace, Jeffrey chose a motorbike to preach independently.

He is the champion of the off-road motorcycle competition in America and national champion of horse riding in Indonesia.

He is also an expert in parachuting and gliding. He himself designs the dress that he uses during the ride.

Jeffrey has demonstrated considerable determination and will-power in carrying out his mammoth journey through a spirit of adventurism and brotherhood. He is member of different motor-biker associations throughout the world.

When asked about the difficulties he faces in the course of his ride, JJ said that it is usual to under go adversities of innumerable kinds and natures.

"I had to suffer the wrath of the typhoon in China and its adverse weather," JJ said. "But I have taken such adversities as integral elements of my journey."

The peace ambassador attempted to enter Myanmar from Thailand but the Myanmar authorities refused him entry into the country on the plea of 'floods and landslide,' though he had valid visa.

The bike that JJ is riding is a BMW R 1150 GS Adventure Special Edition. It has been specially designed to fit long journey.

This high horsepower bike can speed up to 220 kilometres. When asked what he does when the bike develops any technical fault at the middle of a long path, JJ said, "I am a mechanic and I fix it."

The bike is fitted with video camera, Global Positioning System (GPS) and a compass.

One of the two box-carriers fitted on two sides of the back wheel contains a tent and some personal belongings while the other one contains tools.

Three Indonesian companies, an engine oil firm, an adventure gear company and a tobacco company, sponsored JJ's first stage of peace trip.

In reply to a question, JJ said: "I don't promote tobacco but the company promotes my peace mission."

"I will stop my world peace tour

at the age of 50 and start writing about the experiences I have gathered," JJ said. "I will take a 10-month break before I embark upon the second stage of the

journey.

During the break he will look for new sponsors for the second phase of mission, JJ said.

From India, he will ride to

Bhutan, Nepal and then through Central Asia to the Middle East, before crossing over the North Africa and Europe.

'Ride for Peace' is the name of

Jeffrey's riding team in Indonesia.



Jeffrey Polnaja (right) with the Indonesian ambassador during his say in Dhaka.

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Dhaka-1000; Tel: 9550317, 9564128

British Council
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Email: britcoun@thebritishcouncil.net

German Cultural Center
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Indian Cultural Center
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Nazrul Institute
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Email: bf@bdonline.com

Cezanne Art Gallery
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Kernal Ataturk Avenue, Banani
Dhaka
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cezanne@bangla.net

Drik Gallery
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Dhanmondi, Dhaka
Tel: 9120125, Fax: 9115044,
Email: office@drik.net

Gallery Chitrak
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Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka
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4071094

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Fax: 8613529

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9561580, Fax: 88-02-9560587

Gulshan 1, 2 markets-Friday

Elephant Road-Friday

Bishal Center-Friday

Baitual Mukarram Market-Friday

Powlwell Market-Friday

BCS Computer City-Friday

Isha Khan Shopping Complex-Friday.

Rajlaxmi 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-

Tuesdays

Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesdays

Eastern Plaza-Sunday

Farmview Super Market-Sunday

Muktijuddha Jadughar-Sunday

Dhaka Zoo-Sunday

Shishu Jadughar-Sunday