

BDR sales bring relief to city consumers

Grabbing yet another

FROM PAGE 21 paid parking place," he said. "Every night a city bus company parks dozens of buses on the playground. The playground is occupied all the time. There is no chance for the children to play here," said another resident. "Every Friday a weekly car selling takes place on the playground, where up to 300 cars are displayed for sale. The hoodlums charge about Tk 500 fee from each car. The hoodlums also take hefty commissions on each car sold," said the resident.

"We are trying our best to stop this unauthorised activities. A few months back we prevented these local mastans from making a concrete floor on the playground for the convenience of the car business," Bhuiyan, the engineer of NHA, said. "At present this area is controlled by some hoodlums from the nearby driver's colony," said one of the local residents. "They are the leaders of the area. They have no clear political identity. They take shelter of all ruling political parties," he added.

Officials set to increase the number of outlets as consumers are satisfied with quality products at lower price

KAUSAR ISLAM AYON

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) is selling daily commodities at what they claimed 'reasonable prices' through makeshift centres at various points in the city, bringing some relief to the consumers in the month of Ramadan when the prices of essentials shoot up every year.

Under the banner of Rifles Enterprise (RE), the BDR started the programme with 50 centres and then increased the number to 59 last week. The BDR officials said they have increased the number of sales centres following huge response from the consumers.

RE is now selling gram at Tk 55 a kg, lentil at Tk 50, sugar at Tk 40, cucumber at Tk 30, brinjal at Tk 25 and onion at Tk 15. Beef and goat meat are selling at Tk 135 and Tk 190 a kg respectively. A customer can buy maximum 5 kg of an item at a time.

Visiting two RE centres at Tejgaon Satrasta and Farmgate it was found that many consumers were rushing to the shops to collect essentials since early morning. The consumers are happy with the service.

"They are selling quality products. Besides, the prices are lower than that in the market," said Aslam, a resident of

Indira Road.

"We are at least able to buy something in the month of Ramadan for the BDR initiative," said Salma, a slum dweller at Tejgaon.

One of the officials of BDR said meats are sold like hot cake and finished within 10:00 to 10:30am every day.

"We can buy genuine beef, not the buffalo meat, at these centres. They do not sell mutton in the name of goat meat like most of the butchers in the city do. That is the main reason we come here," said Raihan from Tejgaon.

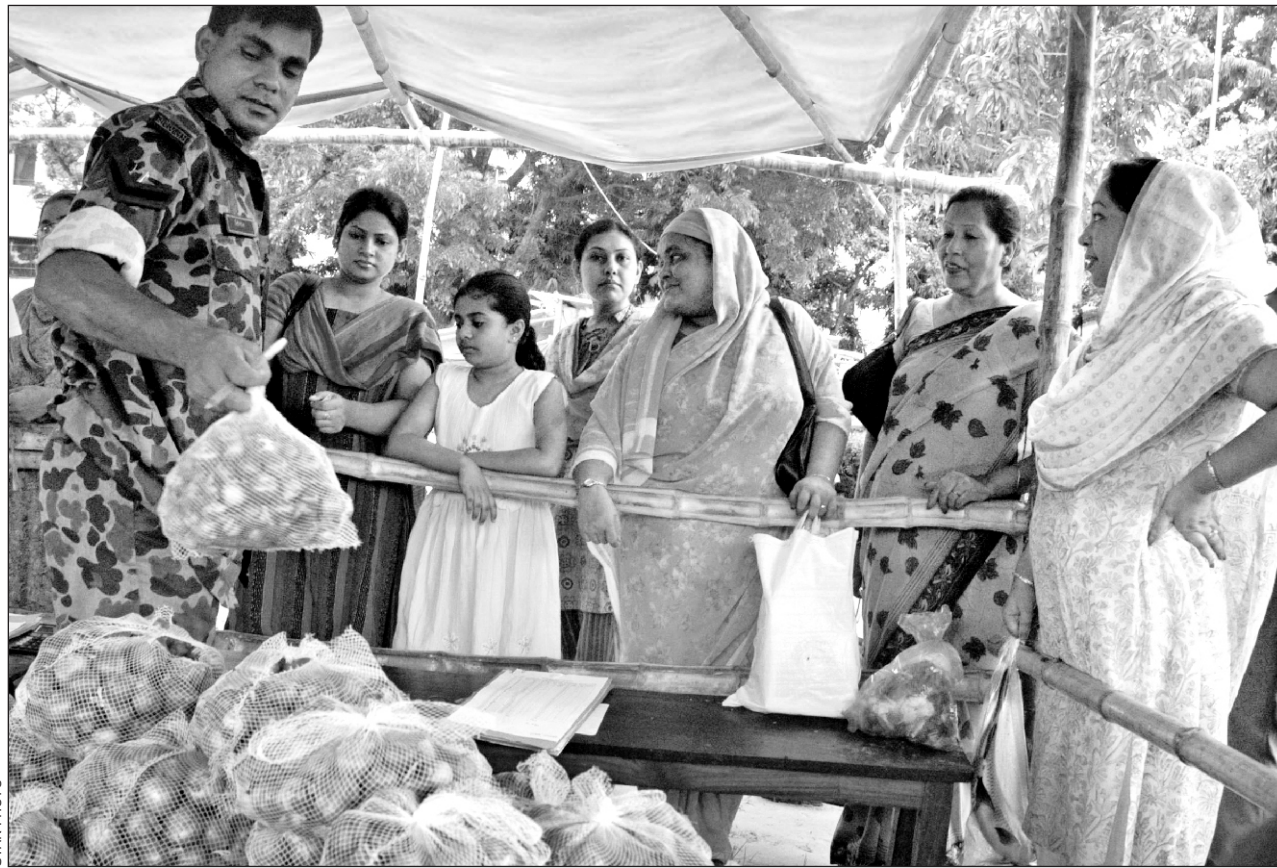
Some consumers however said BDR could have further lowered the prices.

"BDR is selling sugar at Tk 40, while the price should be Tk 32 to 36. In this way BDR is establishing the price of sugar at Tk 40 and the price will never come down," said Abdullah Abu, a buyer at Farmgate RE centre.

M A Mannan, manager, Rifles Enterprise at Tejgaon Satrasta, said quality products and reasonable rates are reasons for the huge public response.

"Besides, we sell products at accurate weight. When you buy 1 kg, it is 1,000 grams, not 850 or 900 grams," said Mannan.

RE has started its journey this year. A high official of BDR said they have taken such initiative to give people some relief from the price hike.



BDR personnel selling essential items at fair price at Azimpur

Replying to a question, he said they are yet to decide whether they will continue the venture after Ramadan.

He said despite selling the essentials at lower prices, they are earning profit. He however said: "If we include the operational cost the profit is marginal."

Millions prepare...

FROM PAGE 21 of passengers and keep the roads free from congestion during the Eid festival.

Meanwhile, bus owners have started servicing and repairing of vehicles to make their vehicles fit for operating on long routes. Technicians at different workshops were seen busy servicing and colouring buses ahead of the Eid.

WATER TRANSPORT Bangladesh Inland Waterways Passenger Carriers Association is yet to decide when they will start selling advance tickets for Eid trips.

The water vessels will carry at least 5 lakh passengers in the three days just before the Eid day, said Badiuzzaman Badal, senior vice chairman of the association. On ticket price during the Eid, Badal said the association can control most of the members but it is hard to control influential members like ministers who own at least 25 percent of the river vessels.

Dhaka: Yesterday...

FROM PAGE 21 such a city in future, though the possibility seems rather remote today.

TDS: Is today's Dhaka the city you want to live?
KC: In spite of all its handicaps I would like to go on living in Dhaka. I would not like to immigrate to Canada, Australia or USA and live in Montreal or Canberra or New York or anywhere else however attractive and affluent those cities might be.



Preventing street accidents

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Campaigners at a street demonstration urged the government to enforce traffic laws effectively and called on motorists and pedestrians to learn more about traffic laws and put them into practice to prevent street accidents.

The Basic Information for Diverge Unison (Bindu) organised a programme in front of the National Museum on Saturday.

Teachers, students and various professionals took part in this campaign that called upon the government to issue licences only to trained drivers, build the required number of foot over bridges and

The average number of accidents in the city in a year is 861 while average accidents in a month are 72, causing a total of 3,062 serious injuries

underpasses and ensure other safety measures for both motorists and pedestrians alike.

According to sources at the Accidents Research Centre (ARC) at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BuEt), a total of 5,168 accidents have occurred in the capital over a period of six years from 1998 to 2003.

At least 2,577 persons died in street accidents in six years while 430 deaths occurred in a year on an average, showed records that ARC had obtained from the police department in a total number of 2,033 fatal accidents.

The average number of accidents in the city in a year is 861 while average accidents in

a month are 72, causing a total of 3,062 serious injuries.

The campaigners underscored that the authorities must not issue any fitness certificate to a vehicle without carrying out strict examination of its condition.

They called upon the drivers to regularly examine a vehicle before taking it out on the street, follow the speed limit, not to change lanes without a signal and to give priority to the pedestrians crossing roads using the zebra crossing.

Above all, they called upon the pedestrians to follow the fundamental traffic rules, traffic signals, use zebra crossing and underpasses while crossing roads.

health, busservices, airlines & train timing

HOSPITALS & CLINICS

- Ahsania Mission Cancer & General Hospital**
9008919, 8051618
- Holy Family Hospital**
8311721-25
- Apollo Hospitals Dhaka**
9891680-4, 01713046684/85
Emergency no. 9896623, 0171409000
- Islami Bank Hospital**
9333739
- Bangladesh Medical College & Hospital**
9118202, 8115843
- Japan Bangladesh Friendship Hospital**
8828855, 8827575
- Central Hospital**
9660015-19,
- Labaid Cardiac Hospital**
8610793-8
- China Bangla Hospital (JV) Ltd**
8913674
- Marie Stopes Clinic**
8821874
- Dhaka Medical College Hospital**
8626812-16
- Medinova Medical Services Ltd**
8620353,
- Gana Shashtho Kendra**
8617208, 8617383, 8620178,
- Monowara Hospital**
8318135, 8319802
- Greenland Hospital**
8912663
- Pangu Hospital**
9112150, 91130041
- Gulshan Mother & Child Clinic**
8822738, 8812992
- PG Hospital (BSMMU)**
9614545-9, 9612550-4

- Rashmono General Hospital**
8317606, 9557354, 8317819
- Ratan's Dental Clinic**
9111090
- Saimullah Medical College Hospital**
7319002-6
- Samorita Hospital Ltd**
9131901
- Shahid Suhrawardy Hospital**
9122560-78
- Shishu Hospital**
8116061-2, 9119119

BLOOD BANK

- Bangladesh Red Crescent Blood Bank**
9116563
- Modern Clinic & Blood Center**
9883948
- Sandhani, Dhaka Medical College**
9668690

BUS SERVICES

- Drooli**
8014563
- Eagle Paribahan**
7101504
- Green Line Paribahan**
9339623, 9342580, 8353005
- Hanif Enterprise**
9120116
- British Airways**
8815111, Fax: 8815346,
- Keya Paribahan**
7101894, 7101250, 9121280
- Modern Enterprise**
9123743
- Neptune A/C Coach Service**
7101945, 7101951, 9123092
- Shohag Paribahan (Pvt) Ltd**
9334152, 8316766, 8126293
- Shoukhin Paribahan**
8014397, 9001796
- Silk Line**
7102461
- Shyamoli Paribahan**
9333803

AIRLINES

- lines**
- Aeroflot**
9559930, 9559111, Fax: 9563787
- Air India**
8617783, 8611929, Fax: 9670591
- Biman Bangladesh Airlines**
8917400-19 9560151, 9559610
Airport Office: 8917400, Fax: 8913005
- British Airways**
8815111, Fax: 8815346,
- Cathay Pacific**
9557117, Fax: 9562667
- Druk Air**
9862243, 9892862,
- Emirates**
9892801, 9885574-75
- GMG Airlines**
8825845-9, Airport Office:
8960404, 8915699, Fax: 8826115
- Gulf Air**
9130123-5, Airport Office: 8914573
- Indian Airlines Ltd**
9555915, 9557813,
- Kuwait Airways**
9115182, 9118829
- Malaysia Airlines**
9888211-20
Airport Office: 8916953, Fax: 9890478
- PIA**
9349293-5, Fax: 9345300
- Singapore Airlines**
8811504-7, 9883259
Airport Office: 8911928, Fax: 8811503
- Thai Airways**
8314711-18, 8914343
- Virgin Atlantic Airways**
8816324-5, Fax: 9896481

TRAIN TIMING

- Subarna Express**
Leaves Dhaka at 4:30 pm
- Mahanagar Prabhathi**
Leaves Dhaka at 7:30 am
- Mahanagar Godhuli**
Leaves Dhaka at 3:15 pm
- Turna**
Leaves Dhaka at 6:40 am
- Parabat Express**
Leaves Dhaka at 6:40 am
- Joyantika Express**
Leaves Dhaka at 12:45 pm
- Upaban Express**
Leaves Dhaka at 9:45 pm
- Tista Express**
Leaves Dhaka at 7:00 am
- Ekata Express**
Leaves Dhaka at 5:00 pm
- Upakul Express**
Leaves Dhaka at 8:00 am
- Agnibeena Express**
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**
- Reaches Noakhali at 5:00 am**
- 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**
- Nazul 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**
- Drk Photo Gallery- 9120125, 8112954, 8123412**
- Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) 9330081-4**