

# DCC's bizarre trade with public footpaths

KAUSAR ISLAM AYON

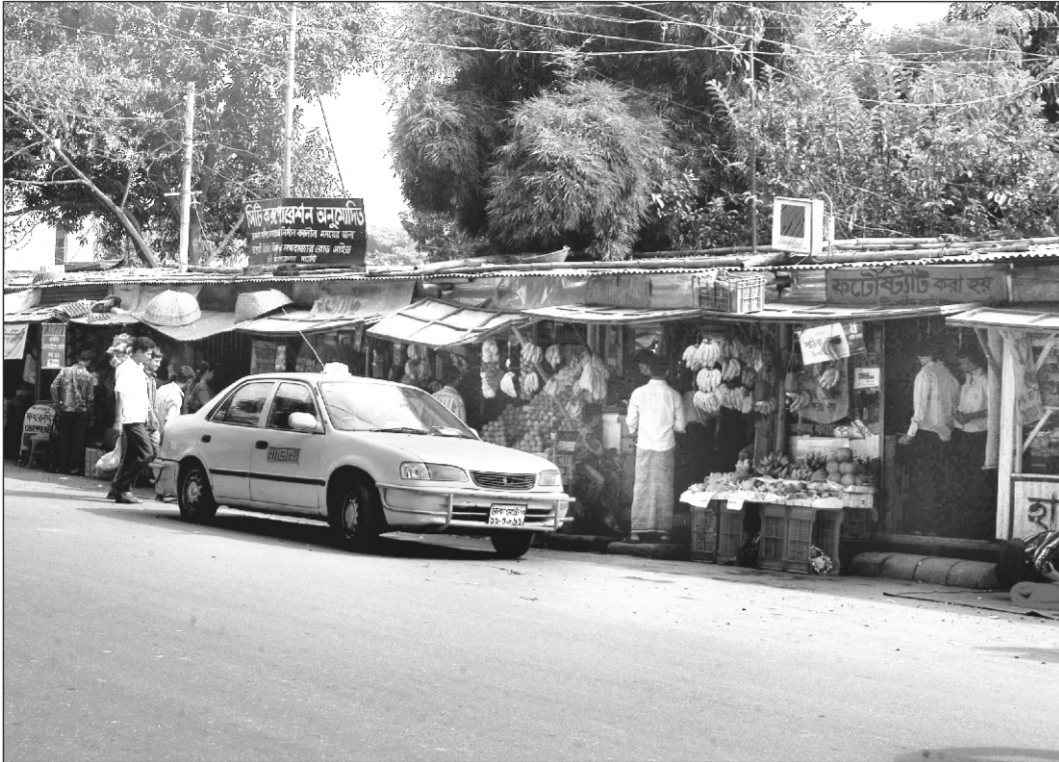
Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has kept an entire stretch of footpath blocked for the construction of a market and is also illegally setting up 20 shops on it.

Construction work of Ramna Super Market opposite to the Ramna Police station is now in progress blocking a 100-metre footpath fenced with corrugated sheets.

Moreover, the DCC allowed the shop owners at the market to establish their shops on the nearby footpath that has encroached another 80 metres of footpath.

In connivance with the DCC, the custodian of the city footpaths, the shops owners are doing their business without any hazards. Instead of making the footpath free from encroachment DCC in an official letter requested the Ramna Police station authority not to harass the shop owners until the construction of the market is complete.

The officer-in-charge (OC) of Ramana PS admitted that he



DCC has illegally set up makeshift shops on footpath in front of Ramna police station.

has received the letter.

"During the construction period of any structure people face some inconveniences. It happens all over the world.

Soon after the construction of the first floor we will bring the shop owners to their previous place and we will make the footpaths of the construction

area free as well," said Syed Mozaffar Hossain, executive engineer, Bazar Circle, DCC. Since April this year the 180-meter footpath in one of the

busiest areas in the city remained restricted to the pedestrians.

Vegetable, fruits and fish sellers, and cigarette vendors who were on the footpath have now encroached upon the adjacent road after they lost the footpath making the way narrow and causing huge traffic congestion every day.

Since the encroached footpaths are beside Viquarunnessa Noon High School and College, and a very busy road, it has caused immense inconveniences to hundreds of students, parents and pedestrians who use that road every day.

"The area becomes a human sea when several thousand teachers, students and parents rush here. The roads get blocked with vehicles. Walking on such a road is a nightmare," said Rumana Rahman, a student of Viquarunnessa Noon High School and College.

The shop owners claimed that they had sent a letter to DCC seeking permission to use the footpath but did not get any reply.

"The temporary market will be shifted soon to the main

market. We had no alternative but setting up our shops here to run our business during the long period of construction," said Abdul Kader, general secretary, Ramna Super Market Shop Owners Association.

One of the businessmen said they have to pay toll to DCC officials. "Don't think that we are doing business here at free of cost. We have to pay almost as much as we were paying as rent when we were in the market," said the businessman.

Same the situation is

prevailing in the entire city where 20 percent of the about 1,500 kilometers footpaths are now encroached by the street vendors, bus stands, construction materials, private parking and business goods.

The footpaths have become a prime source of toll collection to the local musclemen.

From different sources it has been known that about 1,00,000 hawkers in the city pay around Tk 45 to 50 lakh to the toll collectors every day.

The High Court on February 11, 2001, ordered the DCC to make the pathways free from any kind of occupation to ensure the right of the pedestrians to move freely.

The High Court order to DCC and other agencies to keep the footpaths free from hawkers is yet to be implemented and the agencies are blaming each other for the failure.

## MEDIA COVERAGE OF EVENTS

### On duty on holidays

DURDANA GHIAS

People were glued to their TV sets as news won over entertainment during Eid this year. TV journalists jumped into the fray of collecting information to keep the nation updated on the current political situation, ignoring the laxity of the festival.

Television news on the overall political situation took toll of city life in the last 10 days, which was exacerbated by the absence of newspapers for four-day Eid holiday.

Viewers are now aware of the current events and can discern the nuances of objectivity of the news aired from different channels.

Some journalists had to go out of Dhaka on the day before Eid to cover the largest Jamat in Sholakia in Kishoreganj, while some had their holidays cancelled on the eve of Eid because of the unpredictable political situation.

Star City conducted a survey on how these people felt working on Eid day.

"This year's Eid was not usual. Although we were gripped by the tension as we followed the political development and rumours of army deployment, it was our obligation to keep the nation updated," said Mazharul Islam, a Bangla Vision reporter.

"We faced a few snags on

duty as most food outlets were closed. But a major problem was that all my sources were out of Dhaka so it was difficult to do a story. I had to make more phone calls, move a lot and talk to unknown and less known people to collect information, he said.

"The joy of Eid was defeated by the sense of duty. I should say that I spent my Eid in the midst of the joy of work," he said adding that those who were on leave were very disappointed not being able to work this Eid.

"As the newspapers were closed, the TV channels were the only source of information though often old footages were repeated," said regular viewer.

"We always have a few humane stories in hand, done before Eid, so that we can run with a skeleton crew and the length of the news bulletin is shorter than usual. I expected to have some time off but this time everything went awry," said Munni Saha, chief reporter, ATN Bangla.

"Last year I did a story on Abul Kashem, a Bangladeshi truck driver abducted in Iraq. I went to his village to do a story on how his family celebrates Eid which was later telecast on Al-Jazira TV," she said.

When asked what she likes to do during Puja she said: "I prefer doing stories on Puja instead of taking leave."

"To me Eid is like an usual

working day. I feel it is Eid when I see the news of Eid Jamat on TV," said Rahman Mustafiz, senior reporter, Channel i, who has been working on Eid days for a long time.

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"We worked on our website during the holidays. The channels show what is going on in the surface but we had enough material to publish newspaper with internal and

analytical stories," said Pranab Saha, chief reporter, Prothom Alo.

"We received many phone calls from our readers who accused us of not publishing the newspaper. When we said that our website was on they became angrier and said 'Then why not the newspaper?'," he said.

"Normally 50 percent of our staff works during the Eid holidays in two shifts with added benefits, but this time we could not maintain the shifts to meet the demand of the situation. If the channels were not serving there would have been confusion and wild rumours," said Aminur Rashid, executive director, News and Current Affairs, Bangla Vision.

About the closure of newspaper he said: "Media should not stop working at any time be it newspaper or TV channels. Some dailies published a few pages on the day after Eid day. As a reader I think the regularity of the newspaper is more important than its volume."

"But people were not deprived of information. They got firsthand news and live broadcasts. There are many channels so we went through a tough competition collecting news," he said.

When asked about the role of newspaper in the presence of TV channels Rashid said: "TV journalism is basically event-based. We show what is

going on but the scope for dissecting an event is scant. But a newspaper can do this analysis more lavishly. So the appeal of newspaper is always different than that of a TV channel."

The constraint of a newspaper is it has a limited readership that is classy and educated but watching news on TV does not require education or sophistication. The later has a graver impact on the psyche of the viewers. It is more sensitive in terms of content. A wrong piece of information in TV news is more disastrous than the same in a newspaper, he said.

"But the advantage of a newspaper is that it can report gossip or rumour or information from an unreliable source or not mentioning the source which cannot be done on TV. We have to have footage and strong sources to report a story. As we have this limitation we have to drop many stories," said Rashid.

"As a viewer and a journalist I was updated about the current situation through the TV news. But a million people also visited the websites of newspapers who updated it during the holidays because the detail of a news is also important to people," said Zahid Newaz Khan, chief reporter, Bhorer Kagoj.

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## Advertising, Bank & market timing

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### ART & CULTURAL CENTERS

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26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka, Tel: 8611557  
Fax: 8616462, Email: infoafd@afdacca.com

**Bangla Academy**  
Dhaka University Area, Dhaka, Tel: 8619577, 8619583, Fax: 8612352, Email: bacademy@citechco.net

**Bangladesh Shishu Academy**  
Old High Court Road (Opp. Carzon Hall), Dhaka-1000; Tel: 9550317, 9564128

**British Council**  
5, Fuller Road, Dhaka  
Tel: 8618905-7, 8618867-8  
Fax: 8613375  
Email: britcoun@thebritishcouncil.net

**German Cultural Center**  
House 10, Road 9, Dhanmondi, Dhaka  
Tel: 9126525, 9126526, Fax: 8110712

**Indian Cultural Center**  
H-25, Road-96, Gulshan-2, Dhaka-1212  
Tel: 8850141, Fax: 8850142

**Nazrul Institute**  
House 330B, Road 28 (Old),

Dhanmondi, Dhaka  
Tel: 9114500, Fax: 9118051,  
Email: nazrulinc@citechco.net

**Russian Cultural Centre**  
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Fax: 8113026, Email: rosccult@accessstel.net

**Shilpakala Academy**  
Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000  
Tel: 9561709, 9562801-4

**Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts**  
House 275/F, Road 27, Dhanmondi, Dhaka  
Tel: 8123115  
Email: bf@bdonline.com

**Cezanne Art Gallery**  
UAE Moitri Complex, Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani Dhaka  
Tel: 8826578, Email: cezanne@bangla.net

**Drik Gallery**  
House 58, Road 15A(New),

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

**Gallery Chittrak**  
House-21, Road-4, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka  
Tel: 8620345, Email: chittrak@agnil.com

**National Art Gallery**  
Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000  
Tel: 9562801-4

**Shilpa Rag**  
House 15, Road 16, Dhanmondi, Dhaka, Tel: 8117085  
Fax: 8117085, Email: shilparg@vasdigital.com

**Shilpangan**  
House-25, Road-5, Dhanmondi, Dhaka, Tel: 8614246

**Tivoli Art Gallery**  
F/33, DCC Super Market (1st Floor) Gulshan-2 (North), Dhaka, Tel: 9895903

### BANKS

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**BRAC Bank Ltd**  
8824051-4, Fax: 8813543

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9550060, Fax: 9562236

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9568537-39  
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**Prime Bank Ltd**  
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9550181, Fax: 9562332

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9550426-34  
Fax: 9561410

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9565925, Fax: 9562347

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**Uttara Bank Ltd**  
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Fax: 8613529

**United Commercial Bank Ltd**  
9561580, Fax: 88-02-9560587

### MARKET CLOSED

Gulshan 1, 2 markets-Friday  
Elephant Road-Friday  
Bishal Center-Friday  
Baitual 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-Tuesday  
Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday  
Eastern Plaza-Sunday  
Farmview Super Market-Sunday  
Muktijuddha Jadughar-Sunday  
Dhaka Zoo-Sunday  
Shishu Jadughar-Sunday