



# Traffic Problems of Dhaka City

## Citizens on gear six

By Dr. Nizamuddin Ahmed

The Daily Star-Bangladesh Scouts workshop, in pursuance of its Agenda for Urban Concern, has identified 26 authorities who have to play their part if the City of Dhaka is to see its traffic problems ameliorated. Of these, six bodies (no pun intended) will require gearing up their act because they are involved in more areas than the others are.

The six major organisations are: (alphabetically) Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA), DC Traffic, Dhaka City Corporation (DCC), Dhaka Metropolitan Police, Greater Dhaka Transport Planning Co-ordination Board (GDTPCB) and Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakhya (RAJUK).

These important cogs of the government will not only have to take the initiative, and take it now, but shall have to welcome all others concerned, especially the users, into their fold if Dhaka is to see a better day on the road.

The learned colloquium also singled out lack of co-ordination among the different government bodies as one of the foremost deterring factors. Inherent lack of willpower and contemporaneous innovation within each component being some of the others. Co-operation among the organisations will therefore continue to remain a decisive factor in resolving the mounting traffic problems of the capital, as will wisdom and judgement.

Perhaps due to other priorities, under-staffing and budget constraints, some of the agencies, despite the government mandate, seem unable to take the right step forward in tackling what now appears to be apparently an insurmountable task. 'Not so,' was the consensus among those who participated in the April workshop on the Traffic Problems of Dhaka City and the May follow-up.

In order to motivate the 26 authorities, the participants at the follow-up of the traffic workshop agreed to divide into six groups to meet, motivate and persuade the concerned officials.

The Motivation Groups, as they chose to call these, are heterogeneous in that they are comprised of former bureaucrats, government officers, academics, industrialists, businessmen, journalists and scouts.

Each Citizens Motivation Group will meet separately to discuss the agenda and the strategy before they approach the authorities.

The purpose of their visits shall be to inspire these offices as a body and the concerned officials as individuals to take effective measures in tandem with others directly or indirectly involved in designing, laying, operating, maintaining and monitoring Dhaka's traffic and its infrastructure.

Bangladesh Scouts and The Daily Star shall work closely with the Citizens Motivation Groups. The Daily Star has offered to publish the outcome of each visit of a Citizens Motivation Group.

The programme undertaken by The Daily Star-Bangladesh Scouts workshop is novel in many ways and there lies its greatest potentiality. It's time we made a concerted effort to come out of the rut. Or else sink permanently into the abyss of chaos and confusion, wasteful economy and wretched health. The choice is ours, yours, but not for long.

The author is Consultant on Urban Issues, The Daily Star. Email: [raashed@citechco.net](mailto:raashed@citechco.net)

### Citizens Motivation Groups

#### CMG Red

To motivate DCC, DESA, NGOs and Ministry of Finance.

1. Md. Azizul Haque Bhuiyan, Chairman, BRTA - Leader
2. Kazi Md. Sheesh, Chief Engineer, DWASA, Tel. 811 0596
3. Prof. Dr. Mazharul Haque, Dept of Civil Engg. BUET, Tel. PABX 861 4640, 861 6833
4. Engr. Lutful Bari, President, Enterprise Bangladesh, Tel. 980 2739
5. Morshed Ali Khan, The Daily Star, 812 5177, 812 4944, 812 4955, 812 4966
6. Md. Ayub Khan, Senior Executive, Wings on Textile, FAX 8318931
7. Salman Haider, Sunder Jiban, 84/1, South Mohakhali, Tel. 988 6739
8. G N R Abul Bashar, Secretary, Bangladesh Scouts Dhaka Region
9. Mesbah Uddin Bhuiyan, Deputy National Commissioner, Bangladesh Scouts, Tel. 9333651, 9337714 - Co-ordinator

#### CMG Amber

To motivate BRTA, DWASA, Planning Commission, and Ministry of Law and Parliamentary Affairs.

1. AKM Kamaluddin Choudhury (former Home Secretary), Chairman, Bangladesh Transport Foundation - Leader, Tel. 882 5291, 812 5598
2. Lion Sk. Md. Haroon-ur-Rashid, President, Bangladesh Automobile Malik (Owners) Samity, Tel. 417658, 831 4520
3. Architect Munirul Haque, FAX 8113502, Tel. 811 2690
4. Engr. Md. Syedur Rahman, Chief Engineer, RAJUK, Tel. 955 9386
5. Dr. Jobair bin Alam, Dept of Civil Engg., BUET, Tel. PABX 861 4640, 861 6833
6. Naimul Haq, The Daily Star
7. Afzal Hossain, National Commissioner, Bangladesh Scouts, Tel. 9333651, 9337714, 405900 (r)
8. Zahangir Kabir, Bangladesh Scouts Dhaka Zilla Nau Scouts, Tel. 8822741-5/2619
9. Syed Rafiq Ahmed, President Rover Scout, Tel. 933 2985, 011 856 864 - Co-ordinator

#### CMG Green

To motivate GDTPCB, Titas Gas, Dept of Environment, and Primary and Directorate of Secondary Education.

1. M. Azizul Haque, Chairman, RAJUK
2. Md. Sirajul Islam, Deputy Police Commissioner (Traffic), Dhaka Metropolitan Police - Leader, Tel. 935 3431, 018 221811
3. Rotarian Rezaul Rahman, FAX 956 2161, Tel. 956 2924
4. Advocate Quazi Arifur Rahman, Fellow, Academy of American and International Law, Tel. 7122526, 7122525
5. Ms. Shamima Islam, Researcher, Tel. 832 1231
6. Dr. Moazzem, Hossain, Dept of Civil Engg., BUET, Tel. PABX 861 4640, 861 6833
7. Md. Sohel Rana, Traffic Signal Engineer, Micro Electronics, Mirpur 7/11, Dhaka, M - 017687476, 801 2244
8. Muhtak Hossain, The Daily Star
9. Nazmul Hoque Nazu, Deputy National Commissioner, Bangladesh Scouts - Co-ordinator.

#### CMG White

To motivate DMP, National Board of Revenue, Radio and Television, and Ministry of Planning.

01. Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA)
02. The Daily Star and media
03. Dhaka City Corporation (DCC)
04. DC Traffic
05. Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA)
06. Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP)
07. Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA)
08. Department of Environment
09. GDTPCB
10. National Board of Revenue
11. Non-government Organisations (NGOs)
12. Planning Commission
13. Directorate of Primary and Secondary Education
14. Radio and Television
15. Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakhya (RAJUK)
16. Roads and Highways
17. Bangladesh Scouts
18. Titas Gas
19. T&T
20. Ministry of Communication
21. Ministry of Education
22. Ministry of Finance
23. Ministry of Home
24. Ministry of Law
25. Ministry of Planning
26. Ministry of Works

#### CMG Blue

To motivate DC Traffic, Roads & Highways, Ministry of Communication, and Ministry of Home Affairs.

1. M.A.M. Ziauddin (Secretary, Government of Bangladesh), Executive Director, Greater Dhaka Transport Planning and Co-ordination Board - Leader
2. Prof. Abdullah A. Haroon, President, Bangladesh Society for Conservation of Environment, Tel. 8111755, 912 0558
3. Dr. Tanveer Hasan, Dept of Civil Engg., BUET, Tel. PABX 861 4640, 861 6833
4. Shapan, Industrialist, FAX 8318931, Tel. 934 1836-7
5. Md. Musa, Executive President, Bangladesh Automobile Workshop Malik Samity, Tel. 9000236, 8013811 (r)
6. Md. Rahmatullah, Office Secretary, Bangladesh Automobile Workshop Malik Samity, Tel. 9000236
7. Reaz Ahmed, The Daily Star
8. Sq. Ldr. Naim, Air Region, Bangladesh Scouts - Co-ordinator, Tel. 4424011/3136
1. Azmal Chowdhury, Chairman, BRTC. - Leader, Tel. 955 4350, 831 3375(r)
2. Abdul Alam Bhuiyan, Bangladesh Transport Foundation, Tel. 891 6822, 812 5598
3. Advocate Md. Nurul Huda Ansary, Tel. 831 7047, 934 8026 (r)
4. Dr. Tanvir Hossain
5. Mominul H Khan, MD, Transnational Consultants, FAX 912 0182, Tel. 912 7393, 913 2403
6. Raziur Rahman, The Daily Star
7. Md. Toufiq Ali, Deputy Regional Commissioner, Bangladesh Scouts Rover Region, Tel. 831 4842 (r), 831 7971
8. Aminul Kawser Khan, Deputy National Commissioner, Bangladesh Scouts, Tel. 017 540 463 - Co-ordinator.

#### CMG Yellow

To motivate RAJUK, T&T, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Works.

1. AKM Mahbubul-Haque, former AIG, Police, Tel. 882 1088
2. Engr Mansur ur Rahiman, Former Chief Engineer, DESA, Tel. 912 8805
3. Engr. M. Shahjahan Khadem, Chairman, Bangladesh 2000, Tel. 988 0698, 502160 (r)
4. Imdad Hossain Dilshad, Winner Transport, 119/2 Segun Bagichan, Ramna, Dhaka, Tel. 831 6380
5. Ms. Latifa Ahmed, Head, Dept of English, Begum Badrunnessa College, Dhaka, Tel. 911 1125 (r)
6. Morshed Ali Khan, The Daily Star
7. Md. Rafiqul Islam Khan, National Commissioner, Bangladesh Scouts, Tel. 9333651, 9337714.
8. Zamil Ahmed, Leader Trainer, Deputy Regional Commissioner, Bangladesh Scouts Dhaka Region, Tel. 8115346, 018 227 256 - Co-ordinator

As promoters, it is expected that The Daily Star and Bangladesh Scouts are already motivated to implement their tasks. However, The Editor, The Daily Star, and the National Commissioner (Programme), Bangladesh Scouts, will report on the degree of their performance at the next meeting.

#### Chief Co-ordinator

Dr. Nizamuddin Ahmed, Professor, Dept of Architecture, BUET, Dhaka 1000, Tel. 9665633 (work), FAX 8118554. Email [raashed@citechco.net](mailto:raashed@citechco.net)

### Tasks, Authority/ Agency and Identified Responsibilities

Task	Authority/ Agency	Identified Responsibilities (IR)
A.	01. Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) 03. Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) 06. Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP)	R 2 (d) Establishing inter-district bus/truck terminal facilities beyond the City limits
B.	01. Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) 20. Ministry of Communication 24. Ministry of Law	1. R 1 (a) Upgrading of 1939 legislation 2. A 6 The Motor Vehicle Ordinance, 1983, being inadequate to govern road users, should be replaced by a Road Traffic Act to cater to motor vehicles, non-motorised vehicles, pedestrians, hawkers, and related issues.
C.	01. Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) 10. National Board of Revenue 12. Planning Commission	1. A 4 Public transport (buses) should be given priority over private transport in policy formulation, taxes and other facilities. Mass transport system, which takes about 15-20 years to implement, should be planned right now to cope with the increasing traffic of the mega city.
D.	01. Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) 04. DC Traffic, Dhaka 03. Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) 09. Greater Dhaka Transport Planning Co-ordination Board (GDTPCB)	W 3 Eliminate fake driving license, unlicensed and unfit vehicles, including rickshaws, from the road.
E.	03. Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) 04. DC Traffic, Dhaka	1. G 1 Zebra crossing with signal lighting should be provided by Dhaka City Corporation. 2. G 2 Signal system at traffic junction should be manually operated if necessary and law must be applied. 3. W 5 Make main city roads rickshaw-free. Rickshaws should ply on small roads and lanes. 4. W 6 Separate rickshaw lanes to be made in some critical roads.
F.	03. Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) 04. DC Traffic, Dhaka 09. Greater Dhaka Transport Planning Co-ordination Board (GDTPCB)	W 8 Intersections and signals should be improved. Proper road marking and signs should be set in place.
G.	03. Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) 19. T&T 07. DWASA 18. Titas Gas 05. DESA	1. W 11 Road-digging for construction works should be carried out only at night with the permission of the Dhaka City Corporation. 2. G 6 Co-ordinated planning by the city's development agencies (WASA, Titas Gas, T&T and PDB) necessary.
H.	03. Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) 01. Greater Dhaka Transport Planning Co-ordination Board (GDTPCB) 15. Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakhya (RAJUK)	W 12 Separate parking facilities for buses, trucks, cars, rickshaws and other vehicles, including multi-storied car parks, should be constructed specially by encouraging private entrepreneurs.
I.	01. Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) 17. Bangladesh Scouts 02. Daily Star, The and media 03. Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) 06. Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) 13. Directorate of Primary and Secondary Education 09. Greater Dhaka Transport Planning Co-ordination Board (GDTPCB)	W 14 Public awareness about road safety, pedestrian use and regulations should be created through the media, billboards and other means.
J.	03. Dhaka City Corporation (DCC)	1. R 3 Removal of Karwan Bazaar. 2. W 7 Rickshaw manufacturing in Dhaka City should be stopped. 3. Stop issuing license to vans and push carts
K.	06. Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP)	R 1 (d) ii. Education of drivers, pedestrians, hawkers and the general public.
L.	03. Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) 01. Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) 15. Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakhya (RAJUK)	R 2 (e) Removing road obstructions such as shops, hawkers and construction materials G 7 Parking facilities in Old Town should be provided.
M.	03. Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) 06. Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP)	1. R 2 (b) Locating bus stops beyond an intersection 2. R 2 (c) Upgrading and increasing traffic signalling 3. W 10 Footpaths should be made free from vendors, unauthorised shops and construction materials.
N.	03. Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) 15. Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakhya (RAJUK)	1. R 2 (f) Constructing multi-storied car parking 2. Stop unauthorised use of buildings 3. Prosecute persons violating plans 4. Construct multistoried parking in Motijheel on designated land
O.	01. Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) 08. Environment, Dept of 10. National Board of Revenue 12. Planning Commission	W 13 More privately owned buses, motorised taxicabs and 4-stroke three-wheeler baby taxis should be brought on the road by providing suitable tax exemption and other incentives.
P.	01. Bangladesh Road Transport Authority 07. 04. DC Traffic, Dhaka 08. Environment, Dept of	W 4 Restrict motorised vehicles emitting black smoke to prevent pollution.
Q.	01. Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) 04. DC Traffic, Dhaka	W 1 Proper and strict enforcement of traffic rules and regulations. Heavy penalty for violators.
R.	09. Greater Dhaka Transport Planning Co-ordination Board (GDTPCB)	R 1 (c) Formation of a central organisation for traffic policy planning, management and implementation.
S.	09. Greater Dhaka Transport Planning Co-ordination Board (GDTPCB) 15. Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakhya (RAJUK)	1. A 1 Dhaka's traffic planning strategy should take into consideration land-use and structural plan. 2. A 2 To optimise the use of existing infrastructure, the functional hierarchy of the roads should be established as major arterial and secondary roads, slow and fast moving vehicles should be segregated, a circulation plan and modal mix should be determined. 3. W 9 More East-West roads should be constructed in the city.
T.	03. Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) 09. Greater Dhaka Transport Planning Co-ordination Board (GDTPCB) 26. Ministry of Works 15. Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakhya (RAJUK) 16. Roads & Highways	W 2 Work on the Dhaka bypass road should be expedited, and more link and feeder roads should be constructed to ease congestion within the city. R 2 (a) Constructing link roads
U.	03. Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) 09. Greater Dhaka Transport Planning Co-ordination Board (GDTPCB) 15. Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakhya (RAJUK)	A 3 Co-ordination between various stakeholders and regulatory bodies, such as BRTA, DCC and RAJUK, should be improved. Overlapping the jurisdiction of line agencies should be avoided. The Greater Dhaka Transport Planning and Co-ordination Board should take the leading role in providing plans and programmes for resolving Dhaka's traffic problem. W 15 Bus bays at city bus stations should be provided.
V.	20. Ministry of Communication	Implement existing government order prohibiting route permits for inter-city buses through Dhaka City.
W.	22. Ministry of Finance 25. Ministry of Planning	G 3 Entrepreneurs of large and double-decker buses in huge numbers should be given incentive.
X.	23. Ministry of Home	A 5 At present, the traffic police being inadequately trained and equipped are unable to manage the existing situation. The force needs to be modernised as well as being backed by political and government concern to establish rule of law on the road. The police may look into the concept of community traffic policing, applied successfully in some city areas.
Y.	17. Bangladesh Scouts 02. Daily Star, The and media 06. Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) 11. NGOs	G 4 Community traffic police may be introduced with the involvement of volunteers from the community.
Z.	17. Scouts, Bangladesh 02. Daily Star, The and media 11. NGOs 14. Radio and Television 21. Education, Ministry of	G 5 The government, voluntary organisations and mass media must be come forward to help increase awareness among the road users.
AA.	02. Daily Star, The and media	1. R 1 (d) ii. Education of drivers, pedestrians, hawkers and the general public. 2. R 1 (e) Changes in traffic movement to be informed in advance

### TV Guide

#### Friday 23rd June

(All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme)

**BTV**  
Morning Prog.  
9:00 Opening, Announcement, Recitation From The Holy Quran And Programme Outline 9:05 Patriotic Song 9:10 Bangla News 9:15 Aalor, Dishari (Islamic Education For Children) 9:35 Animation Film: 10:00 The News 10:05 Mithsriya (Talk Show) 10:30 Maner Katha (Programme For Children) 10:55 Manche Nepathy 12:25 A) Programme Outline For 2nd Session B) National Song 12:30 Closing

3:00 Opening, Announcement, Recitation From The Holy Quran And Programme Outline 3:15 Patriotic Song 3:20 Bangla Film: 4:00 Bangla News 4:05 Bangla Film Cont.: 6:00 Bangla News 6:05 Khola Janala (Magazine) 6:30 Transmission From Chittagong Center 7:00 News For Weather 7:05 Maloncho (Morden Songs) 7:25 Serial On Nature- Rong Kara Putul 8:00 Bangla News At 8:30 Serial On Health- Timirachanno # 8:55 Drama Series: Gul Sanobar (Bangla Dub) 9:00 Shuvechha (Magazine) 10:00 News At Ten (English) 10:30 English Series: The X-Files 11:30 Bangla News 11:35 English News 11:40 A) Programme Outline For Saturday B) National Song 11:45 Closing

#### Evening Prog.

#### EKUSHEY TV

2:00 Ekshey News Headlines  
2:05 Woody Woodpecker Show 2:20 Bolte Chai 3:00 Noorjahan 3:45 Shukrobabar Chayachoiobi: Agomon 6:15 Bauliana 6:45 The Big Fight 7:20 Protibedon 7:45 Ekshey News 8:00 Shofol Jara Kemon Tara 8:30 Shukrobabar Natok: Pata Or Din 9:30 Prio Gaan 10:00 BTV News 10:20 Sharashari 11:10 Bangla Movie: Bashona

#### ATN

5:30 Islamic Programme 6:32 Islamic Programme 7:10 Drama Serial 7:50 Drama Serial 8:25 Musical Prog 9:00 Musical Prog 9:35 Special Prog 10:10 Drama Serial 12:00 Islamic Programme 3:00

#### STAR SPORTS

7:30 Inside Cricket 1st Session 8:00 Samsung Nations Cup 2000 Modena ITALY Highlights 9:00 ATP Tour World Series Tournament Stella Artois Championships London ENGLAND Men's Final 11:00 Table Tennis Women's World Club Championships 2000 China CHINA Semifinals & Finals 1:00 Formula Nippon Formula Nippon 2000 Fuji Speedway JAPAN Round 4 2:00 Cricket Magazine Stumped- Australia Vs India 2:30 Inside

Cricket: 1st Session 3:00 Fox Sports News 4:00 Max Power 5:00 Pepsi Asia Cup 2000 Best Catches Dhaka BANGLADESH 5:30 Wimbledon Library Films Wimbledon Official Film 1999 6:30 Olympic Magazine 7:00 Inside The PGA Tour 7:30 ANZ Sportsline 7:35 World Wrestling Federation Live Wire 8:30 Asian Football Show 9:30 Yachting Swedish Match Grand Prix Sailing Tour Perth AUSTRALIA- Sun Microsystems Australia Cup 10:00 International Motorsport News 2000 11:00 NBA Inside Stuff 99/2000 11:30 ANZ Sportsline 11:35 PGA Tour Golf FedEx St. Jude Classic Memphis TN USA Day One 1:00 World Wrestling Federation Live Wire

Volley Masters 2000 10:30 BCV Volley Masters 2000 12:00 Live-Sportcenter Bristol, CT USA 1:00 PBA Basketball All Filipino Cup Final #3 2:30 Premier Snooker League 2000 4:30 Motorsport Asia 5:00 ATP Tennis Show 5:30 BCV Volley Masters 2000 7:00 BCV Volley Masters 2000 8:30 World Of Rugby 9:00 Live- UK Domestic Cricket Norwich Union NCL- Warwickshire Vs Surrey Div 1, 1st Session 12:00 Extreme Bloopers Wrecked (E2) 12:30 Live- UK Domestic Cricket Norwich Union NCL- Warwickshire Vs Surrey Div 2, 2nd Session

#### SONY MAX

7:30 Film Show: Shree Rambhakta Hanuman 10:30 Cricket Test Series- Sri Lanka Vs

Pakistan 2nd Test 3rd Day 6:00 Film Show: Kinare Kinare 8:30 Chartistesters 9:00 Music Mantra 9:30 Movie Masala Film Show: Khotte Sikke 12:30 Film Show: Naya Nasha 3:30 Film Show: Maya Bazaar

#### BBC WORLD

6:00 BBC World News 6:30 Talking Movies (Presenter- Tom Brook) 7:00 BBC World News 7:30 Asia Today 8:00 BBC News 8:30 Asia Today 9:00 BBC World News 9:30 Asia Today 9:45 World Business Report 10:00 BBC News 10:30 Click Online (Presenter- Stephen Cole) 11:00 BBC World News 11:30 Panorama 12:00 BBC World News 12:30 Moneysive (Presenter- Sucharita Ghosh) 1:30 BBC World News 1:30 Top Gear

2:00 BBC World News 2:30 Panorama 3:30 HARDtalk (Presenter- Tim Sebastian) 4:00 BBC World News 4:30 Talking Movies (Presenter- Tom Brook) 5:00 BBC World News 5:30 Panorama 6:00 World Headlines 6:30 Moneysive (Presenter- Sucharita Ghosh) 7:00 BBC World News 7:15 World Business Report 7:30 Talking Movies (Presenter- Tom Brook) 8:00 BBC World News 8:30 HARDtalk (Presenter- Tim Sebastian) 9:00 BBC World News 9:30 Asia Today 10:00 BBC World News 10:15 World Business Report 10:30 Question Time India (Presenter- Dr. Pramroy Roy) 11:00 BBC World News 11:35 World Business Report 11:45 World Sport 12:30 HARDtalk (Presenter- Tim Sebastian) (Compiled: SATVIEW Cable News -40429)