

No to traffic help centres for fear of 'misuse'

SULTANA RAHMAN

The plan of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) to construct traffic help centers (THC) in the city's eighteen different points may not see light because of fear of misuse, says officials of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC).

But DMP Commissioner Ashraf Huda believed that implementing the THC proposal is possible under the DCC's on-going Dhaka Urban Primary Health Care Project.

"Be it scorching heat or torrential rain, the traffic police stand on the roadside throughout the year to perform their duty. We haven't yet provided their basic needs including toilet facilities and shelters, which are very important during six-hourly shifts of the policemen. That's why the THC is a must," said Huda talk-

ing to Star City.

"Toilets and shelters are basic needs for on-duty traffic policemen without a doubt, but the ill-reputation of the police department has made things complicated. Many think that they will misuse the shelter homes," said a top official of DCC who is in the committee that is reviewing the proposal.

Huda however assured that his department would take strong action against the violators if they receive any complaints after the shelter homes have been constructed.

More than 2200 traffic policemen are working at different parts of the city. They do not have any toilet facilities or shelter from inclement weather.

The DMP last month placed the THC proposal in the monthly meet-

ing of Dhaka Transport Coordination Board (DTCB). Mayor of Dhaka Sadeque Hossain Khoka, who is also the president of the DTCB, said at the meeting that the proposal would be reviewed.

The proposed points to establish THCs were Manik Mia avenue, Farmgate, Mirpur-10, Bijoy Sarani, Natun Bazar, Shahbagh, Kakrail, Motijheel, Russell Square, Fulbaria, Tanti Bazar, Mohakhali, Jahangir Gate, Abdullahpur, Progati Sarani, Khilgoan and New market.

Dispute among different government regarding ownership of land where the THCs will be constructed is another deterrent for the proposal.

"Problems with the allotment of land is another major problem in implementation of the proposal," a DCC official said.

Volvos in vogue

95 more likely to hit city streets

AVIK SANWAR RAHMAN

Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) lacks funds to purchase 95 double-deckers to add to the 350-bus project, passed by the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Ecne), for city commuters.

The BRTC purchased 255 double-deckers, 205 of them Ashok Leylands from India and 50 Volvos from Sweden and is now trying to import another 95 Volvo buses because of increasing demand for high quality, environment-friendly buses with longevity and a larger seating capacity.

The BRTC bought the Volvos with 50 percent grant and 50 percent loan from the Swedish government, with a bus priced at Tk 1.37 crore. The Swedish government is taking an interest of 6.37 percent on the loan.

It is now trying to get loans from Sweden on more beneficial terms and submitted a proposal to the Swedish government for the 95 buses.

"We have forwarded a project proposal to the Swedish government with a better bargain for less interest rates," a BRTC source told Star City earlier.

Three months into submission of the proposal, the Swedish Development Agency (Sida) that negotiated the deal has not responded.

The BRTC earns about Tk 8,500 in revenue a day from each Volvo that has 20-year longevity and has opted



Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) now sees Volvo as a profitable project

for Volvo as it is a profitable project considering all operational costs.

"We get better service from the BRTC Volvos," said Kajol Rahman, who commutes to work in Mirpur from Motijheel on workdays.

But the condition of the buses from India plying the city streets is deteriorating by the day, leaving more buses in the workshop than on the streets.

BRTC sources said other countries

were also interested in supplying buses to Bangladesh.

"We will buy double-deckers from South Korea and China if they agree on our terms," said a high official of the BRTC.

RUSH HOUR SNARL-UP



Cars, minibuses and other vehicles are parked haphazardly in front of offices and kitchen markets at Kawran Bazaar, the busiest commercial hub next to Motijheel, during office hours everyday. But there is no traffic arrangements in the area, lamented an official.

Quest for new social order

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Around 1000 delegates from about 200 organisations in Bangladesh are expected to join the six-day Fourth World Social Forum (WSF) in Mumbai, India scheduled to begin Friday.

Hundreds have already left for Mumbai en route Kolkata on Monday. The delegates include NGO workers, trade unionists, health campaigners, representatives of farm workers and indigenous people.

More than two lakh delegates from across the world are likely to attend the conference aimed at 'a different world order'.

The WSF was formed immediately after the fall of the East European socialist economy to resist the growing capitalist monopoly and find an alternative social order for the rest of the world.

Organisers of WSF, Bangladesh and the People's Health Movement (PHM) at a press conference in the city last week outlined their programme in Mumbai.

Abul Hasib Khan read out a written statement while Khushi Kabir, Nurul Anwar, AHM Noman, Abul Hossain, Imamuddin, Zakir Hossain, Dr Laila

More than two lakh delegates from across the world are likely to attend the 4th World Social Forum in Mumbai aimed at 'a different world order'.

Parvin and Nasimul Ahsan Dipu were present.

The Bangladesh chapter of WSF will hold seminars in the Mumbai forum on 'Globalisation and Agriculture of Bangladesh', 'Globalisation and Non-Institutional Sectors of Bangladesh' and 'Globalisation and Women'.

Besides, it will hold a protest rally and collect signatures against India's recent move towards changing the natural course of rivers under a massive river-linking project.

The PHM will also hold seminars on India's river-linking project and its adverse impacts on Bangladesh and South Asian region as a whole, women

and child trafficking, migration and workers' rights, healthcare, gas and other mineral resources of Bangladesh and PRSP and health.

The WSF Bangladesh has been formed to express solidarity with the international response to globalisation and its effects, the campaigners said.

It is an initiative to bring together organisations engaged in creating a democratic, socially just, and sustainable society, they said.

The meet in Mumbai will conclude on January 21.

healthouting, taxicab & train timing

HEALTH

Hospitals

Heart

National Institute of Cardio Vascular Diseases (NICVD), - 9130800, 9122560-59

Burn

Dhaka Medical College Hospital Burn Unit-8626812-6

Cancer

National Cancer Institute-8014914, 8826561-65
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University-8612550-4, 8616641-50

Diabetes

Diabetic Research Hospital (BIRDEM)- 9661551-5, 8616641-50

Mother & Child Care

Shishu Hospital- 9119119, 8116061-62
Azampur Mother & Child Health

Training Institute- 8624827, 8624980

Eye

Islamia Eye Hospital-9110794, 9119315
National Eye Hospital- 8117202, 8114807

Dental

Dental College -9002035

Orthopaedics

National Orthopaedics (Pangu) Hospital- 9114075, 9112150

General

Dhaka Medical College Hospital- 8626812-6
Rushmono General Hospital- 8317819
Holy Family Hospital- 83111731-25
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital- 8612550-4, 8614545-9
Bangladesh Medical College & Hospital- 8115443, 9118202,

Shamaria Hospital- 9131901

Suhrawardy Hospital -- 9130800, 9122560-69

Salimullah Medical College Hospital -- 7310061-4, 7319002-6

Cholera Research Hospital (ICDDR)- 8811751-60

Monowra Hospital 8319802, 8318135

Blood Bank

Red Crescent Centre- 9116563

Sandhani (DMCH)- 8624040

Sandhani (SMCH)- 7310061, 7310061, 7319022

Dhaka Medical College 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
Baitual Mukarram Market-Friday
Polwell Market-Friday
Eastwell Market-Friday
BCS Computer City-Friday
Isha Khan Shopping Complex-Friday.
Rajlaxmi Complex-Friday
Stadium Market-Friday
Bangabazar Market-Friday
National Museum-Thursaday
Ahsan Manzil--Thursaday.
New Market-Tuesday
Gausia Market-Tuesday
Mouchak Market-Sunday
Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday
Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday
Farmview Super Market-Sunday
Muktijuddha Jadughar-Sunday
Dhaka Zoo-Sunday
Shishu Jadughar-Sunday

TAXI CAB

Yellow Cab

Navana 9558065

Salida 9344477, 0171620881

Cosmo 9112959 and 8127191

Cab One 7113282-3

Nihon 8624741-2

Orion 9347277

Anudip 8125285 and 8127611

Capital 9352847

Union 8130485

Kool 0171826731

Black Cab

Cab Ex 9358401

Cabline 8321162

JBS Cab 019364575

Sajan 018126036

Anudip -- 8125285 and 8127611

TRAIN TIMING

Subarna Express

Leaves Dhaka at 4:00 pm

Mahanagar Prabhathi

Leaves Dhaka at 7:30 am

Mahanagar Godhuli

Leaves Dhaka at 3:05 pm

Turna

Leaves Dhaka at 11:00 pm

Parabat Express

Leaves Dhaka at 6:30 am

Joyantika Express

Leaves Dhaka at 12:30 pm

Upaban Express

Leaves Dhaka at 9:30 pm

Tista Express

Leaves Dhaka at 7:00 am

Ekata Express

Leaves Dhaka at 5:00 pm

Upakul Express

Leaves Dhaka at 6:00 am

Padma Express

Leaves Dhaka at 9:20 pm

Cab One 7113282-3

Palki 0171052500

Cab I 7113282

Jatri 0171540074

Nipun 9572277

R-Cab 8914782

Star Cab 9571919

Shihab 018202477 & 018228675

KGN 8620011

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

British Council- 8618867-8, 8618905-7

Community Development Library- 8113769, 8113604

Goethe Institute Int'l- Dhaka- 9126525-6

Indian Information Centre & Cultural Library- 8615096

The Russian Cultural Centre- 9116314, 9118531, 9118314

Drik Photo Gallery- 9120125, 8112954, 8123412