



SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN

The road from Science Laboratory to National Press Club will be off-limits to rickshaws from February 22

Two more roads to become off-limits to rickshaws

ABDUL KADER

Roads from Kalabagan crossing to Azimpur and the Science Laboratory to the National Press Club will be off-limits to rickshaws from February 25 in the latest ban on the slow-moving vehicles, blamed for traffic jam.

The decision was taken as part of efforts to reduce traffic jam, said Quamrul Islam Siddique, executive director of Dhaka Transport Coordination Board (DTCB).

Siddique told Star City that the decision came after a series of talks with local stakeholders who voiced opinions in favour of the clamp-down.

On an alternative route for rickshaws, a DTCB official said there would be a two-way lane for rickshaws between the New Market

opposite Chadni Chawk Supermarket and Dhanmondi Road No.1 for the convenience of commuters to Dhanmondi, Rayerbazar, Jigatala and Mohammadpur.

Rickshaws will be allowed to use two crossings -- one on Dhanmondi Road No. 6 and the other at Nilkhet, the official said.

Along the road from the Science Laboratory to Shahbagh to the Press Club, rickshaws will be allowed to cross two points -- one at the Bata crossing on the Elephant Road and the other at Kataban for movement from Hatirpool to Dhaka University, the official added.

But there will be no alternative lanes for rickshaws from the Elephant Road to Shahbagh to the Press Club, he said, adding the number of motorised vehicles plying the routes increased for

commuters.

Rickshaws were banned from the stretch between Gabtali and Russel Square on Mirpur Road from December 20, 2002.

Bangladesh Transport Foundation has been engaged in holding meetings with professionals, business people and rickshawpullers to get feedback on the ban on rickshaws after the government decision faced resistance. Of the six meetings scheduled, two have taken place and the rest will take place by February 24.

Three other major roads -- from Progtani Sarani to Mouchak, Bangla Motor to Mogbazar, Rampura and Rokeya Sarani to Farmgate -- will be made off-limits to rickshaws in phases in 2005, DTCB sources said.

Physically challenged want reserved seats in JS

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Physically challenged people of the country want 12 reserved seats in the parliament to ensure that their voice is heard and they can be a part of the country's legislature.

The call comes after the ruling four-party alliance government decided to increase the total number of seats in the parliament by another 150.

"We urge the government to keep provision for representatives of the physically handicapped in the parliament," said president of Mirpur Bauniabad disabled peoples' organisation Yousuf Ali in a press conference

in the city last week.

The briefing was jointly arranged by the Trinomul Protibondhi Jonogoshthi (disabled people of grassroots level) and Action on Disability and Development, both non-government organisations working for the physically challenged.

Some countries have already ensured participation of disabled people in their state legislature. There are 11 lawmakers in South Africa and five in Uganda, who are physically challenged themselves, upholding the rights of the handicapped.

"Although people like us constitute ten per cent of the country's total

population, we still can't express our opinion on decisions that concern us in the parliament," lamented visually challenged Supreme Court lawyer Mosharaf Hossain Talukder.

"We believe this is the right time to stamp our presence. We need representatives in the parliament and as the government is planning to increase seats, our demand should not be too difficult to entertain," added Talukder.

According to World Health Organisation (WHO) statistics, 13 million people in Bangladesh are physically challenged. Interestingly, 80 handicapped candidates participated in the last Union Parishad (UP) election and

16 of them were elected.

"We don't want to live like burdens of the society. Given the chance, the physically disabled can also contribute to the country's development. But the general opinion of us is that we are useless. That kind of attitude is not conducive for democracy," said Talukder.

The organisations of the disabled are demanding the reserved seats because they feel that the financial solvency required to run in a traditional election is beyond the means of most physically challenged people. Their demands include one male and one female representative from each of the six divisions.

DCC's keep-city-clean plan for Eid day

AVIK SANWAR RAHMAN

Every year during the Eid-ul-Azha, the city gets littered with the waste from sacrificial animals, as there are no systematic disposal options.

This time, the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has taken a programme to raise awareness of the city dwellers on how to handle the waste properly.

"We will start making announcements on mikes two days ahead of the Qurbani Eid in all the wards. The do's and don'ts prepared by the DCC regarding animal waste disposal will

be read out so that people get an idea how to deal with it," said a ward commissioner.

The DCC also plans to convey its waste management message from mosques during the last Friday prayer (Jumma) before Eid on January 30. There will be leaflets pasted on walls also about the Qurbani waste.

"It is necessary to raise awareness among the residents because a little alertness on their part can make the task much easier for us. That's why we are taking special measures to let them know what is expected," said Commander Sohel Farouqui, the chief

conservancy officer of DCC.

"If people keep the Qurbani waste in a separate dustbin other than throwing here and there, our cleaners would be able to pick it from the dustbin. It is very important that nobody dumps the waste in the drains," added Farouqui.

DCC cleaners and staffs would start working from 12 noon on the Eid day. Trucks for picking up the waste will roam around the city. Water lorries will be employed to clean the blood and other wastes.

The cleaning of the 16 temporary cow markets within the city would

start after 12pm as sacrificial animals are even sold on the Eid day.

"For the convenience of the city dwellers our staff will work night and day during the Eid," informed the chief conservancy officer.

"Most people complete their Qurbani by 2pm and some do it in the evening. The cleaners are expected to come within this time so that the wastes could be cleaned during the day. Otherwise it will cause foul odour and an unhygienic atmosphere," said commissioner of Ward 75 Mozammel Hoq Mukta.

SWEET HOME, BITTER RIDE



SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN

Yesterday was the last day to book advance train tickets for Eid. Hundreds who queued at the Kamalapur Railway Station from early morning did not get tickets at the counter. However, many passengers managed them from the black marketeers at almost double the price.

useful telephone numbers

COURIER SERVICES

International
Air Borne Express- 9561371, 9561372, 9550724
Air Couriers Intl (BD) Ltd.- 8815970
Aramex International Courier- 9558003, 9559582, 9565075
Airspeed Express- 9563494
Asian Courier Services Ltd.- 8313543
Baishakhi Courier Service- 9558606
Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.- 9565114
Bangladesh Courier Service- 9563989
Bengal Express- 9560642, 9552666
Bangladesh Intl Courier- 953636
Continental Service Ltd.- 9552948, 9558425
DHL Worldwide Express- 9881703-7, 9886305-9, 9882057
Enem Express- 9330699
Fedex Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.- 9565114
Modhuban Courier Service-

9550884
Overseas Courier Service- 9352431, 8321169
Pacific Courier- 9568446
Reliance Express Service- 9558515, 7110249
Sky International service- 9660442
Skynet world Wide Express- 9558062, 9560258, 7114787, 7113184
TNT Express- 9566662, 9558239, 8618155
Union Courier Service- 9341722
United Parcel Service Air alliance Ltd.- 8826429, 8810223

National
Asian courier Service Ltd.- 8313543
BAE- 9884851
Central Courier Service- 9881118
Confidence Courier Service Ltd.- 9567036
Chisty Courier- 7110177-9,
Cosmopol Services- 9552793, 9557975
Dhaka Courier Services- 7236222

Dolphin Courier- 9558802
Dreamland Courier Service- 9550326, 9566975
Pioneer Courier Services- 9561727, 9569759
Probashi Courier Services- 9346359
Rainbow Express Parcel Services Ltd.- 8322773, 8315703
Reliance Express Services- 9558515, 7110249
Sundaran Courier Services- 9551984, 9556189, 9551656
Sunrise Courier Services- 9568751
World Runner Express Ltd.- 9112068, Fax - 880-2-9112068

TIPS

Do you know according to Dhaka City Corporation, you must deposit your waste at the collection site between 4pm and 10pm

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

OUTING

Museum and Zoo
National Museum- 8619396-9
Open: 10 am - 5 pm, Friday 3 pm - 8 pm, Thursday closed
Muktijuddha Jadughar- 9559091
Open: 10:30 am - 6:30 pm, Sunday Closed
Bangabandhu Smiti Jadughar- 8110046
Open: 10 am - 5 pm, Wednesday closed
Ahsan Manzil
Open: 10 am - 5 pm, Friday: 3 pm - 7 pm, Thursday Closed
Shishu Jadughar- 9666466
Open: 10 am - 6 pm, Sunday Closed

CITY BUS ROUTE

Bus No.	Route	Starts from
1	Gulistan-Shahbagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 10, 11, 12	Golap Shah Mazar
2	Gulistan-Shahbagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 1, 2	Phoolbaria bus station
3	Gulistan-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Mahakhali-Airport-Azampur	Phoolbaria bus station
4	Shyampur-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Airport-Tongi	Shyampur
5	Sayedabad-Kamalapur-Motijheel-Airport-Joydebpur-Gazipur	Sayedabad
6A	Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Gulistan 1, 2	Kamalapur
6B	Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 1, 2	Kamalapur
6C	Motijheel Shapla chattr- Malibagh- Farmgate- Gulshan 2	Motijheel Shaplachattr
7	Sadarghat-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 2	Sadarghat
8	Chittagong-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Asad Gate-Kalyanpur-Gabtoil	Chittagong Road
9	Demra Rani mahal-Motijheel-Kalabagan-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 10, 11, 12	Demra Ranimahala
10	Sadarghat-Gulistan-Kakrail-Malibagh-Rampura-Biwsa Road-Tongi Bridge	Sadarghat
11	Sayedabad-Motijheel-Fakirapool-Maghbazar-Mohakhali-Tongi Bridge	Sayedabad
11/A	Sayedabad-Khilgoan-Malibagh-Rampura-Airport-Tongi Bridge	Sayedabad
12	Shanir Akhra-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Asadgate-Mohammadpur	Shanir Akhra
13	Motijheel-Shahbagh-New Market-Jhigatola-Shangkar-Mohammedpur	Motijheel
14	Signboard - Motijheel-Shahbagh-New Market-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 12	Signboard (Chittagong Road)
15	Chittagong Road-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Mirpur 12	Chittagong Road
24	Gulistan-Maghbazar-Mohakhali-Airport-Uttara-Bipile	Gulistan