

DCC to broaden some lanes and bylanes

CITY CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has decided to broaden some narrow lanes and by-lanes to reduce the ever-growing traffic congestion in the city.

The decision was taken at a meeting last Wednesday with Mayor Sadek Hossain Khoka, DCC's chief executive officer Habibur Rahman, executive director of Dhaka Urban Transport Co-ordination Board Qamrul Islam Siddique, commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Ashraf Huda, DCC's chief engineer Md. Idris Ali and representatives from Rajuk, Dhaka Wasa, BRITA, T&T and other utility departments attending.

A city is supposed to leave out 25 percent of its total area for thoroughfares, streets, lanes, by-lanes etc. But in Dhaka's case it's only nine percent. Non-implementation of the Dhaka Master Plan of 1959 has been blamed for this situation.

The meeting observed that lanes and by-lanes of the city's residential areas have become narrow because they didn't follow the master plan which had advocated for more space. Many streets and

alleys have dead-ends and that's why they can't be used as by-passroads.

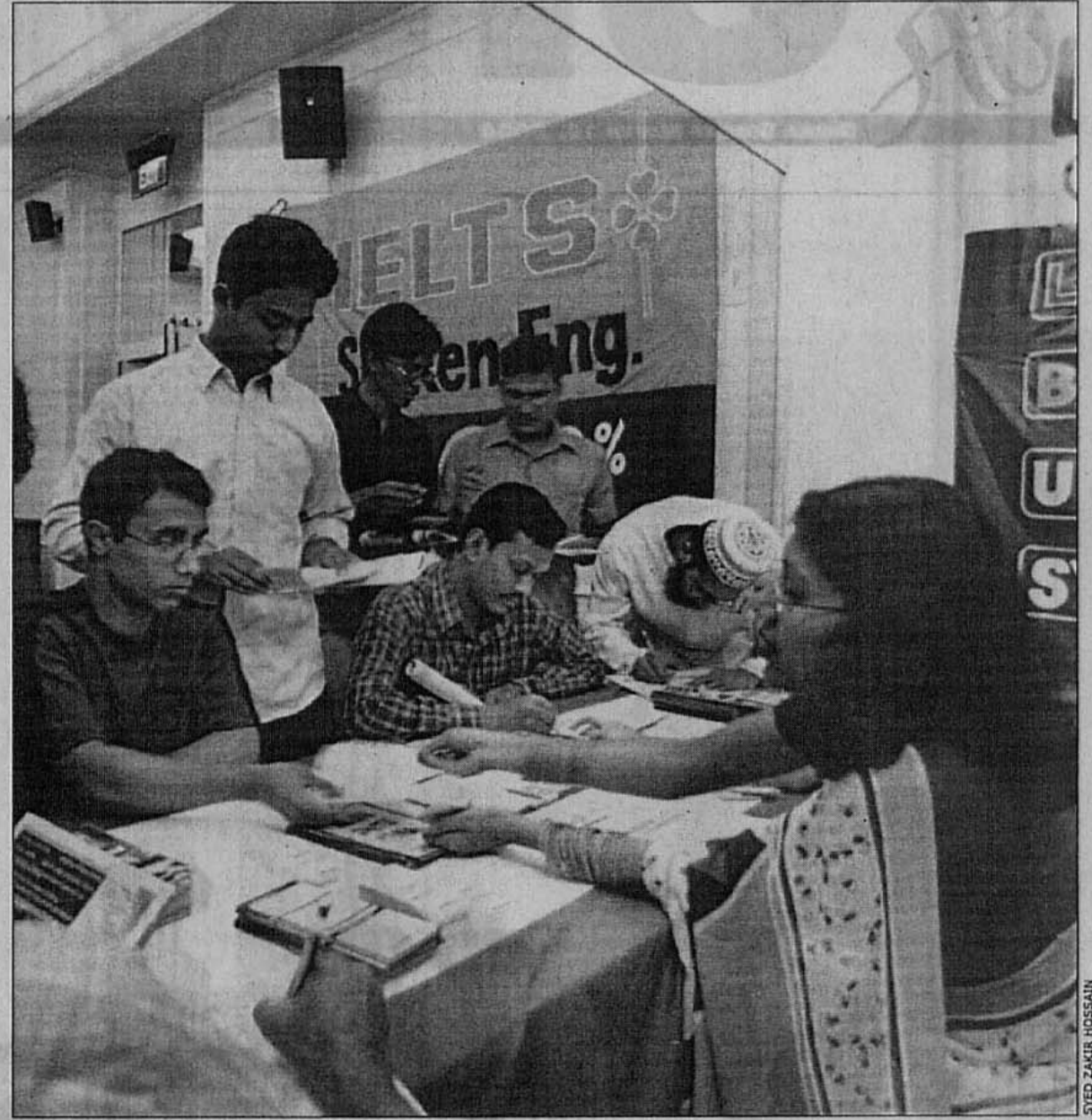
The participants said that broadening of the lanes and by-lanes of the city would be done under the good governance and development activity of the city. Two hundred and one lanes and by-lanes have been identified and listed by the local ward commissioners with the help of the residents following an order from the Prime Minister's office on 27 July, 2003 in this regard.

Already some local commissioners have started broadening the lanes and by-lanes of their areas with the co-operation of the local people. The Moulana Bhashani Smriti Sangsad in Shantinagar, the Central Road of Hatirpul, the Mitali Road of Dhanmondi, Dhanmondi Road 15(old), Khaja Dewan Road of Bakshibazar, Raj Narayan Dhar Road, Shahidnagar Road, Malibagh Road, North Goran and Patshala Lane were some of the streets that have seen an increase in size over the past year or so.

The meeting was informed that within a short time similar work would start in some other roads

like Maniknagar, RK Mission Road, Akhsoy Das Lane, Toybee Circular Road, Dhalpur main road, Distillery Road, Sikkatuli Lane, Sutikhal Road, Shakhariabazar, Nabab Katra Road, Kobiraj Lane, Mazed Sardar Road, Bakshibazar intersection, Dhaka Central Jail Road, East Rampura, Ulan main road, Tilpapara, East Goran, East Madartek Adarsha Para, Baitul Mukarram Eastern Gate Road, Sher-e-Bangla Road, Sonargaon Road by-lane, North Circular Road, Siddheswari Lane, Dilu Road, Moghbazar by-lane, Taltola Goli, Peyarabag and other roads among the 201 identified by the ward commissioners of Dhaka city.

Some steps also recommended by the participants to improve the road structure of Dhaka which included identifying all the narrow lanes and blind lanes to make by-pass roads, a joint survey of roads by Rajuk and DCC to construct new by-pass roads, limiting automobile registrations till all the roads have been broadened and by-pass roads are constructed and to implement the unfinished parts of the Dhaka Master Plan of 1959.



A fair of great help

Education fair organised by the British Council for sixth consecutive year concludes

SABRINA KARIM MURSHED

It was time again to witness Dhaka Sheraton's Winter Garden bubbling with enthusiastic students and parents as they scrutinised literature of UK universities and colleges with flickers of hope gleaming in their eyes.

The British Council organised The Education@UK Fair 2004, which began Thursday, continued till Saturday drawing in hundreds of visitors every day.

Arranging the fair for the sixth consecutive year, the British Council is bent on providing opportunities to prospective students and their parents, teachers, personnel managers or training managers to talk directly to representatives of United Kingdom educational institutions as they have done in the previous years.

"We believe in direct communication. Telephone, web-mail and fax are quick, but unmediated communication can clarify any queries on the spot," said a British Council representative.

"The response we receive from Bangladeshi students is tremendous," said Raiqah Ripa Wallie, British Council's education promotion and marketing manager. She said a majority of students opted for education in the UK after the visa process was simplified.

"Students faced no difficulties at

present as the British Council introduced E.DoCS or Electronic Document Checking Service to verify offer letters and IELTS scores," she also said, adding at least 2300 students got visas to the UK last year.

Steve Stephens, regional director of University of Luton, said the growing participation of both students and education institutions in the fair is notable.

"Only six institutions were involved when we participated in the fair for the first time, and this time there are 18," he said. Stephens further said that such participation indicated the demand for the UK-based education, not forgetting to add that Luton University has 120 Bangladeshi students presently studying there.

Of the 18 participating institutions, University of Abertay Dundee, Brighton International Business School, Canterbury Christ Church University College, University of Central England in Birmingham, David Game College, University of Greenwich Hertfordshire, University of Huddersfield, Liverpool John Moores University, London Metropolitan University, London South Bank University, University of Luton, Middlesex University, St. Patrick's International College and University of Westminster were among them.

"I came to browse through the

information available to find a suitable course for myself," said Afia Akhter who holds a bachelor's degree in Leather Technology and now studying IT. "I want to do a post graduation IT course in the UK," she said.

Afia said she has to opt for a course that fits her purse. "But at least no-one is misinformed here as all participating institutions have their own representatives," she said when asked how the fair would help her.

Most of the representatives of UK institutions commented that Bangladeshi students studying there are doing well.

"We have nine students in London at present and all of them are producing good results," said Gul Chugani from David Game College. The college offers foundation courses, GCSE and A level courses and makes way for students to enrol in different educational institutions in UK.

The representatives also mentioned law, business administration, accounting, IT and human resource management as popular subjects for Bangladeshi students.

The British Council will also organise a two-day fair at Hotel Agrabad in Chittagong from March 16 to meet the demand of students. The fair will be free for all, sources said.

Dhaka will host its maiden furniture show next month

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will host its first International Furniture Fair next month to introduce local furniture to the global market and boost exports.

More than a dozen countries are expected to participate in the fair to be held on April 9-11 at Hotel Sheraton's Winter Garden.

"Local furniture has now reached international standards," claim a furniture maker. "We need exposure and the fair is a welcome idea to be at par with international manufacturers."

"Our aim is to boost the furniture industry at the same time promote sales locally while discouraging the purchase of imported items," said an official of Triune Exhibition and Event Management (TEEM) chief organiser and sponsor.

TEEM will work with co-organiser Bangladesh Furniture Industries Owners Association (BFIOA) according to an agreement signed on February 22.

Household, office and hospital furniture will be on display and sale along with other home-decor pieces. All these put together will enable visitors to feast their eyes on a variety of furniture under one roof. Wood, wrought iron, metal, steel, plastic and cane will blend in harmony at the fair.

Items like mattresses, carpets, electronic home appliances and furniture cleaning materials will also be on display and sale.

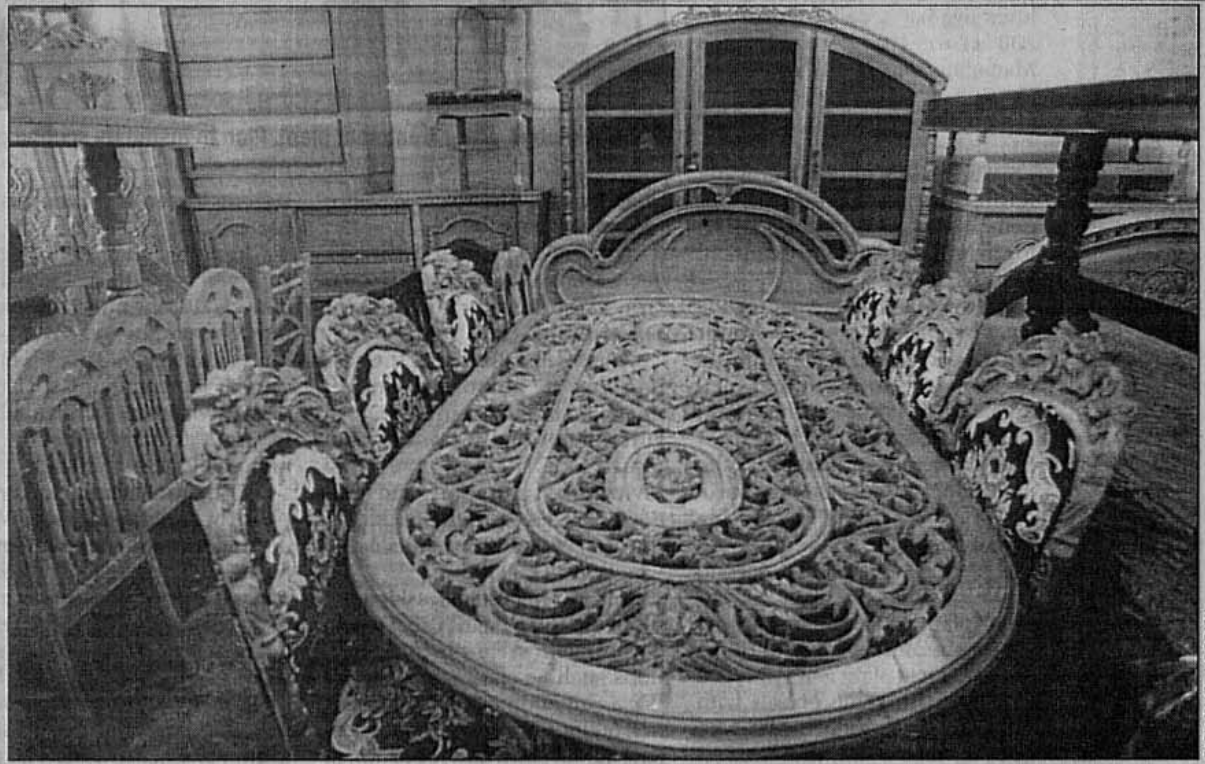
The fair will house at least 60 stalls where entrepreneurs from different countries will put their items on show.

"Furniture industry owners from Malaysia, Indonesia, Pakistan and India positively participating but we anticipate others countries to take part too," said K.M. Akhtaruzzaman, BFIOA chairman.

"The household, office and hospital furniture industry boomed in the last few years," he said. He added that local furniture has a good market in Bangladesh and is now in demand abroad too. "We believe that this fair will help Bangladesh to enhance the export market as vested parties around the globe

will have the chance to see our products," he commented.

Akhtaruzzaman also said that BFIOA is hoping to organise another fair in July. "This time only Bangladesh furniture makers will participate," he said. The selected venue is China Bangladesh Friendship Conference Centre but the number of stalls is yet to be decided.



Some exportable furniture on display at a city shop.

healthouting, taxicab & train timing

HEALTH	MARKET CLOSED	TAXI CAB	LIBRARY & INFO			
<p>Hospitals</p> <p>Heart National Institute of Cardio Vascular Diseases (NICVD), -9130800, 9122560-59</p> <p>Burn Dhaka Medical College Hospital Burn Unit-8626812-6</p> <p>Cancer National Cancer Institute-8014914, 8826561-65 Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University-8612550-4, 861455-9</p> <p>Diabetes Diabetic Research Hospital (BIRDEM)-9661551-5, 8616641-50</p> <p>Mother & Child Care Shishu Hospital- 9119119, 8116061-62 Azampur Mother & Child Health</p>	<p>Training Institute- 8624827, 8624980</p> <p>Eye Islamia Eye Hospital-9110794, 9119315 National Eye Hospital- 8117202, 8114807</p> <p>Dental Dental College -9002035</p> <p>Orthopaedics National Orthopaedics (Pangu) Hospital- 9114075, 9112150</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Shamarita Hospital- 9131901 Suhrawardy Hospital - 9130800, 9122560-69 Salimullah Medical Collage Hospital - 7310061-4, 7319002-6 Cholera Research Hospital (ICDRB)- 8811751-60 Monowra Hospital 8319802, 8318135</p> <p>Blood Bank Red Crescent Centre* 9116563 Sandhani (DMCH)- 8624040 Sandhani (SMCH)- 7310061, 7310061,7319022 Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital-8626812-9</p> <p>Eye Bank Sandhani International Eye Bank-8614040</p> <p>Ambulances For Dead Body Anzumam Mafulul Islam (Kakrail) 9336611, Gandaria 7319808, 7318166, Al-Markajul Islam 9127867,</p>	<p>Gulshan 1, 2 markets-Friday Elephant Road-Friday Bishal Center-Friday Baitul Mukarram Market-Friday Potwell Market-Friday BCS Computer City-Friday Isha Khan Shopping Complex-Friday. Rajlaxmi Complex-Friday Stadium Market-Friday Bangabazar Market-Friday National Museum-Thursdays Ahsan Manzil-Thursdays. New Market-Tuesdays Gausia Market-Tuesdays 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</p>	<p>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</p> <p>Subarna Express Mahanagar Prabhati Mahanagar Godhull Turna Parabat Express Joyantika Express Upaban Express Tista Express Ekata Express Upakul Express Padma Express</p>	<p>Union 8130485 Kool 0171826731</p> <p>Black Cab Cab Ex 9358401 Cablina 8321162 JBS Cab 019364575 Sajan 018126036 Anudip -- 8125285 and 8127611</p> <p>Cab One 7113282-3 Palki 0171052500 Cab I 7113282 Jatri 0171540074 Nipun 9572277 R-Cab 8914782 Star Cab 9571919 Shihab 018202477 & 018228675 KGN 8620011</p>	<p>Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers</p> <p>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</p>
<p>TRAIN TIMING</p>						
<p>Leaves Dhaka at 4:00 pm Leaves Dhaka at 7-30 am Leaves Dhaka at 3-05 pm Leaves Dhaka at 11-00 pm Leaves Dhaka at 6-30 am Leaves Dhaka at 12-30 pm Leaves Dhaka at 9-30 pm Leaves Dhaka at 7-00 am Leaves Dhaka at 5-00 pm Leaves Dhaka at 1-35 pm Leaves Dhaka at 9-20 pm</p>		<p>Reaches Chittagong at 10:15 pm Reaches Chittagong at 2-55 pm Reaches Chittagong at 9-11 pm Reaches Chittagong at 7-05 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 11-55 Reaches Noakhali at 1-35 pm Reaches Jagannath at 2-30 pm</p>				