



SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN

Tale of the redundant traffic lights

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Traffic police control movement of vehicles manually as electronic traffic lights flash red, yellow and green in synchronizing rhythm serving no purpose to the heavy traffic congestion.

"What is the use of having sophisticated electronic signal lights at main crossings if they are not made good use of?" queried Lutfar Rahman, an Uttara resident. "After all, the government has spent a large amount of money in installing these lights," he added.

"We suffer the most. The traffic lights are not put to proper use," he said, adding that this takes more time than necessary at crossing points. Commuters on link roads face more problems than VIP road users.

"My brother was seriously ill and I was on my way to the hospital. But I had to wait over 30 minutes at the signal post at the Bangla Motor link road crossing before the line of vehicles was released," said Ahsan Ali, a

Dhaka University student, who was rushing his brother to hospital.

"Are we not citizens with equal rights in this country? Why does the traffic system favour VIPs?" he asked.

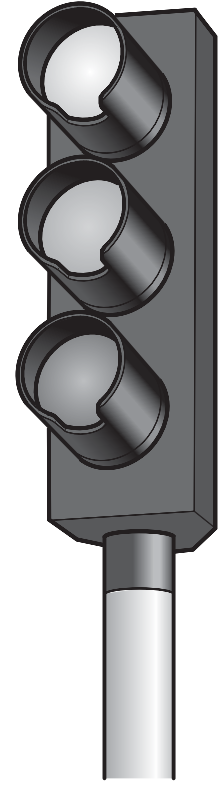
Sometimes, the red (stop) light flashes on the signal post, when the traffic officer says 'go' and vice-a-versa.

"I wanted to drive past a signal post when the light was green, but the officer's stretched-out hand prevented me from doing so," said Shoeb Ahmed, a private car owner, who was stuck at the Katobon traffic signal post.

"Manual traffic control makes the already complex system chaotic. We should ensure utmost use of the modern electronic traffic systems prevailing in the network," said Ahsan Habib Rupak, an urban planning specialist of BUET.

"To maintain the traffic lights, non-motorised vehicles should be removed from major roads," he added.

"Most drivers are unaware of traffic rules and try to avoid them



causing traffic jams and disorder. Obeying the signal lights is a must for all drivers," said

Enamul Huq, a traffic sergeant. "We use hand signals in place of the electronic system during rush hours," explained Huq.

"We keep to the direction of traffic police and sergeants. If they want to ensure the application of signal lights, we will maintain it," Ashraf, a Mirpur-Gulistan route bus-driver told the Star City.

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) installs and maintains the traffic lights in the city.

Executive engineer of Dhaka City Corporation Ashkur Rahman said, "DCC installs the signal lights for smooth traffic movement. Traffic police are trained by DCC to control the electronic lights."

"Sometimes we have to control vehicles manually to reduce traffic jam and give priority to VIPs. More so, most of the signal posts are out of order. DCC hopes to bring the system back to normalcy by June. After the work is complete we can totally avoid the manual system," said Sarwar Alam, Deputy Police Commissioner of Traffic (south).

Born in 1963, still too weak to sing

Government Music College hobbles even after nationalisation

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Twenty years after its nationalisation in 1984, the Government College of Music in Agargaon is still hobbling for lack of adequate, qualified instructors.

Founded on November 10, 1963 by late classical musician Barin Majumder on his own, the college was taken over by the government on May 11, 1984, without any projection or allowance for new recruits.

This college now wobbles with 17 faculty members including its principal and vice principal.

"There are no provisions for recruitment, and positions left vacant by retirement, resignation or demise have not been replaced," said Professor Jahan-e-Gulshan, the principal.

It is not surprising that there are no instructors specialised in teaching Tagore or Nazrul songs. At present a lecturer of history teaches Nazrul songs.

The Department of Instrumental Music exists only in name. Practical classes are few and far between because of the non-availability of instrument instructors. Teaching assistants or instrument demonstrators cannot do so, as they are otherwise engaged in accompanying vocal instructors.

"Practice is vital for our vocal students.

They are aspiring singers," the principal commented. "It is a pity that we are unable to provide all the facilities," she added.

The college offers two degrees -- intermediate in music and bachelor's degree in music equivalent to higher secondary certificate (HSC) and degree (pass). Bangla, English and classical music are mandatory subjects for both courses. Students have options to choose one subject from either history, political science or economics and another option to choose one from either Tagore, Nazrul or folk songs.

The college authorities were satisfied with the teaching staff for all subjects other than music, as these instructors get transferred from other degree colleges.

College sources said that in 1984, at least 84 posts, including an associate professor, an assistant professor and two lecturers for each subject were sanctioned according to the staffing pattern for degree colleges.

However, the positions of associate professor and one lecturer were dropped for reasons unknown. This stand prompted a slack in promotions over the years.

As the only government music college, students were expected to stream in. Unfortunately the numbers are gradually decreasing.

"We had around 300 students that has now reduced to 80," said Indramohan Rajbanshi, assistant professor of folk songs.

"Music appealed to me as a child and I

decided to study it," said Jasmin Sarkar Tina, a student of bachelor in music. "I am now worried about the future as the college does not have provisions for master's," she said.

Khalid Hossain, vice principal, commented that students who completed bachelor's degree in music could do a preliminary master's course at Dhaka University (DU).

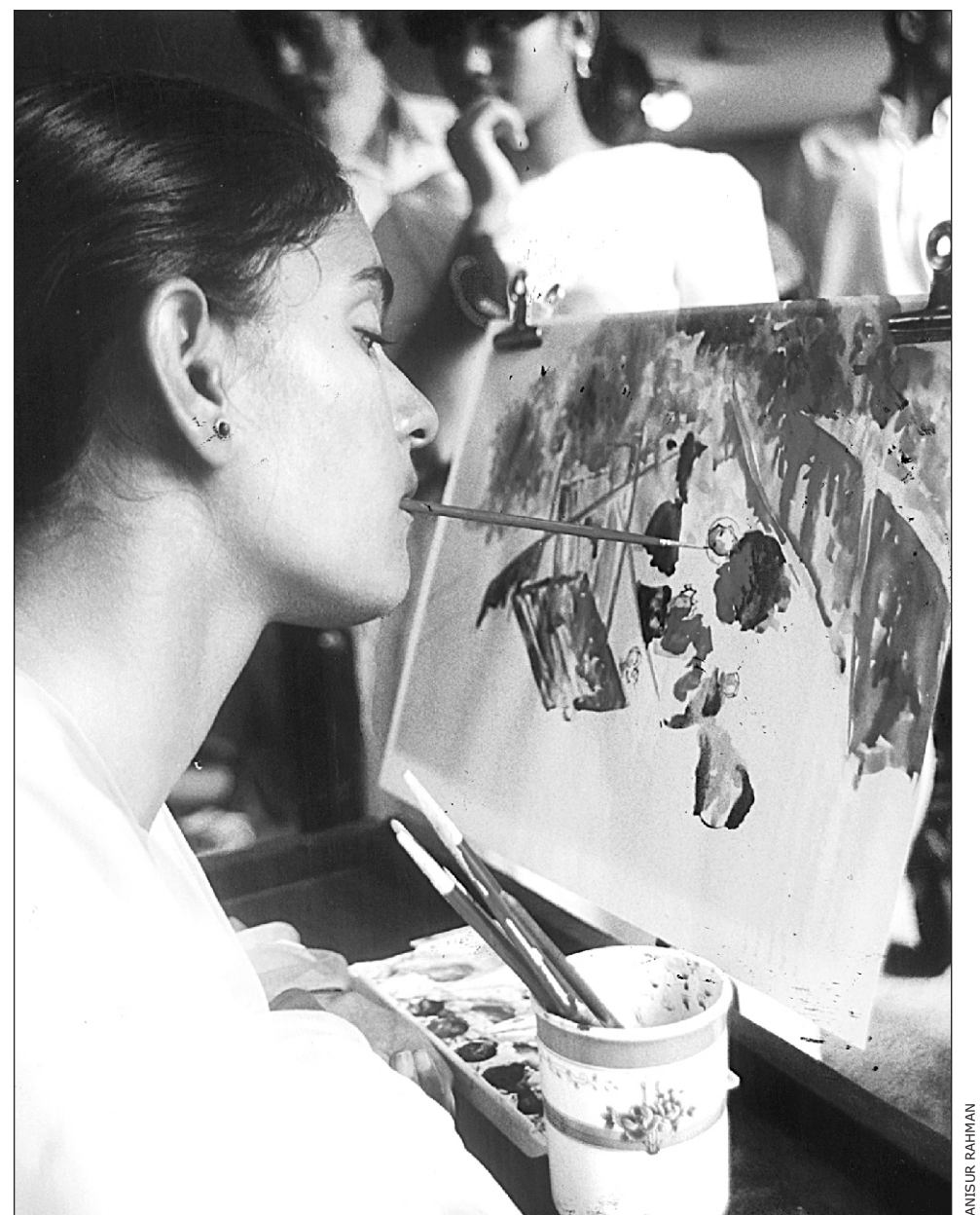
"But it is not possible anymore as the DU dissolved this preliminary course and introduced a Master's with Honours in Music and Drama," he said.

Another hindrance is lack of dormitory facilities. "Students seek admission from all parts of the country, as this is the only government institution in this field. Dormitory facilities should be provided whenever required," said Palash Majumder, a student from Noakhali. "Most students cannot afford to rent flats, and even if they do so, they cannot practice their music because 'the noise' causes annoyance to the neighbours," he added.

"We have appraised Professor Mohammed Junaed, director general of Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education, and Education Secretary Khandaker Shahidul Islam about our problems and have made our demands," said Jahan-e-Gulshan. "They have intimated that the problems will be solved immediately," she added.

BRAVING THE BARRIER

Physically challenged Lovely Akhtar paints with her mouth at an art competition in Dhaka on Friday. The children's competition was organised at the National Museum to mark Independence and National Day on March 26.



ANISUR RAHMAN

useful telephone numbers

COURIER SERVICES

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Air Borne Express- 9561371, 9561372, 9550724
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Aramex International Courier- 9558003, 9559582, 9565075
Airspeed Express- 9563494
Asian Courier Services Ltd.- 8313543
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Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.- 9565114
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Bengal Express- 9560642, 9552666
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Continental Service Ltd.- 9552948, 9558425
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Fedex Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.- 9565114
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9550884
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TNT Express- 9566662, 9558239, 8618155
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Cosmopol Services- 9552793, 9557975
Dhaka Courier Services- 7236222

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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 Shaplachatter
7	Sadarghat-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 2	Sadarghat
8	Chittagong-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Asad Gate-Kalyanpur-Gabtoi	Chittagong Road
9	Demra Rani mahal-Motijheel-Kalbagan-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 10, 11, 12	Demra Ranimahala
10	Sadarghat-Gulistan-Kakrail-Malibagh-Rampura-Biswa Road-Tongi Bridge	Sadarghat
11	Sayedabad-Motijheel-Fakirapool-Maghbazar-Mohakhali-Tongi Bridge	Sayedabad
11/A	Sayedabad-Khilgoan-Malibagh-Rampura-Airport-Tongi Bridge	Syedabad
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