

Most CNG filling stations lack DoE permission

AVIK SANWAR RAHMAN

A committee formed by the ministry of communication to assess the safety and security standards of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) filling stations in Dhaka has found that 90 per-

cent of the pumps are not environment friendly.

"Any industry or establishment should seek permission from the Department of Environment (DoE) before becoming operational. But so far only six CNG filling stations have fulfilled that pre-requisite,"

said a high official of DoE. "We prefer industrial and commercial locations instead of residential areas to set up CNG stations as public safety measures but most pumps have not followed that guideline," added the DoE official.

The communication minis-

try's sub committee on site selection did not have representation of the DoE in it, which made it easier for interested entrepreneurs to get approval to set up pumps wherever they wished.

Rupantorita Praktik Gas Ltd. (RPGL), AC Police, Traffic, Railway and Rajuk are sub-committee members.

Establishing CNG filling stations near residential areas could have serious implications especially if the site is not tested properly by DoE, believe environmentalists.

A pump located in the wrong place could hamper normal traffic movement, increase noise and air pollution and severely effect the sanctity of a residential area. In case of accidents, residents are exposed to the deadly consequences.

Initially, an inter-ministerial meeting concluded that it was best not to seek the permission from the DoE to establish CNG stations as the process took a long time.

"The delay of getting permission and the ever increasing demand for low cost environment friendly gas was the main reason for the decision," said a high official of the energy and mineral resources ministry.

However, the ministry has recently asked all the owners of CNG filling stations to get the approval of the DoE from now on.

The ministry has so far permitted 1059 organisations and entrepreneurs to establish 2096 CNG filling stations across the country. Among these stations 43 have been established in Dhaka, one in Chittagong and another on the Comilla-Chittagong highway.

Another seven stations are being set up in Dhaka and should start operating by April this year.



A CNG station closely surrounded by residential buildings

JU admission tests to begin April 3

CITY CORRESPONDENT

The admission test for the first year Honours courses under academic session 2003-2004 at the Jahangirnagar University (JU) will commence from April 3 and continue till 12.

Earlier, it was scheduled to take place from April 17 to 23.

According to the new schedule issued by the JU authorities, the admission test for 'Ka' unit (Physics and Mathematics faculty) will begin on April 3. The test for Electronics and Computer Science, Mathemat-

ics and Physics Department will be held on the same day, while the test for Environment Science, Geological Science, Statistics and Chemistry Department on the following day.

The admission test for 'Gha' unit (Life Science faculty) will begin April 5. The test for Botany and Zoology departments will take place on the same day while the test for Biochemistry and Molecular Science and Pharmacy Department on the next day.

The admission tests for 'Ga' unit (Arts and Humanities faculty) will also begin on April 10. The test for Drama and Dramatics department will be taken on the same day while the test for English, History and

will start from April 7. The test for Urban and Regional Planning (URP) and Economics departments will be held on the same day while the test for Business Administration (BBA) and Anthropology on the next day. The test for Geography, Environment and Government and Politics departments will be held on April 10.

One-hour duration written tests have been arranged in two phases in a day. The morning phase will begin at 10:30 am and the 2nd phase at 2:30 pm.

The results of the tests will be published in the last week of April, which will be published in the national dailies.

A total of 42,252 students will vie for about 1000 seats under 24 departments of the University, sources said.



Two inmates of the Old Home at Agargaon

TALE OF AN OLD HOME

Days pass off pretty well, nights bring memories

SABRINA KARIM MURSHED

The thought of the elderly living together in the same quarters, spending the final chapter of their lives in freedom and the pride of self-reliance is not a natural concept in this country. But the Old Home run by Bangladesh Association for the Aged at Dhaka's Agargaon is trying to change that.

This 44-year-old NGO introduced the old home in 2000 as it felt that the aged in urban areas were fast becoming lonelier than they have been in the past with nuclear families breaking up the joint-family culture. Also, with offspring living abroad, many parents suddenly found themselves alone.

"We thought the old home could help this target group but initially the response was disappointing," said Badrul Ahsan, social welfare officer of the Home.

However, boarders started enrolling once they were convinced of the philosophy behind the venture. Now some 15 people live there whereas there were only six last year of which eight are women.

The home can accommodate 30 people. Ahsan mentioned that old people who are relatively solvent and still doing well physically are encouraged to become boarders. Monthly rent for a room consisting two single beds and an attached bathroom is Tk 3,000.

Larger rooms with six beds in each of them are also available and will cost Tk 1,250 a person. The home has a full-time cook for boarders who jointly pay for groceries.

The lodgers have no complaints except the feeling of emptiness inside every now and then.

"Days pass off pretty well but the hard-

est to bear is the silence of darkness," said Anjuman Ara, a former teacher of Dhamondi Girls High School who has been residing at the home for the last six months.

"Sweet memories of my family, when we were all together, seem like a fairytale and haunt me throughout the night," she added.

However, boarders still prefer to stay at the home as both their children live abroad and she does not want to live with relatives.

"There is a sense of obligation if I stay with relatives. My children at first did not endorse this idea of me living in an old-age home as I have an apartment of my own. But later my son admitted that it was a bold and wise decision," she said.

Most of the boarders said that they came to the home for personal security and freedom at the same time.

"I have to depend on servants if I live alone in an apartment," said Mahtabuddin Ahmed, a former Deputy Director of NSI (National Security Intelligence). He has been lodging here since

2002.

The widower has the eldest of his three daughters in Dhaka but doesn't fancy staying with her.

"I have more independence if I stay here," he smiled. Ahmed said the first days were the hardest as loneliness used to creep in but gradually he came to terms with it.

For someone like Yakutunnesa this is the only place to call home. Widowed at an early age, Yakutunnesa does not have children to look after her. But a caring niece arranged for her to live at the old home, for which she is grateful.

Perhaps more than anything, it is the bond that develops among the boarders which is most unique in the home. They have people of the same age to talk to and go through every emotion together.

"Sometimes children and relatives prevent aged people from coming to the old home as this is not an established concept in our society. But they should come out of such prejudice and let the elderly decide for themselves," said Anjuman Ara.

healthouting,taxicab&traintiming

HEALTH

Hospitals

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
Rushmoni General Hospital- 8317819

Holy Family Hospital

83111731-25

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital-8612550-4, 8614545-9

Bangladesh Medical College & Hospital- 8115443, 9118202,

Mother & Child Care

Shishu Hospital- 9119119,

8116061-62

Azimpur Mother & Child Health

MARKET CLOSED

Yellow Cab

Navana 955085

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

Cab One 7113282-3

Palki 0171052500

Cab I 7113282

Jatri 0171540074

Nipun 9572277

R-Cab 8914782

Star Cab 9571919

Shihab 018202477 & 018228675

KGN 8620011

TAXI CAB

TRAIN TIMING

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

Subarna Express Leaves Dhaka at 4:00 pm
Mahanagar Prabhati 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
Upabon 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

Leaves Chittagong at 10:15 pm
Leaves Chittagong at 2:55 pm
Leaves Chittagong at 9:11 pm
Leaves Chittagong at 7:05 am
Leaves Sylhet at 2:30 pm
Leaves Sylhet at 9:20 pm
Leaves Sylhet at 6:40 pm
Leaves Bahadurabad at 1:05 pm
Leaves Bahadurabad at 11:55 pm
Leaves Noakhali at 1:35 pm
Leaves Jagannath at 2:30 pm