

# Khilgaon flyover may not be complete even in a year

SULTANA RAHMAN

The construction of Khilgaon flyover has the least possibility for completion in a year because of 'slow land acquisition and mismanagement.'

Plights of commuters in and out of the eastern and southern areas of Dhaka have increased as the flyover, scheduled to be complete in February 2003, missed several deadlines. The latest deadline is June this year.

"The possibility to meet the June deadline is also dim. It's not possible to complete the construction in June 2005 either," said an official of Dhaka Transport Coordination Board (DTCB), who reports the progress of the flyover.

According to the original plan, the work on the flyover under a Tk 74 crore project began in September 2001 and was scheduled to be complete in February 2003. It was designed with three wings connecting Khilgaon, Razarbagh and Syedabad with 2,505 metres in length.

Earlier in June last year, the Local Government and Engineering Department (LGED), the agency to implement the project

financed by the government, said it would be able to finish the construction by December last year.

In November last year, LGED officials told The Daily Star that the flyover would be complete by June 30 this year.

The same officials now say it would be deferred again as there is a lot of uncertainty over 30 percent of the work. Builders claimed to have finished 70 percent of the construction.

"For one and a half years, we have been trying to acquire land along the flyover, but it could not be done because of an objection from a ruling BNP lawmaker. He is obstructing the land acquisition, saying his vote bank will be affected," an LGED official said, requesting anonymity.

With the officials dragging their feet on the project, the sufferings of locals have mounted, as traffic congestion is commonplace in the area.

"We want to get rid of the everyday ordeal of commuting through gridlock. We want hassle-free travel," said Tanim Sayed, a resident of Bashabo.

"It takes me more time to drive through the area because of traffic jam. Many residents are not happy with the progress

of the construction," Tanim said.

Lack of timely fund has also slowed the construction of the flyover. "We have received only Tk 33.90 crore out of Tk 74 crore from the government until now," said a high official working on the project. The high prices of iron rod are also slowing the work.

The LGED is yet to receive some formal documents from Bangladesh Railway (BR) and Public Works Department (PWD). Officials said the LGED has to acquire land in Sayedabad and Razarbagh to build ramps and loops for the flyover. Parts of the areas belong to the BR and the PWD.

They said the demarcation wall of an area in Sayedabad belonging to the BR has to be demolished and some furniture shops also need to be transferred from Razarbagh.

They added Rezaul Karim, the then director general of BR, decided in a meeting on December 23, 2003 to hand over the land to the LGED. But the LGED cannot demolish anything or acquire land, as it received only verbal approval.



The Khilgaon flyover is likely to miss deadline again.

BYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN

## ATTENTION, CITY FATHERS



BYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN

Household waste and sewage occupy half of the road near the BDR Gate 5 at Hazaribagh for the last few weeks.

# No funds yet for Wasa project on toxic waste

For years, highly toxic waste disposed from factories in the Tejgaon industrial area has travelled through Begunbari canal poisoning cultivable land on its banks and contaminating rivers

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) is in desperate need of funds to implement its sewerage network project to divert solid industrial waste from Tejgaon to the Pagla Sewerage Treatment Plant (PSTP).

Over the last three years, Wasa has repeatedly sought emergency assistance from foreign aid organisations to build the sewerage network as the large volume of waste is threatening the people living on the city edge. But the effort has so far yielded no results.

For years, highly toxic waste disposed from factories in the Tejgaon industrial area has travelled through Wasa's Begunbari canal poisoning

cultivable land on its banks and contaminating rivers like Devdholai in Trimohoni, Balu and Sitalakhya.

Inhabitants of Lionhati, Nasirabad, Dasherbandi and some 33 villages had to bear the brunt as rivers, canals and cultivable land slowly turned into an environmental nightmare because of the indiscriminate dumping of industrial waste.

Now about half a million people of the 36 villages and thousands of acres of land could get a new lease of life if the government grants the funds to divert waste from Tejgaon to the Pagla treatment plant.

Wasa has approached the government for Tk 189 crore on an emergency basis for the

network. The sewerage system, a part of Dhaka city's phase-1 development work, will cover an area of nearly 10 kilometers from Tejgaon to Pagla.

Earlier, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) had agreed in principle to provide the nearly Tk 200 crore budget. A feasibility study was done but JICA suddenly decided against financing the project last year. The Economic Relations Department (ERD) of the Finance Ministry is still believed to be in negotiation with JICA in obtaining funds.

Another proposal was sent to the Planning Commission but Wasa did not receive any response.

Sources said that the WASA has emphasised on installing the sewerage trunk line first and

foremost. Due to the absence of a sewerage network in the city, the WASA is unable to drain out enough waste to the Pagla Sewerage Treatment Plant (PSTP). Without the network the PSTP is only performing 45 percent of its recycling capacity.

Environmentalists believe that the project could have a highly positive impact on the professional community of the affected areas along the polluted rivers.

The waters of the rivers are filled with toxic waste that it is now totally devoid of any aquatic life. Only a few years ago the land on either side of the rivers was fertile.

The fishermen have long become extinct while thousands of farmers who used the water from the rivers for irrigation are facing unemployment.

## 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, 861455-9
- Diabetes**  
 Diabetic Research Hospital (BIRDEM)- 9661551-5, 8616641-50
- Mother & Child Care**  
 Shishu Hospital- 9119119, 8116061-62  
 Azimpur Mother & Child Health Training Institute- 8624827, 8624980

- Eye**  
 Istamia 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- 8311731-25  
 Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital- 8612550-4, 8614545-9  
 Bangladesh Medical College & Hospital- 8115443, 9118202, 7318166,  
 Shamaria Hospital- 9131901  
 Suhrawardy Hospital -- 9130800,

- 9122560-69  
 Salimullah Medical Collage 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 Collage 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  
 Baitul Mukarram Market-Friday  
 Polwell 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--Thursday.  
 New Market-Tuesday  
 Gausia Market-Tuesday  
 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

### 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  
**Cab One** 7113282-3
- Subarna Express**  
 Mahanagar Prabhati  
 Mahanagar Godhuli  
 Turna  
**Parabat Express**  
 Joyantika Express  
 Upaban Express  
**Tista Express**  
**Ekata Express**  
**Upakul Express**  
**Padma Express**

- 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 6:00 am  
 Leaves Dhaka at 9:20 pm

- Palki** 0171052500  
**Cab I** 7113282  
**Jatri** 0171540074  
**Nipun** 9572277  
**R-Cab** 8914782  
**Star Cab** 9571919  
**Shihab** 018202477 & 018228675  
**KGN** 8620011
- 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

### 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