



CIRCULAR WATERWAY PROJECT

# DTCB to fund second phase from Ashulia to Kanchpur Bridge

SULTANA RAHMAN

Dhaka Transport Coordination Board (DTCB) will fund the extension of a circular waterway project up to Kanchpur Bridge that will integrate the city's waterways.

The project combines Buriganga, Turag, Balu and Shitalakhya rivers encircling the city. The first phase of the project will include the Buriganga and Turag stretching 29.5km waterways from Sadarghat to Ashulia.

The DTCB agreed in principle to fund the second phase from Ashulia to Kanchpur Bridge on Balu and Shitalakhya rivers. The second phase, also covering Tongi and Rampura in the eastern part of the city, will have six landing stations.

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), the implementing agency, was directed to lay out a project proposal outlining cost.

BIWTA officials said they are close to finalising the proposal. "We will submit it soon," a BIWTA official said.

The DTCB will also build a riverside road network.

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"We are thinking of constructing an expressway and widening the existing roads for an interchange traffic system around the city," a DTCB official said.

The BIWTA has recently completed the construction of a landing station on the Buriganga at Basila as part of the project.

"If we finish the second phase, Dhaka will have an integrated waterway and commuters will be able to visit any place of the city by waterway," the BIWTA official hoped.

Hundreds of city commuters travel through waterways and thousands of tons of cargo, building materials like bricks, sand, cement and livestock are ferried a day.

The circular waterway is expected to reduce traffic jam in the city, as more commuters will use the waterways for navigation. Navigation and dredging will bring flow to the rivers, which is useful for fisheries, as the polluted water will not be stagnant.

Dhaka city is one of a few cities

in the world gifted by circular waterways which could enhance the beauty.

The BIWTA runs short of fund, slowing the Tk 35 crore project. In the original proposal were three landing stations, but authorities considering water traffic increased the number to 10.

About 60 percent of the budget is allocated for dredging, as river dredging gets priority in the project. And 25 percent of the fund is earmarked for land acquisition and 15 percent for landing facilities from Swarighat to Ashulia.

Major landing stations will be built at Swarighat, Gabtoli, Aminbazar and Ashulia in the first phase. Two pontoons, two steel gangways, a terminal building, a transit shed and a connecting road will be constructed at each major landing station.

The construction of pontoons, steel gangways and passenger guestrooms were built at the minor landing stations at Kholamora and Basila.

Launching water buses and taxis on the Buriganga and Turag rivers is scheduled for June 2005.

# Draft of consumer protection act awaits approval

AVIK SANWAR RAHMAN

The draft of the Consumer Protection Act 2004, aimed at curbing the price hike of essentials, will be sent to the cabinet in a week.

"We worked on the draft and it is ready for handover to the cabinet. The bill will then be tabled in parliament," said a high official of the commerce ministry.

The consumer protection act that gathered momentum in the wake of the recent price spike will control the prices of essentials such as rice, pulse, onion, edible oil, sugar, wheat, potato, chilli, salt, powder milk and MS rod, identified by the commerce ministry.

"There is no provision now to control prices in the open market economy, but this act will protect the rights of consumers and producers and allow the government to control the market," the official said.

"It has been observed that hoarders are mainly responsible for the price hike. Although there is a law against hoarders, it cannot control them," said Quazi Faruque, general secretary of the Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB).

The hoarders are taking advantage of the open market economy and control the market, but the government is unable to protect consumers' rights because of the absence of a consumer protection law,"



High time to arrest price hike of essentials.

Faruque said.

"An act incorporating all related laws is timely," Commerce Secretary Sohel Ahmed Chowdhury said.

The act will enable the government to take legal action against producers of adulterated goods and salespersons who rip off buyers.

The act will also guarantee the rights of real producers. A producer can fix a price at lower

level but rival manufacturers will not be able to file a case against the producer.

According to the act, a consumer can file a case with an arbitration court for speedy disposal.

In a bid to protect consumer rights, the government plans to establish a bureau of consumer affairs that will monitor the international prices of essential commodities.

"Monitoring international prices will help government bargain with the hoarders so that they cannot charge high prices," Faruque said.

The CAB is sceptic about the government decision on placing the act in parliament. "Hoarders are influential. We have been trying to have the bill passed into law for almost a decade, but nothing happened," the CAB general secretary said.

## FUTILE DRIVE



The drive to drive out the illegal rickshaws has started again. Scores of rickshaws were rounded up yesterday from different parts of the city. They were later taken to the 'dumping ground' at Agargaon. This picture was taken from the New Market area.

## useful telephonenumber numbers

OURIER SERVICES

**International**  
Air Borne Express- 9561371, 9561372, 9550724  
Air Couriers Int'l (BD) Ltd.- 8815970  
Aramex International Courier- 9558003, 9559582, 9565075  
Airspeed Express- 9563494  
Asian Courier Services Ltd.- 8313543  
Baishakhi Courier Service- 9558606  
Banmgladesh Express Co. Ltd.- 9565114  
Bangladesh Courier Service- 9563989  
Bengal Express- 9560642, 9552666  
Bangladesh Int'l 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  
Sundarban 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
6 A	Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Gulshan 1, 2	Kamalapur
6 B	Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 1, 2	Kamalapur
6 C	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-Gabtoli	Chittagong Road
9	Demra Rani mahal-Motijheel-Kalbagan-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 10, 11, 12	Demra Ranimahall
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