

# DCC deadline for nine footbridges drags on

CITY CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) appears to have failed to meet a June 2004 deadline set by the World Bank (WB) for construction of nine steel over-bridges.

The DCC, which agreed to complete the structures costing Tk. nine crore within 10 months, gave the work order to a construction company in September 2002.

But the WB had to extend the deadline for a further 10 months after work fell behind the August 2003 completion date.

The DCC points the blame at a number of factors.

"We have failed to meet the deadline because the Roads and Highways Department (R & H) could not ensure sites for the over-bridges. We have also received a number of legal notices and complaints from land owners," said a DCC executive engineer.

In a bid to cover up its own inefficiency, the DCC is now holding the construction company responsible for the delays.

"It's too late to cancel the order now because of the construction company's mishandling."

The construction company however

disagree. "We are behind schedule only because the DCC has not provided us enough locations or been specific in the kind of designs it wants," said an official of the company.

Originally nine bridges were to be built near Dhanmondi Boys School, Muscat Plaza at Uttara, Bakushah Market at Nilkhet, Farmgate Police Box, Shonir Akhra, on the intersection of Airport Road and Pragati Sarani, Bangla Motor intersection, Jonaki Cinema Hall and Banani Chairmanbari.

So far, only one over-bridge near Bakushah Market has been completed. Construction near Dhanmondi Boys School, Muscat Plaza, Farmgate Police Box, Azimpur Girls School & College and near Alfatunnisa School at Madhya Badda is in progress.

The DCC managed to convince the Bakushah Market shop owners with the help of the local ward commissioner. While work at Farmgate had to remain suspended for six months after some landowners got a High Court injunction.

Plans for over-bridge at the Bangla Motor intersection had to be shelved, as there will be zebra crossing there now.

The site at Airport Road and Pragati Sarani intersection had to be abandoned as it belongs to Roads and Highways. And it

could not provide the space before the final design of Dhaka Beautification Project.

Azimpur Girls School & College has been chosen as an alternative location.

Besides, the DCC faced problems with three other sites.

Shonir Akhra was cancelled as R&H has decided to construct an underpass. When it was decided to build an over-bridge at Manik Nagar, work had to stop following an injunction issued by the court on behalf of a land owner who objected having a bridge near his residence.

Another legal notice this time by the shop owners association of Palton Super Market has put a halt to work at Jonaki Cinema Hall.

The Banani Chairmanbari over-bridge could not be implemented due to R&H's beautification plan.

"Because selected sites have to changed it means we have to modify the bridge designs and take soil tests for each new location. So it just adds to our delays," said a DCC official.

Faced by innumerable delays the DCC is eyeing a fresh December 2004 deadline to build all the remaining over-bridges. It was learned that the World Bank will decide after an inspection team makes its assessment in July.



As there is no footbridge, pedestrians often risk their lives at Bangla Motor crossing.

## IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

নন্দপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার  
ঢাকা মহানগর পুলিশ

কর্মকর্তাদের পদবী	টেলিফোন	
	টিএমটি	ডিএমপি
উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (দক্ষিণ)	৯৩৩২১৮৮, ৪১০৩৬৫	২১৯৮
অতিরিক্ত উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (দক্ষিণ)	৭১১৬২৮৯	২২৭১
সহকারী পুলিশ কমিশনার (কোত্তরালী জোন)	৪১৩৭৮৫	২২৭৭
ভারপ্রাপ্ত কর্মকর্তা, রমনা থানা <small>ডিউটি অফিসার</small>	৯৩৫০৪৬৮	২৩৪১ <small>২৩০১, ২৩৪০</small>
ঢাকা মহানগর পুলিশ কন্ট্রোল রুম	৮৬১৬৫৫২-৭	২২২২, ২৬৬৬
ঢাকা মহানগর পুলিশ এক্সচেঞ্জ	৯৯৯, ৭১২৪০০০-৪৯	

পার টেক্স  
ভিনিয়ার্ড বোর্ড

Dhaka Metropolitan Police(DMP) has set up boards at important city points displaying designations and telephone numbers of its top officials. There are also phone numbers of police control room and exchange.

# Money hunters at traffic signals

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Different bands of beggars and drug addicts are out on the streets, playing on people's sympathy and fear in a bizarre bid to 'earn' money.

Rickshaw and CNG autorickshaw passengers are their main targets. They use two approaches -- pouring out their feigned woes to passengers and displaying self-inflicted torture.

The money hunters wait at traffic signal posts, homing in on their unsuspecting prey. The beggars sob out the litany of how they have been deprived of food for days and lack of money for bare survival.

The addicts cut themselves with blades and knives or intimidate people with bizarre behaviour into parting with whatever money and valuables they possess.

Women are easy prey to such prowlers, as most are sympathetic. If the response is not positive, these soft targets are harassed with a flow of indecent language.

River gypsies locally known as bedes are also involved in such crime: they show snakes in small wooden boxes to scare people into giving money.

"I get across the Bangla Motor crossing every day to go to work. A woman regularly walks up to the people waiting to cross the

road and asks for money. If she doesn't get it, she shouts abuse at them," said Anisur Rahman, an employee of a media production house at Eskaton.

Drug addicts gather around the Newmarket area to target vehicles at traffic signals. With

*The addicts cut themselves with blades and knives or intimidate people with bizarre behaviour into parting with whatever money and valuables they possess*

and try to soften up the passengers with tales of sorrow.

"I am scared of them. I cannot tolerate slang or see blood. So I give money. This is simply mugging," said Hasna Begum, a resident student of Dhaka University.

A similar scene is played out at the Matsay Bhaban crossing like other traffic signal points in the city.

Criminals use other methods too: they carry foul pictures on them and demand money. People who want to get rid of the criminals give money and send them away. Many autorickshaw and rickshaw users lost their handbags and wallets to them in case they do not give them money.

"I was once simply mugged," said Tajul Islam, a lawyer of the High Court.

Users of Tikatuli crossing are frequent victims of such incidents too. "There are no-one to protect us from this nuisance," said Mustafizur Rahman, a small business owner at Hathkhol Road.

"No-one has so far complained about these incidents. We sometimes observe odd verbal clashes at signal points and think it a usual quarrel between beggars and passengers," said Sajjad Hossain, a traffic sergeant.

"Social inequity, unrest and absence of moral values give rise to this type of menace," said Dr ASM Atikur Rahman, professor of the Institute of Social Welfare and Research of Dhaka University.

"It is crime. Police should take serious steps to curb it."

## useful telephone numbers

### COURIER 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

### 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 Jadugar- 9559091  
Open: 10:30 am - 6:30 pm, Sunday Closed  
Bangabandhu Smiti Jadugar- 8110046  
Open: 10 am - 5 pm, Wednesday closed  
Ahsan Manzil  
Open: 10 am - 5 pm, Friday: 3 pm - 7 pm, Thursday Closed  
Shishu Jadugar- 9666466  
Open: 10 am - 6 pm, Sunday Closed

### CITY BUS ROUTE

Bus No.	Route	Starts from
1	Gulistan-Shahabagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 10, 11, 12	Golap Shah Mazar
2	Gulistan-Shahabagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 1, 2	Phoolbaria bus station
3	Gulistan-Shahabagh-Farmgate-Mahakhali-Airport-Azampur	Phoolbaria bus station
4	Shyampur-Motijheel-Shahabagh-Farmgate-Airport-Tongi	Shyampur
5	Sayedabad-Kamalapur-Motijheel-Airport-Joydebpur-Gazipur	Sayedabad
6A	Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Shahabagh-Farmgate-Gulshan 1, 2	Kamalapur
6B	Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 1, 2	Kamalapur
6C	Motijheel Shapla chattr- Malibagh- Farmgate- Gulshan 2	Motijheel Shaplachattr
7	Sadarghat-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 2	Sadarghat
8	Chittagong-Motijheel-Shahabagh-Farmgate-Asad Gate-Kalyanpur-Gabtolli	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-Shahabagh-Farmgate-Asadgate-Mohammadpur	Shanir Akhra
13	Motijheel-Shahabagh-New Market-Jhigatola-Shangkar-Mohammedpur	Motijheel
14	Signboard -Motijheel-Shahabagh-New Market-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 12	Signboard (Chittagong Road)
15	Chittagong Road-Motijheel-Shahabagh-Farmgate-Mirpur 12	Chittagong Road
24	Gulistan-Maghbazar-Mohakhali-Airport-Uttara-Bipile	Gulistan

**TIPS**

Do you know according to Dhaka City Corporation, you must deposit your waste at the collection site between 4pm and 10pm