



**the city that was**

**Bakarkhani** is a tiny crispy loaf of bread that is entirely Dhaka's original production. It is said that the bread was named after Baker, who made it first. Aga Baker or Aga Bakir Kha was was zamindar of Bhati. The district of Bakharganj was also named after him. Aga Sadik was his son. Bakarkhani was first created around the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It is still being made in the old part of Dhaka.

e-mail: [starcity@thecity.net](mailto:starcity@thecity.net)

# WB team comes next week to review wobbling DUTP

MIZANUR KHAN

Displeased with the snail-like Dhaka Urban Transportation Project (DUTP), the World Bank (WB) is sending a mission next week to review the progress of the scheme funded by the Bank.

The 11-member team headed by Navid Qureshi, senior urban transport specialist, will arrive on July 3.

"We wanted to get a commitment from the government on improving the city's traffic management, but we failed (to get that). To be very honest, we are not happy with the project," said a WB high official who did not want to be named.

The DUTP is scheduled to be completed by June 30 but five of its big components remain unfinished.

"We wanted to make some major city streets rail-free from February 25 this year, but this did not happen because of political pressure," the WB official said.

The team will start its work on June 4 and continue for next ten days.

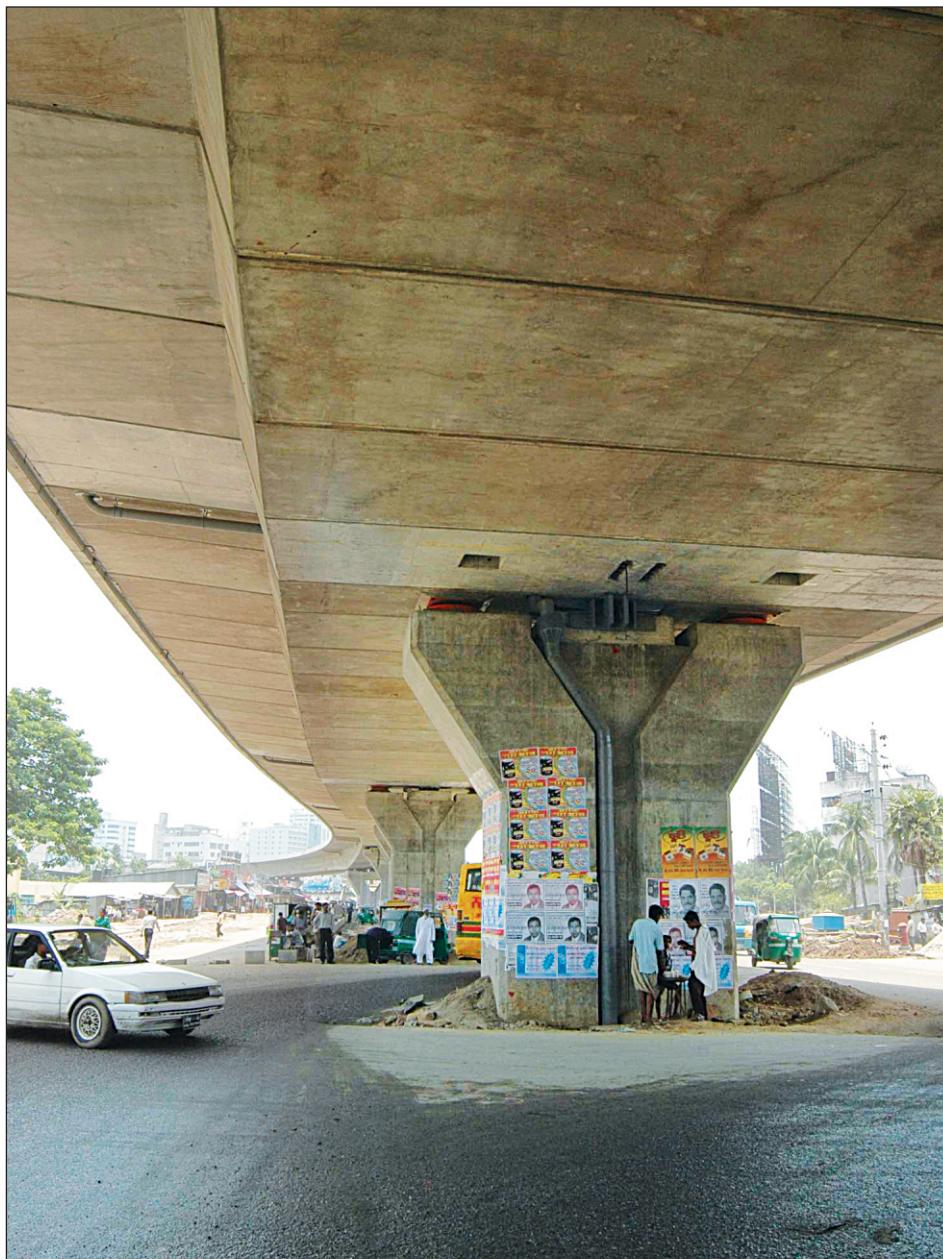
"The team will also review the status of key actions identified during the earlier visit of a World Bank mission on January 4," the WB official added.

The WB team will prepare an aide-memoir, documenting the findings and recommendations to be discussed with the officials of the implementing agencies. "We have created so much chaos in last 30 years that it has become quite impossible to address all the problems in one project. Let us review the project and then we will reach a decision," said Mohi Uz Zaman Quazi, senior transport engineer of the World Bank and a member of the mission.

Sources at the DUTP said 80 percent work of the project is already done. "We do not know whether the World Bank is unhappy with this progress. It has asked us to complete the remaining work and extended project duration till December," said Ashraful Islam, project director of the DUTP.

Five components of the project that would not finish by the deadline are the construction of the Mohakhali flyover, installation of electronic traffic signals at 59 points, renovation of the three inter-district bus terminals, construction of nine footbridges and completion of a strategic transport planning (STP) study.

The STP, expected to solve traffic congestion,



The Mohakhali Flyover, one of the components of DUTP funded by the World Bank is yet under construction.

SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN

was taken to design the city's traffic and transport system with a 20-year perspective. The plan will outline measures to ensure sustainable traffic flow and smooth public transportation in the capital.

An American company, Louias Perger, in cooperation with the local Bangladesh Consultant Limited is conducting the extensive study funded by the WB at a cost of Tk 10 crore.

The five-year DUTP was taken in 1999 under the Dhaka Transport Co-ordination Board (DTCB) to ease traffic congestion in the capital. The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) and the Roads and Highways (R&H) Department are the implementing agencies.

As the DUTP could not be completed on time, the WB extended the deadline for the construction of the Mohakhali flyover, installation of traffic signals and renovation of bus terminals to December 31. The deadline for the STP has also been extended to March 31 next year.

"Ninety five percent work of the Mohakhali flyover is done. It has been delayed because the Chinese construction company wanted to supply a Chinese shock absorption system called Seismic Transmission Unit (STU) to withstand earthquake. But we wanted an American system," said Ashraful Islam.

The DUTP officials now hope that the first flyover in the city will be open to traffic in the first week of October.

Sources at the WB also accused the DCC of failing to start the Road Transport Maintenance Fund (RTMF) in time to ease traffic congestion in the capital.

The cost of the whole project initially was Tk 1,300 crore but after a mid-term review in 2002, the Bank rolled back nearly Tk 600 crore because of slow pace of implementation by the DCC. The lending agency also warned the authorities of fund withdrawal unless the government handed over implementation of a few components to a competent organisation.

The government, after consultation with the communications ministry, involved the Roads and Highways Department in the implementation process.

The revised project cost is estimated at Tk 700 crore. Of it, the World Bank's contribution is Tk 608 crore in loans while the government's contribution is Tk 219 crore. Sources at the DUTP said around Tk 486 crore of the total expenditure had already been spent.

"The money still unused will be needed to pay bills to the contractors," a DUTP official added.

*"The speaker becomes alert when we speak on the floor, but the scene shifts dramatically when the treasury bench members speak."*

--Abdul Hamid

Deputy Leader of the Opposition  
Accuses Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar on June 24 of being biased towards the treasury bench in parliament  
Source: The Daily Star

*"There is no difference between NTV and CNN. One is the spokesperson for the American government and the other for the BNP government."*

--Abdul Moyeen Khan

Science and Information and Communication Technology Minister  
Tells a seminar at Dhaka University on June 22  
Source: Prothom Alo

--Mahmudul Amin Choudhury

Former chief justice  
Tells a seminar on Rule of Law and Social Justice on June 24  
Source: The Daily Star

--Mosaddak Ali Falu

Four-party alliance's Dhaka-10 by-polls candidate  
Says at Tejgaon Polytechnic Institute on June 24  
Source: Prothom Alo

--Shamsher Mobin Chowdhury

Foreign Secretary  
Quotes Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong on June 24 as telling his

Bangladeshi counterpart  
Source: The Daily Star

*"The PPs and GPs (government pleaders) are appointed on political considerations. They change with the change of government ... The judges are expected to discharge their judicial duties impartially; but in such an environment can they freely do so?"*

--Mahmudul Amin Choudhury

Former chief justice  
Tells a seminar on Rule of Law and Social Justice on June 24  
Source: The Daily Star

*"There is a perception in the west that identifies Islam with terrorism and Singapore would like to work with Islamic countries to remove the misperception."*

--ABM Sultan

Officer-in-Charge of Kotwali Police Station  
Tells Prothom Alo on June 23, denying extortion  
Source: Prothom Alo

## Land ownership dispute fuels Buriganga encroachment

AVIK SANWAR RAHMAN

Indecision over the ownership of Buriganga foreshore has given rise to encroachment of Dhaka's lifeline, said a high official of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA).

The statement came after Dhaka Electricity Supply Authority (Desa) acquired part of Buriganga foreshore in Kamrangirchar to build a power substation, prompting protest from an environmental group.

BIWTA owns 17km of the foreshore from Fatullah to Kholamora. "The area beyond is not under control of BIWTA and we cannot settle the issue with Desa of land acquisition in Kamrangirchar," the BIWTA official said.

Kamrangirchar turned into a bustling suburb as the Buriganga changed its course, but old channel was flowing in from the Buriganga at the point it changed course -- the point Desa acquired after land filling.

BIWTA in a meeting on May 6 decided

to take control of the old channel in Kamrangirchar and its foreshore. BIWTA held another meeting with Deputy Commissioner (DC) MA Momen on May 20, which decided that the DC's office would carry out a survey on the Buriganga to identify encroachers and the area would be handed over to BIWTA after the survey.

"BIWTA plans to build a harbour in that area for vessels to stay," said Syed Monwar Hossain, BIWTA director (port and transport).

"We will launch an eviction drive after the survey is complete by this month," the DC said.

Desa officials said they bought the land through the land ministry and with the permission of the DC's office.

"We have bought 1.63 acres at Tk 87 lakh as permitted by the DC's office. Desa received the gazette notification on it on January 31, 2002," said a Desa executive engineer in charge of the Tenth Power Project that includes the substation.

The Desa chairman said: "The land was bought to install the substation to supply

power to Lalbagh, Islampur, Sadarghat, Kamrangirchar, Dhamondi, Rayerbazar and Jigatala, as land is scarce in the city. We had to look for land on the outskirts of the city."

The Bapa leaders also submitted a memorandum to the chairman of Dhaka Electricity Supply Authority (DESA) AAMA Rob to press home their demand.

"We will bring the case to court, if the government fails to take action," said Bapa General Secretary Abu Naser Khan.

The Desa chairman said: "The land was

acquired to include the area to verify whether the land allocated to Desa was part of encroached foreshore.

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa), an environmentalist group, demonstrated against what it called encroachment of Buriganga foreshore by Desa and submitted a memorandum to Desa.

Bapa held a rally in front of the High Court on June 20, where Bapa leaders said the government enacted a law (water body act 2000) and constituted a taskforce to save the Buriganga, but now the government itself started to stifle the river by allowing earth filling for the proposed power station.

Bapa leaders also submitted a memorandum to the chairman of Dhaka Electricity Supply Authority (DESA) AAMA Rob to press home their demand.

"We will bring the case to court, if the government fails to take action," said Bapa General Secretary Abu Naser Khan.

The Desa chairman said: "The land was

bought to install the substation to supply

electricity to Lalbagh, Islampur, Sadarghat, Kamrangirchar, Dhamondi, Rayerbazar and Jigatala, as land is scarce in the city. We had to look for land on the outskirts of the city."

The substation will be installed as part of the Tenth Power Project co-funded by

Asian Development Bank (ADB) that will contribute \$40 million.

The project will increase distribution capacity of electricity in the city. The ADB will withdraw the fund if the project does not begin by January 2005 and becomes complete by June 2006.

The substation will be installed as part of the Tenth Power Project co-funded by

Asian Development Bank (ADB) that will contribute \$40 million.

The project will increase distribution capacity of electricity in the city. The ADB will withdraw the fund if the project does not begin by January 2005 and becomes complete by June 2006.

The substation will be installed as part of the Tenth Power Project co-funded by

Asian Development Bank (ADB) that will contribute \$40 million.

The project will increase distribution capacity of electricity in the city. The ADB will withdraw the fund if the project does not begin by January 2005 and becomes complete by June 2006.

The substation will be installed as part of the Tenth Power Project co-funded by

Asian Development Bank (ADB) that will contribute \$40 million.

The project will increase distribution capacity of electricity in the city. The ADB will withdraw the fund if the project does not begin by January 2005 and becomes complete by June 2006.

The substation will be installed as part of the Tenth Power Project co-funded by

Asian Development Bank (ADB) that will contribute \$40 million.

The project will increase distribution capacity of electricity in the city. The ADB will withdraw the fund if the project does not begin by January 2005 and becomes complete by June 2006.

The substation will be installed as part of the Tenth Power Project co-funded by

Asian Development Bank (ADB) that will contribute \$40 million.

The project will increase distribution capacity of electricity in the city. The ADB will withdraw the fund if the project does not begin by January 2005 and becomes complete by June 2006.

The substation will be installed as part of the Tenth Power Project co-funded by

Asian Development Bank (ADB) that will contribute \$40 million.

The project will increase distribution capacity of electricity in the city. The ADB will withdraw the fund if the project does not begin by January 2005 and becomes complete by June 2006.

The substation will be installed as part of the Tenth Power Project co-funded by

Asian Development Bank (ADB) that will contribute \$40 million.

The project will increase distribution capacity of electricity in the city. The ADB will withdraw the fund if the project does not begin by January 2005 and becomes complete by June 2006.

The substation will be installed as part of the Tenth Power Project co-funded by

Asian Development Bank (ADB) that will contribute \$40 million.

The project will increase distribution capacity of electricity in the city. The ADB will withdraw the fund if the project does not begin by January 2005 and becomes complete by June 2006.

The substation will be installed as part of the Tenth Power Project co-funded by

Asian Development Bank (ADB) that will contribute \$40 million.

The project will increase distribution capacity of electricity in the city. The ADB will withdraw the fund if the project does not begin by January 2005 and becomes complete by June 2006.

The substation will be installed as part of the Tenth Power Project co-funded by

Asian Development Bank (ADB) that will contribute \$40 million.

The project will increase distribution capacity of electricity in the city. The ADB will withdraw the fund if the project does not begin by January 2005 and becomes complete by June 2006.

The substation will be installed as part of the Tenth Power Project co-funded by

Asian Development Bank (ADB) that will contribute \$40 million.

The project will increase distribution capacity of electricity in the city. The ADB will withdraw the fund if the project does not begin by January 2005 and becomes complete by June 2006.

The substation will be installed as part of the Tenth Power Project co-funded by

Asian Development Bank (ADB) that will contribute \$40 million.

The project will increase distribution capacity of electricity in the city. The ADB will withdraw the fund if the project does not begin by January 2005 and becomes complete by June 2006.

The substation will be installed as part of the Tenth Power Project co-funded by

Asian Development Bank (ADB) that will contribute \$40 million.

The project will increase distribution capacity of electricity in the city. The ADB will withdraw the fund if the project does not begin by January 2005 and becomes complete by June 2006.

The substation will be installed as part of the Tenth Power Project co-funded by

Asian Development Bank (ADB) that will contribute \$40 million.

The project will increase distribution capacity of electricity in the city. The ADB will withdraw the fund if the project does not begin by January 2005 and becomes complete by June 2006.

The substation will be installed as part of the Tenth Power Project co-funded by

Asian Development Bank (ADB) that will contribute \$40 million.

The project will increase distribution capacity of electricity in the city. The ADB will withdraw the fund if the project does not begin by January 2005 and