

DCC to widen 204 more narrow roads

ABDUL KADER
Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) in an effort to reduce traffic congestion will widen 204 narrow roads in phases.
Of the identified 221 narrow roads in its 10 zones, the DCC has already widened 17 leaving 204 to be widened, a DCC official said. The funds for the project are from DCC's own budget.
The Central Road in Hatirpool, Mitali Road in Dhanmondi, Malibagh crossing to Shantibagh main road, Uttar Goran, Purba Goran, Purbo Madartek, Rayerbazar Road, Raj Narayan Dhar Road, Shaheed Nagar Road, Khaja Dewan Road in Bakshibazar are a few of the 17 roads that have already been

widened.
Locals in some areas, including Purbo Madartek, Shantibagh and Bakshibazar, said they have been benefited with the work but is not adequate to streamline traffic.
DCC officials said the widening of the narrow roads identified with the assistance of the respective ward commissioners would be carried out continuously in a bid to cut gridlock.
The DCC has identified Maniknagar main road, RK Mission Road, Toyenbee Circular Road near Osmani International Hotel, Distillery Road in Gandaria, Aksmoy Das Lane, Dhalpur main road, Simpson Road in Waizghat, Nawab Bari Ahsanullah Road near Ahsan Manzil, Shankhari Bazar Road, Purbo Rampura main road, Ulan main

road, Khilgaon Tilkapara Road, Meradia main road, Madartek main road, Free School Street in Kanthalbagan, Katabon Road, Dilu Road in Eskaton and many more.
Local Government, Rural Development (LRGD) and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and DCC Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka have recently visited the Moghbazar intersection to inspect the road widening work.
Kawser Ahmed, a Moghbazar resident, said the road expansion would certainly improve traffic but will not solve the entire problem.
Although many roads have been identified, the work is progressing at a slow pace, another DCC official said.
"We have identified the roads that need widening with the assistance of

the ward commissioners and will soon have a meeting to discuss the work scheduled to be done through negotiation between ward commissioners and stakeholders," the mayor said.
"We need land for widening and have to compensate stakeholders for land given to implement the work," the mayor said.
The DCC officials said it has also been decided to widen the Bangla Motor intersection with Shahbagh crossing to Hotel Sonargaon making it an eight-lane road and 0.5683 acres of land has been approved from the Local Government Division (LGD) and the Department of Environment (DoE).
The DCC is yet awaiting clearance from Rajuk, sources added.



STAR PHOTO

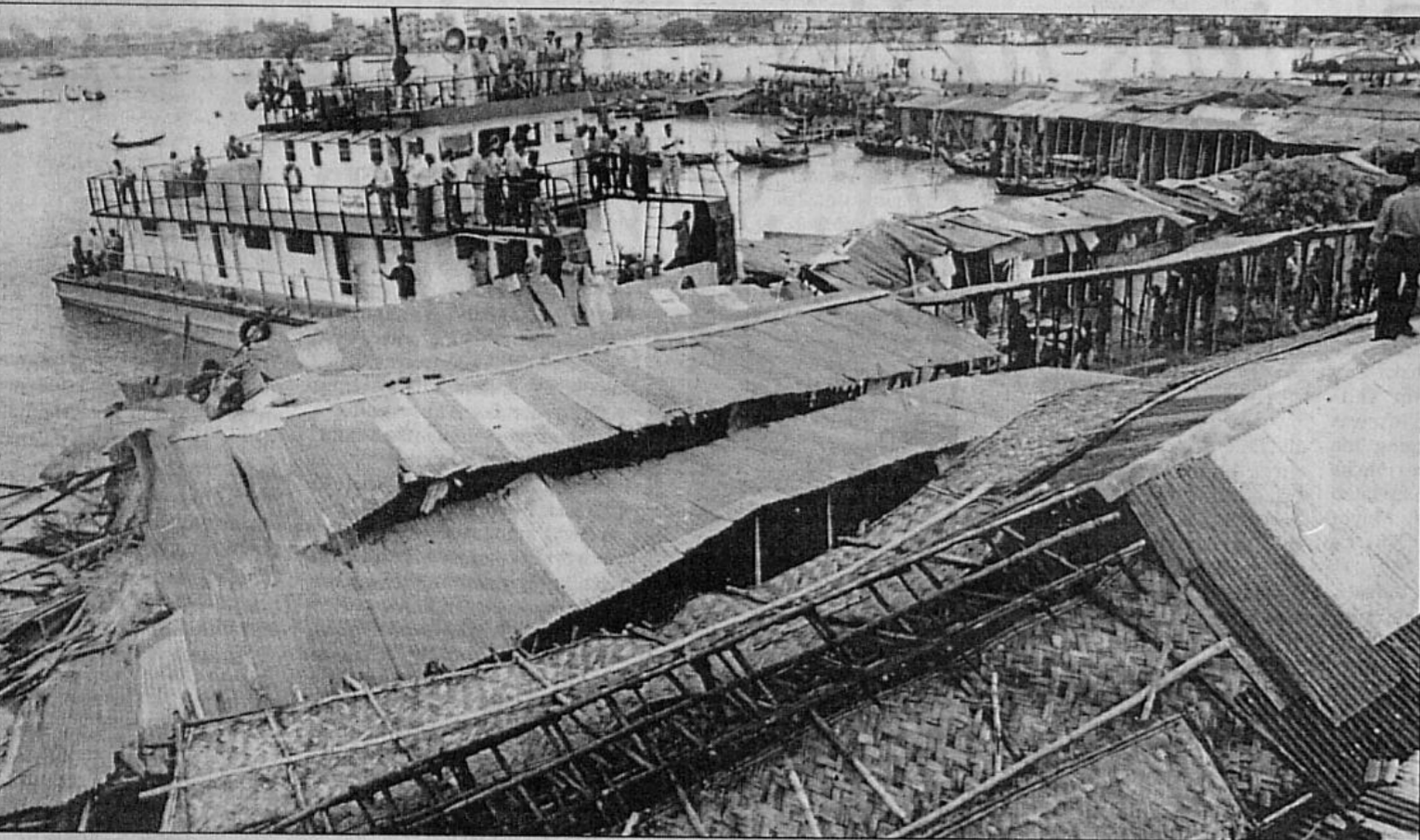
Floods halt Buriganga eviction drive

CITY CORRESPONDENT
The recent eviction drive along the Buriganga channel between Lalbagh and Kamrangirchar jointly by the Deputy Commissioner's (DC) Office and Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) ended with dismantling 199 structures out of 250.
The eviction drive that started on July 17 and scheduled to end on July 21 came to an abrupt end on July 19.
"The drive was originally planned for five days but it had to be curtailed to three days as floods have increased the water level at the Kamrangirchar bailey bridge stalling further eviction," said a BIWTA official.
"We have managed to dismantle three concrete structures and 15

semi-concrete structures and 181 tin shanties from the channel," said the official.
The drive was part of clearing the establishments off the dried-out Buriganga channel between Lalbagh and Kamrangirchar. Although the area does not fall under BIWTA jurisdiction, the control of the channel would be handed over to BIWTA for the construction of a harbour for vessels. The decision came after civil society and environmental groups demanded the revival of the old Buriganga channel.
The authorities are now surveying the area aiming to recover the usurped land of the channel from Kamrangirchar to Rayerbazar and bring back navigability under Dhaka

Circular Waterway Project.
"We have recovered eight acres of encroached land during the three-day drive," said the BIWTA engineer in charge of the eviction.
Since 2001, the authorities have demolished about 1,800 illegal structures on and along the river and recovered 112 acres. But some initial drives proved futile as encroachers rebuilt structures as soon as an eviction drive ceased and others obtained stay orders on the eviction and demolition and continued to grab the area.
BIWTA submitted a proposal to permanently stop encroachment but as only 17 kilometres fall under BIWTA jurisdiction, the project could not be implemented.

"As the total 112 km area of the Circular Waterway Project does not fall under our purview we are unable to propose plan for the total area," said Monwar Hossain, director ports of BIWTA.
Meanwhile, the Water Development Board (WDB) has started a slope protection project from the second bridge at Keraniganj point on the Buriganga where the setting of concrete slabs on the slope have been complete up to Mandail mosque. The project will cover Mandail mosque to Kholamora, Hasnabad, Ashulia to Postogola.
"The slope protection project will save the Buriganga from encroachment," another BIWTA official said.



Illegal structures being dismantled during the recent Buriganga eviction drive.

How safe are food and drinks we take?

NEWS NETWORK FEATURE

The widespread use of formalin, a colourless strong-smelling chemical, in preservation of fish, fruit and other food items is posing a threat to public health. The chemical used as a solution in water keeps fish fresh and makes fruits like mangoes attractive.

This chemical, usually used to stop dead bodies from rotting, is now being used to preserve edible items. Not long ago Bangladesh used to import Rui fish from India and the Indian businessmen used to use formalin.

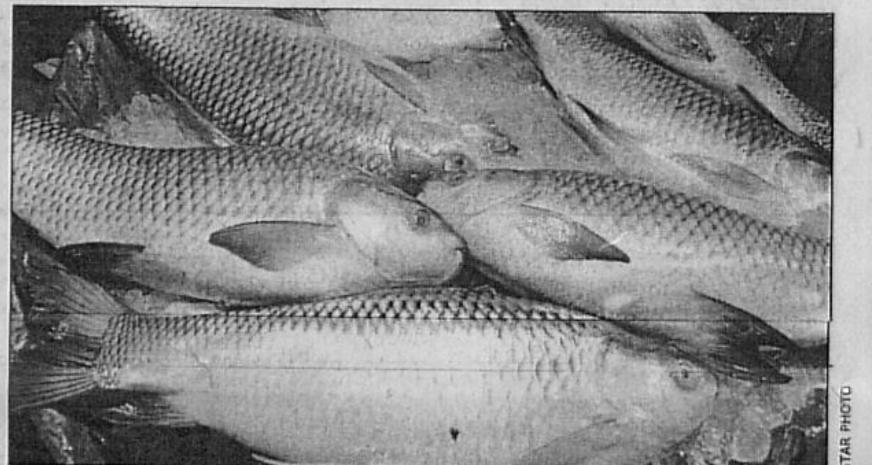
A recent survey by Consumer Association of Bangladesh (CAB) has found that a section of dishonest traders is using formalin widely in preservation of food items, including fish, fruits and vegetable. On the other hand, they use a kind of hormone such as ethereal and calcium carbide to hasten the ripening of fruits such as mangoes and bananas, watermelons and vegetables like tomatoes.

"The excessive intake of formalin destroys immune system in human bodies," says Dr Parimol Bhattacharjee, a doctor of medicine and child diseases. "The chemical also can damage kidney and liver and regular use of formalin-tainted food may cause cancer."

Take the case of Amjad Hossain, a 55-year-old businessman from Sherpur. He found the taste unusual while drinking apple juice he bought from a big shop in Dhaka city. He then checked the bottle and to his surprise he found that the juice had long expired its safe use date.

"This is what we are forced to eat or drink," Amjad said. "No food seems safe if you are buying it from a market."

The incidence of finding insects or weeds in airtight bottles of cold drinks has been quite common in Bangladesh. Distracted consumers have taken those complaints to newspapers for publication. The complaints have made front-



STAR PHOTO

page news.
There are complaints about the ingredients used to make cold drinks.

Warms Professor ABM Faruque, a teacher at Dhaka University's Pharmaceutical Technology: "Drinking too much of cold drink can harm human brain, lungs and kidneys. It can cause permanent disability. Also there is a risk of contracting brain tumour by those over 50."

He said cold drinks contain caffeine, a substance found in tea and coffee plants, which stimulates the central nervous system. "A normal bottle of cold drink contains caffeine that can be found in 5 to 20 cups of tea or coffee," he said adding: "This substance may easily cause addiction among children."

Adulteration is also found in many food items in Bangladesh.

A recent study by the Institute of Public Health has found that 96 per cent of sweetmeats sold in capital Dhaka are not pure and clean. In the case of biscuits, the adulteration is 24 per cent, in bread 59 per cent. Even sulphuric acid, a strong corrosive acid, is said to be used in making curds, according to the study. Warm curds are often placed in filthy

water for cooling while it was found that powder milk that had expired its safe use date was being used.

There is adulteration in many bakery products. No-one can guarantee that the condensed milk produced sold in the country is safe for public health. The issue has even gone to court.

Said Quazi Faruque, an assistant secretary at the CAB: "The production licences of four brands of condensed milk were cancelled by the industries ministry after it was found following investigation that wrong things were used in those products. However, those brands are still selling in the country."

The United Nations has recognised eight basic rights for the consumers, including one to get products not harmful to health. The others deal with rights to know all about a product and the provision of compensation to be paid to an affected consumer.

However, it is rather an exception than a rule to find a product that gives full information about how it is made and how long it is safe for consumption. Even many consumers are not aware of their rights.

useful telephone numbers

COURIER SERVICES

International
Air Borne Express- 9561371, 9561372, 9550724
Air Couriers Intl (BD) Ltd.- 8815970
Aramex International Courier- 9558003, 9559582, 9565075
Airspeed Express- 9563494
Asian Courier Services Ltd.- 8313543
Balsakhi Courier Service- 9558606
Banladesh Express Co. Ltd.- 9565114
Bangladesh Courier Service- 9563989
Bengal Express- 9560642, 9552666
Bangladesh Intl 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
Sundaran 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 - 7 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
6A	Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Shahbagh-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-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Asad Gate-Kalyanpur-Gaboli	Chittagong Road
9	Demra Rani mahal-Motijheel-Kalbagan-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 10, 11, 12	Demra Ranimahar
10	Sadarghat-Gulistan-Kakrail-Mailbagh-Rampura-Biswa Road-Tongi Bridge	Sadarghat
11	Sayedabad-Motijheel-Fakirapool-Maghbazar-Mohakhali-Tongi Bridge	Sayedabad
11/A	Sayedabad-Khilgaon-Mailbagh-Rampura-Airport-Tongi Bridge	Sayedabad
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