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Roads are being repaired without proper planning and the reconstructed roads go back to their previous state within months of repair causing the misuse of large amounts of money..

# Undesired rise of city road level

SULTANA RAHMAN

Absence of proper scientific planning and careless maintenance has seen the height of existing main roads of the city increasing at an alarming rate. Interestingly, the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) allocates huge amount of funds from its yearly budget to raise the roads.

DCC sources said a large volume of money is misused in the name of road repairs every year. It has become a continuous process although very little improvement in their condition can be seen. Reconstructed roads often go back to their previous state within months of the repair work.

"The DCC has constantly allocated funds for road maintenance over the last 15 years. This has now become a source of income for activists of the ruling political party and people close to the mayor as they are the ones who get the contracts," said a senior official at Nagar Bhaban on condition of anonymity.

The DCC has 1200 km of road area across the city. Sources informed that Tk 103 crore was sanctioned in the current fiscal year for repairs and other road related works, which is the highest allocation for any particular sector in the corporation's budget. The amount was Tk 72.5 crore in the last fiscal which was about 13 per cent of the total budget. In 2002-2003, the DCC

had spent Tk 60.8 crore for maintenance and development of roads.

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**As more and more money has been made available for construction and repairs over the years, the level of the roads have also gone up significantly from their normal levels. This unplanned increase in height makes even the slightest rain submerge adjacent areas that are below the level of the road,**

their normal levels. This unplanned increase in height makes even the slightest rain submerge adjacent areas that are below the level of the road," said Professor Nazrul Islam, chairman of urban planning of the Bangla-

desh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET).

It is alleged that roads are renovated and repaired without removal of the existing carpet. Officials in the engineering department of the DCC however claimed that they had

existing road is easier than removing the previous carpet. So, over the years performing maintenance without pulling out the carpet in place has become a practice. This way most of the roads in Dhaka have become higher," said Professor Islam.

The DCC's rules clearly say that manholes have to be raised too in conformity with the height of the road. But these rules apparently exist only on papers as many manholes are found jutting out of the roads and creating problems for smooth traffic movement and disposal of rainwater.

Experts emphasise on testing the quality of the soil before constructing a new road. Based on the results the types of carpeting and required number of layers are ascertained. The roads that are already in place need to go through the milling process before repairs.

"The DCC has no milling machine to clean the previous carpeting which leaves us with no other choice but to carpet the road all over again. As a result, certain roads increase by two inches every year," a senior engineer in the engineering department of the DCC admitted.

Professor Islam suggests planning for the next 20-50 years before constructing roads. "But unfortunately, our authorities are not bothered with the possible consequences when they plan these roads," said the urban expert.

decided to withhold the security money of certain contractors for one year for using inferior materials during carpeting and weak pigmentation even after issuing the work order.

"Repairing and carpeting an

# DNA detection lab next month

KAUSAR ISLAM AYON

The country's first DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) laboratory to detect criminals is expected to be off and running at the Dhaka Medical College (DMC) by November.

The lab is being set up under a project funded by the Danish government with the aim to resist violence against women across the country.

"Work of the project is now going on at full swing following the approval of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) on August 25 this year," said an official of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs. He added that advertisements seeking a project director for this lab have been published in national dailies on the 11th of this month.

Jorgen Dissing, a professor of University of Copenhagen's forensic medicine department is expected to visit Dhaka in October to supervise the setting up of the laboratory.

Five crisis centres will also be set up in divisional headquarters across the country under the same project to facilitate the DNA lab. These centres will collect DNA samples of suspected criminals and will send them to the lab for analysis.

The detection lab was originally scheduled to start functioning from January this year with the financial and technical support of the Danish government. However, bureaucratic difficulties delayed the start, said officials at

the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs.

Three rooms of the DMC's forensic department have been selected for the lab. Medical equipment worth around one million dollars is already in Dhaka and has been kept at the Danish Embassy.

Forensic experts of the country believe that DNA tests will help the investigators make thorough identification of criminals by testing their blood, saliva, semen, hair or sweat collected

from the victim or the crime scene.

Prof. Akteruzzaman, head of the forensic department of the DMC said non-availability of technical experts in Bangladesh would not hamper the performance of the laboratory as the Danish government will also provide training to the local staff.

"It is true that we do not have experts in this field but we will get some after the training."

According to a contractual agreement, two Danish experts

will work in this lab for the first year with the local staff.

"The lab will definitely help us but we will also need to maintain the profiles of criminals, which is not being practiced in our country. Otherwise DNA detection will not prove beneficial in the long run," said Faruq Ahmed, deputy inspector general of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID).



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The forensic department has kept aside three rooms to be used as DNA labs which are awaiting to be geared with equipment and medical accessories for the purpose.

# Risky crossing at Banani-Kakoli intersection

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Pedestrians find it difficult to cross the road at Kakoli-Banani intersection as the foot over-bridge broke down on September 13.

The steel bridge became rusty and broke down on the day when a lorry hit it. Two days later, Dhaka City Corporation dismantled it.

Pedestrians complain that crossing the busy intersection

now causes great trouble for them.

"I am afraid to cross the road and have wait long for a chance to get to the other side," said Hashem Miah, who works at a hardware store. "The area is now

too dangerous." DCC officials said a new bridge would replace the broken one.

"We were alerted by two accidents at Nutunbazar and Science Laboratory where the foot over-bridge fell and killed commuters. That is why we quickly dismantled the bridge at Kakoli," said DCC Gulshan office Zone-9 Executive Engineer Saiful Islam.

He said a new over-bridge will be built 20-25 yards south of intersection under a World Bank project.

He however could not give any specific timeframe for the installation of the new bridge.

When the Dhaka Urban Transport Project (DUTP) office was contacted, Executive Engineer Towhiduzzaman said: "The job of constructing the new bridge has been given to a Banani-based firm called Monami International. The work is supposed to be finished by December." He, however, could not give any idea about the cost of the new structure.

When contacted, Monami International officials refused to provide any information about the project.

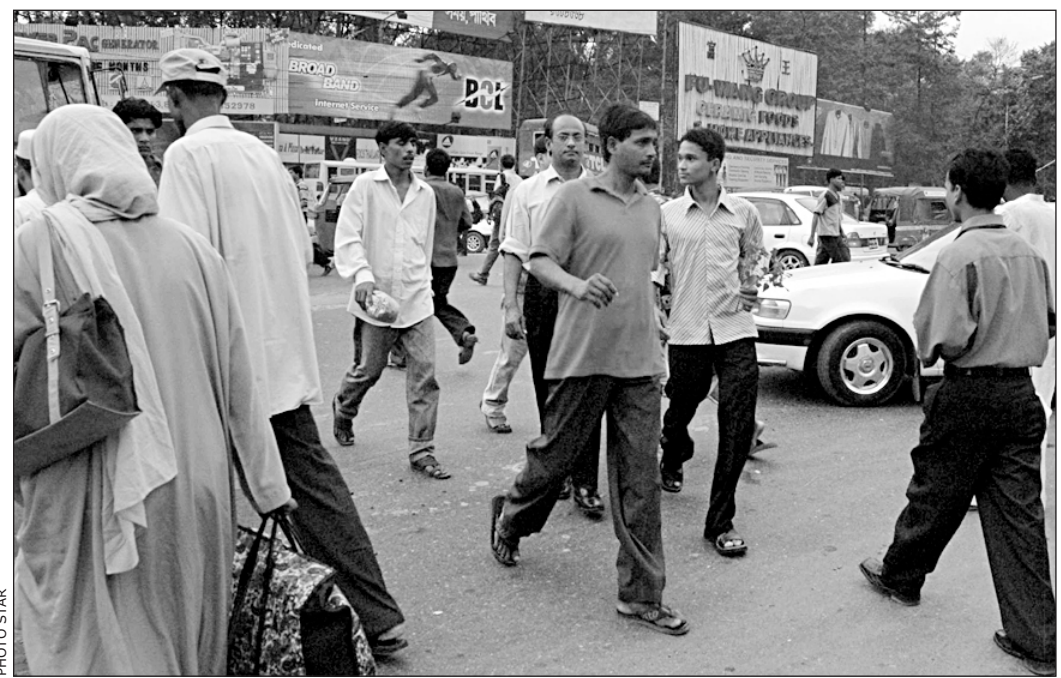


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## useful telephonenumber numbers

### OURIER 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  
Baishakhi 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-

#### National

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, 955640  
The American Centre (IRC)- 8813440-4, 9886395  
The 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 Jadugarh- 9559091  
Open: 10:30 am - 6:30 pm, Sunday Closed  
Bangabandhu Smiti Jadugarh- 8110046  
Open: 10 am - 5 pm, Wednesday closed  
Ahsan Manzil  
Open: 10 am - 5 pm, Friday: 3 pm - 7 pm, Thursday Closed  
Shishu Jadugarh- 9666466  
Open: 10 am - 6 pm, Sunday Closed

### CITY BUS ROUTE

#### Bus No. Route

1 Gulistan-Shahbagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 10, 11, 12  
2 Gulistan-Shahbagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 1, 2  
3 Gulistan-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Mahakhali-Airport-Azampur  
4 Shyampur-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Airport-Tongi  
5 Sayedabad-Kamalapur-Motijheel-Airport-Joydebpur-Gazipur  
6A Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Gulshan 1, 2  
6B Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 1, 2  
6C Motijheel Shapla chattr- Malibagh- Farmgate- Gulshan 2  
7 Sadarghat-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 2  
8 Chittagong-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Asad Gate-Kalyanpur-Gabtoil  
9 Demra Rani mahal-Motijheel-Kalbagan-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 10, 11, 12  
10 Sadarghat-Gulistan-Kakrail-Malibagh-Rampura-Biswa Road-Tongi Bridge  
11 Sayedabad-Motijheel-Fakirapool-Maghbazar-Mohakhali-Tongi Bridge  
11/A Sayedabad-Khilgoan-Malibagh-Rampura-Airport-Tongi Bridge  
12 Shanir Akhra-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Asadgate-Mohammadpur  
13 Motijheel-Shahbagh-New Market-Jhigatola-Shangkar-Mohammedpur  
14 Signboard - Motijheel-Shahbagh-New Market-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 12  
15 Chittagong Road-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Mirpur 12  
24 Gulistan-Maghbazar-Mohakhali-Airport-Uttara-Bipile

### Starts from

Golap Shah Mazar  
Phoolbaria bus station  
Phoolbaria bus station  
Shyampur  
Sayedabad  
Kamalapur  
Kamalapur  
Motijheel Shaplachattrar  
Sadarghat  
Chittagong Road  
Demra Ranimahar  
Sadarghat  
Sayedabad  
Syedabad  
Shanir Akhra  
Motijheel  
Signboard (Chittagong Road)  
Chittagong Road  
Gulistan