



A stairway from the toll station at Rayerbazar leading to the boats that carry passengers to the other destinations stand bare of any security.

# Buriganga coming under the DMP

AVIK SANWAR RAHMAN

The river Buriganga presently under the Keraniganj police station will come under the jurisdiction of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) soon, according to Home Ministry sources.

The shipping ministry is facing difficulties as the Sadarghat terminal is under the Kotwali police station of the DMP but the river beside it happens to be the responsibility of the Keraniganj police station.

"We are unable to check the

faulty launches and excess boarding of passengers which are the major causes of launch accidents, as the river is not under the DMP's control," said the director port.

A high official of the ministry said that the file in this regard would be placed before the cabinet shortly. The DMP is formed by an ordinance and that is why the matter has to be approved by the cabinet and then it has to be implemented through gazette notification.

The decision came following requests from the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA).

"The Home Ministry has agreed to set up police outposts by the Buriganga and has also decided to bring the river under DMP control. We have submitted a proposal to the Commissioner of Police," said Syed Monowar Hossain, director port and transport of BIWTA.

The Metropolitan Police holds the right to exercise magistracy power while enforcing the law. That speeds up the procedure. But policemen at non-metropolitan police stations like the Keraniganj have to wait for the magistrate's ruling before they can file a case.

The BIWTA wants the Buriganga to come under the DMP before traffic start moving on the circular waterway.

"The circular waterway will definitely require quicker police action which can be handled by the DMP," said Monowar Hossain.

The first phase of the circular waterway project will be completed by December this year. Already 70 percent work has been completed. Land has also been acquired for the three major landing stations at Gabtoli, Aminbazar and Ashulia.

# Locals switching to exotic food

MANISHA GANGOPADHYAY

Restaurants are fast capitalizing on a growing trend among Bengalis to explore foreign cuisine. For almost 20 years now, Dhakaites have been moving away from traditional sit-home dinners, choosing instead the savoury frontiers of Pad Thai and Penne Arrabiata.

Many restaurants bring in their head chefs from foreign countries to give the customers a feel of originality in their cuisine.

"People come for that special quality in authentic food. If it tastes like home-cooked dishes, why would they come?" said Aditya Dutta, corporate manager of two of Gulshan's most popular restaurants Lemon Grass and Samarkand.

Each restaurant is its own cultural domain, reflecting a particular style, taste and culture. From the Mexican paintings at El Toro, the fish nets hanging from the ceiling at Saltz, and the Thai sashes worn by the wait staff at @ Corner, the décor sets the tone of cuisine, complementing its authentic appeal.

"It is not that you go to a restaurant only because you feel hungry. It is also the ambience, the food and the conduct of the people who serve you that attract people," said R.P. Singh, corporate manager of Indian restaurant Khazana.

Locals generally prefer to flock restaurants on weekends and holidays, which may explain a significant presence on Thursday afternoons and after Juma prayers on Fridays. "Among foreigners there is no particular trend," notes the head of the wait staff at @Corner.

Although eating regularly at reputed restaurants is not a practical option for the vast majority of Dhaka residents, some who can afford it has made it a habit. Mumtahana Rahman, a student of a private university says she eats out five days a week. "I rarely eat meals at home because of my hectic daily routine," said Mumtahana.

Her mother Gulrukh Rahman feels that there has been an overall change in outlook.

"When I was young, people did not eat out so much. Now they are looking for variety and ways to experience the world at home."

Asked why she visited restaurants often, Mrs. Rahman said it gave her relief.

"This may sound silly but I prefer to go out once in a while so that I do not have to touch the cooking utensils. I get relief and the rest of family is also entertained."

Others emphasise on lack of options.

"There are not many other things to do here so food spots are the main form of entertainment in Bangladesh," said Rora Chowdhury.

Places like Spaghetti Jazz and Royal Orchid are trying to give their customers some semblance of nightlife by arranging live performances by popular bands like Pentagon and

Renaissance in the evening.

Khaled Galeb Protik, a resident of Lalmatia said he visits Banani and Gulshan at least once a month with friends for dinner.

"We are all bachelors with jobs. We can afford it as we do not have too many other expenses."

The concept of authentic foreign restaurants emerged in the early 80s. Cathay, Dhaka's first international standard restaurant, Arirang and Royal Orchid, opened in 1977, 1982 and 1986 respectively, initially entertained mainly foreign diplomats residing in the Gulshan, which was an isolated area on the outskirts of the city.

"Since independence, Bangladeshis have been doing more and more business in other countries. When they return home, they long for that same foreign dishes every now and then," says Michael Yang, proprietor of Cathay, who has observed the changing face of Dhaka's restaurant culture for nearly half a century. "Cathay was the first Chinese res-

taurant to move away from the simpler tastes of Cantonese to the spicier Szechuan and Hunan cuisine," he added.

With well over forty quality restaurants in Gulshan and Banani serving primarily the wealthy, many fast of them fast food joints serving cheaper versions of foreign cuisine, upscale restaurants have started finding innovative ways to reach out to the humbler. Some restaurant owners offer cheaper buffets, while others have opened up new restaurants offering cheaper versions of their cuisine.

Buffets costing between Tk. 250-500 per person is available at places like of Sajna, Lemon Grass and Topkapi. In fact introduction of buffet meals has boosted the business of many restaurants.

If the numbers of people pouring in at places like @Corner, Lemon Grass, Samarkand and Khazana are to be taken as an indicator, the fast growing foreign cuisine among Bangladeshis in Dhaka are Thai and Indian cuisine, a close second in popularity to the ever-popular Chinese cuisine.

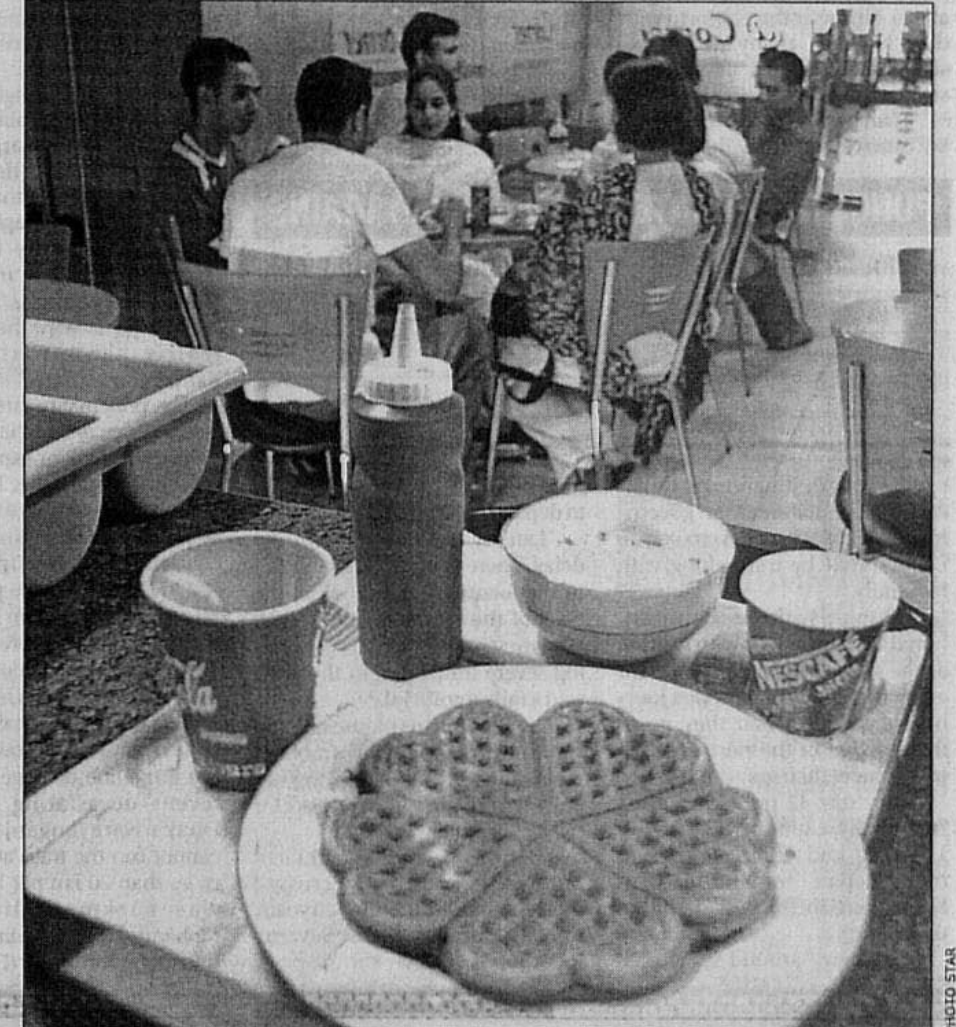
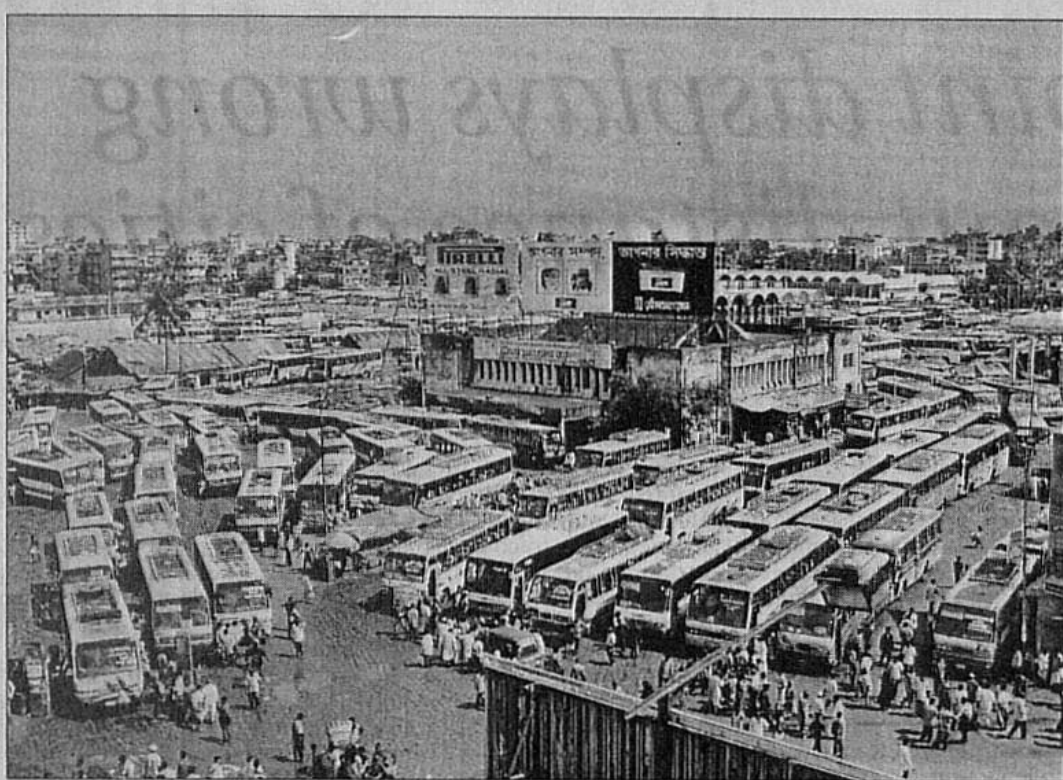


PHOTO STAR



The Sayedabad bus terminal in disarray as it is likely to miss another renovation deadline.

# Renovation of bus terminals to be delayed

AKBAR HOSSAIN

Renovation work of three bus terminals at Sayedabad, Mohakhali and Gabtoli is set to miss the completion deadline in December as the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) was yet to hand over some portions of land to the construction firm.

The DCC, which owns the three bus terminals, was supposed to hand over the land after demolishing outdated structures and encroached space before renovation work began. The Roads and Highways Department is implementing the project.

The renovation will be done under the World Bank-financed Dhaka Urban Transport Project (DUTP). Abdul Monem Ltd (Bangladesh)-IPCC (China), a Bangladesh-China joint venture has been awarded the

contract to complete the work at a cost of Tk47 crore.

But Abdul Monem Ltd. have alleged that they were yet to receive one-third land of Gabtoli and Sayedabad bus terminals from the DCC.

"We have nearly completed the renovation of Mohakhali terminal but delay in land hand over at Gabtoli and Sayedabad is holding us back," said an official of Abdul Monem Ltd. He added that completion of work depended on receiving the land from the DCC.

The bus terminals at Sayedabad and Gabtoli are in a chaotic and disorganised state at present. Vehicles are parked haphazardly and passengers often board buses from the main road. Harassment by bus attendants is also a common complaint. Besides, passengers have to cross muddy

and slippery paths to get on buses inside the terminal. The recent rains have worsened the situation and many people have to scurry for any available shelter during showers as the passenger sheds have not been completed.

Under the renovation plan each terminal will see some improved and some added facilities that include multiple terminal buildings, taxi stands, parking bay for buses, covered walkways, prayer rooms, police control rooms, two rest rooms, toilets, parking area for about 200 buses, passenger sheds, loading and unloading arrangement for 300 buses and ticket counters.

When asked about delay in handing over land, Abu Taleb, chief estate officer of the DCC told the Daily Star that the corporation should be able to sort out everything over

the next week or so. "The legal procedure for evicting encroachers at Sayedabad bus terminal caused the delay. We have already cleared some illegal structures from the Gabtoli bus terminal," added Abu Taleb.

The DCC had handed over the maintenance responsibility of the three bus terminals to two private operators Rora Enterprise and Diba Enterprise on three-year contracts in September 24 last year with a view to providing better security and cleanliness to passengers. But it terminated its contract with Rora in May as the company failed to honour its contractual obligations. Since then the DCC has been looking after the Sayedabad and Mohakhali terminals while Diba is maintaining Gabtoli.

## healthouting, taxicab & train timing

### HEALTH

- Hospitals**  
**Heart**  
 National Institute of Cardio Vascular Diseases (NICVD), 9130800, 9122560-59  
**Burn**  
 Dhaka Medical College Hospital Burn Unit-8626812-6  
**Cancer**  
 National Cancer Institute-8014914, 8826561-65  
 Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University-8612550-4, 861455-9  
**Diabetes**  
 Diabetic Research Hospital (BIRDEM)-9661551-5, 8616641-50  
**Mother & Child Care**  
 Shishu Hospital-9119119, 8116061-62  
 Azimpur Mother & Child Health

- Training Institute-8624827, 8624980  
**Eye**  
 Islamia Eye Hospital-9110794, 9119315  
 National Eye Hospital-8117202, 8114807  
**Dental**  
 Dental College-9002035  
**Orthopaedics**  
 National Orthopaedics (Pangu) Hospital-9114075, 9112150  
**General**  
 Dhaka Medical College Hospital-8626812-6  
 Rushmono General Hospital-8317819  
 Holy Family Hospital-8311731-25  
 Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital-8612550-4, 8614545-9  
 Bangladesh Medical College & Hospital-8115443, 9118202,

- Shamarita Hospital-9131901  
 Suhrawardy Hospital--9130800, 9122560-69  
 Salimullah Medical College Hospital--7310061-4, 7319002-6  
 Cholera Research Hospital (ICDRB)-8811751-60  
 Monowra Hospital 8319802, 8318135  
**Blood Bank**  
 Red Crescent Centre-9116563  
 Sandhani (DMCH)-8624040  
 Sandhani (SMCH)-7310061, 7310061, 7319022  
 Dhaka Medical College Hospital-8626812-9  
**Eye Bank**  
 Sandhani International Eye Bank-8614040  
**Ambulances For Dead Body**  
 Anzuman Mafidul Islam (Kakral) 9336611, Gandaria 7319808, 7318166,  
 Al-Markajul Islam 9127867,

- Gulshan 1, 2 markets-Friday  
 Elephant Road-Friday  
 Bishal Center-Friday  
 Baitul Mukarram Market-Friday  
 Polwell Market-Friday  
 BCS Computer City-Friday  
 Isha Khan Shopping Complex-Friday.  
 Rajlaxmi Complex-Friday  
 Stadium Market-Friday  
 Bangabazar Market-Friday  
 National Museum-Thursday  
 Ahsan Manzil--Thursday.  
 New Market-Tuesday  
 Gausia Market-Tuesday  
 Mouchak Market-Sunday  
 Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday  
 Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday  
 Eastern Plaza-Sunday  
 Farmview Super Market-Sunday  
 Muktiuddha Jadughar-Sunday  
 Dhaka Zoo-Sunday  
 Shishu Jadughar-Sunday

- Yellow Cab**  
 Navana 9558065  
 Salida 9344477, 0171620881  
 Cosmo 9112959 and 8127191  
 Cab One 7113282-3  
 Nihon 8624741-2  
 Orion 9347277  
 Anudlp 8125285 and 8127611  
 Capital 9352847  
**Black Cab**  
 Cab Ex 9358401  
 Cabline 8321162  
 JBS Cab 019364575  
 Sajjan 018126036  
 Anudlp -- 8125285 and 8127611  
**TRAIN TIMING**  
**Subarna Express**  
 Mahanagar Prabhathi  
 Mahanagar Godhull  
 Turna  
**Parabat Express**  
 Joyantika Express  
 Upaban Express  
 Tista Express  
 Ekata Express  
 Upakul Express  
 Agnibeena Express

- Union 8130485  
 Kool 0171826731  
**Black Cab**  
 Cab Ex 9358401  
 Cabline 8321162  
 JBS Cab 019364575  
 Sajjan 018126036  
 Anudlp -- 8125285 and 8127611  
 Leaves Dhaka at 4:30 pm  
 Leaves Dhaka at 7-30 am  
 Leaves Dhaka at 3-15 pm  
 Leaves Dhaka at 11-00 pm  
 Leaves Dhaka at 9-45 am  
 Leaves Dhaka at 12-45 pm  
 Leaves Dhaka at 9-45 am  
 Leaves Dhaka at 7-00 am  
 Leaves Dhaka at 5-00 pm  
 Leaves Dhaka at 8-00 pm  
 Leaves Dhaka at 9-20 pm

- Cab One** 7113282-3  
 Palki 0171052500  
**Cab I** 7113282  
 Jatri 0171540074  
 Nipun 9572277  
 R-Cab 8914782  
 Star Cab 9571719  
 Shihab 018202477 & 018228675  
 KGN 8620011  
 Reaches Chittagong at 10:35 pm  
 Reaches Chittagong at 1-55 pm  
 Reaches Chittagong at 10-55 pm  
 Reaches Chittagong at 6-40 am  
 Reaches Sylhet at 2-30 pm  
 Reaches Sylhet at 9-20 pm  
 Reaches Sylhet at 6-40 am  
 Reaches Bahadurabad at 1-05 pm  
 Reaches Bahadurabad at 11-15  
 Reaches Noakhali at 5-00 am  
 Reaches Jagannath at 2-30 pm

- 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  
 Information Resource Center, The American Center-8813440-4, 9886395-9  
 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  
 Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) 9330081-4