

Mahakhali flyover Spreading the chaos?



MORSHED ALI KHAN

WHILE Mahakhali flyover has successfully eased the dreadful Mahakhali intersection, it has instantly created serious traffic jams on two different points -- Kamal Ataturk intersection and near the Prime Minister's office. No both these ends of the 1.12 kilometers long and 17.9 meters wide flyover are clogged with new traffic snarls.

During peak hours traffic is virtually brought to a standstill confining thousands in their vehicles. Human suffering and loss in work hours are so enormous that they keep taking a serious toll on the national economy, experts said.

Experts had speculated the problem at the very conceptual stage of the flyover scheme but the government brushed aside the suggestions and went ahead to build the first ever flyover of the country at a cost of Tk 113 crore. Now that the cantonment road remains closed to public movement, increased vehicular pressure on the flyover is causing traffic jams. Sources in the Cantonment Board however said that the military authorities are now reviewing their policy regarding movement of public vehicles through the cantonment. An officials source said that they had already issued passes to 'hundreds' of public vehicles allowing them passage through the cantonment.

Experts said that the 'easiest and the most reasonable' remedy to Mahakhali traffic problem was to open up the road inside the cantonment for public use. The road

could be opened till Banani or it could be stretched until Balurghat to create an alternative route to the airport and beyond. The Cantonment Board could 'sell the right to use' and earn millions in revenue.

The Deputy Commissioner (South) of the city traffic department, Ansar Uddin Khan Pathan said that his department, having studied the situation in Mahakhali, had proposed to the government to create a road through the old airport and connect Rokeya Sarani with Jahangir Gate.

"The traffic problem on the VIP Road in front of the PMO would then be greatly solved by diverting a huge volume of traffic," Ansar Uddin said. "We also proposed to create a route from Zia Colony through northern side of the CMH and Kachukhet but so far nothing has been done," the DC traffic said.

Sources in the Dhaka City Corporation's Traffic Engineering Department said that most traffic related developments in the city are happening without any proper planning whatsoever. They said that the Dhaka Transport Coordination Board has failed to produce the Strategic Transport Plan, which is long due for the city. Unless the short and long term planning is completed and implemented, all these developments will look amateurish, a traffic engineer said on condition of anonymity.

An official source in the communications ministry said that the original plan of the Mahakhali flyover had included a total of three 'legs' -- one of which hopped over Mahakhali bus terminal and Tejgaon-Gulshan

intersection and landed on the Tongi Diversion Road in front of 'Nabisco'.

"The original plan was much needed in view of the present traffic situation there but it was mysteriously excluded from the plan without any consultation with the Traffic Engineering Department," said an official source of the Communications Ministry.

"We are also of the opinion that a road through the old airport would greatly improve the situation," said the official.

Thousands of vehicles in the city are already clogging the grossly inadequate road network. Experts said that a healthy city needs at least 25 per cent of its total area for road communication but Dhaka has only 6 per cent in road network. City traffic managers, especially street level officers, expressed their frustration and said the sheer number of vehicles, especially large ones, taking to the roads every day is simply 'unmanageable' without a proper master plan.

Sergeant Zahir at Farmgate said that in many places the main roads are considerably narrowed down when buses ply and stop for loading and unloading. On the Mahakhali flyover old vehicles plying without any hand brakes are faced with a common problem of rolling back when stuck on slow moving traffic on the ascent. There have already been several accidents with such faulty vehicles rolling back on to other vehicles on the slope of the flyover.

Morshed Ali Khan is a Special Correspondent of The Daily Star

LEST WE FORGET

Justice Debesh Bhattacharya

A daughter-in-law's belated letter to her father-in-law on his 90th birthday

IRINA BHATTACHARYA writes from Washington DC

It takes some time to realise that the person who was close to you for a long time is not with you any more. That day, second of February 2004, I was with you for the last time. Even when you left us I could not accept it, I still do not.

You were the first person who welcomed me to your family; you didn't have doubts in me. I remember the summer of 1983 when you came to Moscow on your way to Prague Peace Conference. I was told that you are coming to our university hostel. That day I was very nervous. You were smiling, warm and I felt welcome. It was our first introduction and I was blessed by you for the last 20 years.

As long as I remember, you were always working, sitting in your chamber, surrounded by your books. People from different backgrounds everyday came to see you, seeking your wise advice and kind help. You were the most generous person I have ever met.

Your life was a complete one. I sometimes wondered how you could manage with time in accomplishing all your obligations. Apart from your profession as a jurist, you were also actively involved with many social, educational and philanthropic organisations. You always wanted to do new things in your village home in Ellenga. The people of Ellenga always recall your contributions, particularly for establishing the girls' high school in your mother's name. Ellenga people came in thousands to pay their last respect to you.

You were also the President of the Gandhi Ashram in Joyag, Noakhali and the President of the Probarak Sangha in Chittagang. Work with these organisations required a lot of time and dedication from you -- you also had to travel to these places. Our last long trip together was in 2001 when you presided over the opening ceremony of the museum dedicated to Gandhi's visit to Noakhali. President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed was the chief guest on the occasion. For more than two decades you were the President of Ramakrishna Mission in Dhaka. Not a single event could happen there without you.

You were always respected and loved by everyone, particularly for your knowledge and gentle behaviour. Your life is an excellent example for the new generation. I

remember the days when young mothers with their children came to our house in Wari to get your blessings. I wonder how many children now have names given by you and what has happened to those whom you gave first lessons in alphabets during their initiation ceremonies. I am sure they are on the right path in their lives now.

We used to talk quite often about your childhood and the days spent by you in Presidency College in Kolkata. You fondly recalled those days in great details. You joked sometimes that science was not your subject -- you realised it when couldn't pass practical exams in chemistry. It helped you to choose your right vocation in law. As a child you liked to play football. During one of those games your knee was injured and you suffered from this up to the old age.

You were a man of great and many interests. In your floor to roof library, among the law books I could find classics by Adam Smith, Charles Darwin, Aldous Huxley, H.G. Wells and, of course Marx and Lenin. You were also a great admirer of Rabindranath Tagore and Swami Vivekananda. Your last public function was in 2003 when you went to the Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association to donate your law library.

As a person with progressive values you could not stay outside political processes in your country. You took active part in anti-colonial movement in those days. After the creation of Pakistan, you were put in prison, tortured and went on hunger strike with other political prisoners. You were 34 at that time, just married to a young wife Chitra Bhattacharya, who stood by you in those years working as a teacher in a school in Mymensingh and supplied you with newspapers in prison. In 1998 we celebrated the golden anniversary of your marriage. This great lady had a lot of contribution in your life. We felt proud when she was made member of the Bangladesh Parliament in 1996.

Years in prison did not break your spirit and will. The sufferings during the independence struggle in 1971 only validated your positive thinking. You were an eternal optimist; always thinking about the good side of a person or an event.

I came to know more about your great legal accomplishments after you left us. All those condolence messages from high and low recalled your contribution as a lawyer and then as a judge. Your



judgments upheld the rights of the people and created precedence. In the condolence meetings the social and professional leaders talked about your courage and prudence and lamented that people like you

are very rare nowadays.

Poetry was always your passion. In prison you wrote some philosophical verses which later were included in your book of poetry "Kalpakabya Manjusha". I feel bad that we are yet to bring out volumes containing all your works including your historic judgments.

You were the first from the Hindu community in Bangladesh who spoke out for reforms of Hindu Personal Law so that the rights of Hindu women are protected. You wrote a thesis in this regard, as far as I remember, sometime in 1987 and your proposals were not accepted by the majority in the community. How sad you were that day!

Your life is an example of dedicated service to people. Your love for others shaped a lot of lives including my own and my

daughter's. I remember you as a warm, soft spoken, honest and generous human being with a sharp sense of humour. But how stubborn you were sometimes! Nothing and nobody could change your mind if you set up to do some thing. What a rich personality you were!

November 3 was your 90th birthday! Your birthday was always a special day for our family. We used to celebrate it with cake and flowers, invite our friends; sometimes you recited your poems. There will continue be cake and flowers on the occasion, but the great man will be not among us.

Life is not the same for all of us anymore without you. It could not be. You enriched us with your wisdom and kindness and there is nothing to replace it. We miss you, Baba.



CARE

TRAINING FOR NGO PROFESSIONALS

CARE Bangladesh INCOME Project will organize the following training courses for January-March, 2005 quarter under its MDC (MDC will be renamed as Institution Development Services Limited- IDSL):

Report writing and Analytical Skills Development

Date: 1st batch: January 04-06 and 2nd Batch: February 22-24, 2005 (3 days)

Major contents: Concept of report & business report, classification of report, steps for report writing, organizing points & ideas, pattern of organizing report, major parts of a report, exercise on report writing, outline of different reports, develop checklist of report writing, tips for writing reports. Suitable for: Senior & Mid level managers of development organizations.

Financial Planning & Management of Development Organization

Date: January 09-13, 2005 (5 days)

Major contents: Aspects of financial planning and management, developing financial strategy, multi-year and annual budgeting, cash flow management, planning for financial self-sufficiency, basic financial reports, financial ratio analysis, FIS, procurement policy and procedure, fixed assets and inventory management, auditing, documentation of financial policies and procedures. Suitable for: Finance Managers, Finance Officers, and Senior Program Personnel.

Improving Participatory Managerial Skills and Management Style

Date: 1st batch: January 09-13 and 2nd batch: February 27-March 03, 2005 (5 days)

Major contents: Management perspectives, organizational structure, managerial roles & skills, leadership styles, situational leadership, team building, staff behavior analysis, problem solving & decision making, conflict resolution, motivating employee, managing time & stress, delegation, managing human resources, staff development & performance management. Suitable for: Senior and mid level managers of development organizations.

Office Management and General Administration

Date: 1st batch: January 16-20 and 2nd batch: March 06-10, 2005 (5 days)

Major contents: Organizing office, effective space utilization, recruitment & selection, record keeping, internal & external communication, vehicle management, maintenance of store & fixed assets, preparation of work plan, requisition procedure, report writing, procurement & purchase, dispatching. Suitable for: Senior/Mid level Program Managers, Admin/Personnel Officer, HR manager.

Effective Microfinance Operations, Risk Analysis & Delinquency Management

Date: February 06-10, 2005 (5 days)

Major contents: Microfinance program design, lending methodology, different savings & loan products, efficient program operation, portfolio quality analysis, delinquency management, loan loss provisioning, write-offs, recovery of bad loans, setting appropriate interest rate, analyzing operational risks, Scaling up program and financial projection, credit accounting system, financial statements. Suitable for: Senior and mid-level managers and staff involved in Microfinance program.

Participatory Monitoring & Evaluation of Development Program

Date: 1st batch: February 06-10 and 2nd batch: March 27-31, 2005 (5 days)

Major Contents: Understanding participatory M&E, log frame development for designing M&E plan, stakeholders of a project & their needed information, integrated M&E system design, quantitative and qualitative methods used in M&E process, tools & techniques used for collecting M&E data, PRA & FGD, processing & statistical interpretation for data analysis, writing and presenting M&E report. Suitable for: Senior and mid level managers, Monitoring Officers, Program Officers.

TOT on Improving Training Quality and Facilitation Skills

Date: 1st batch: February 13-17 and 2nd Batch: March 27-31, 2005 (5 days)

Major contents: Concept of education, learning and participatory training, adult learning principles, experiential learning process, facilitation skills, participatory training need assessment, participatory training methods, developing appropriate training materials, designing training module, organizing and managing a successful training program, evaluating training program and writing reports. Suitable for: Development trainers, Training Managers and Professionals.

Strengthening Accounting System of Development Organization

Date: February 13-17, 2005 (5 days)

Major contents: Basic accounting principles, accounting cycle & system flow chart, advance adjustment, petty cash control, accruals adjustment, bank account operation, posting of revenue and capital expenditure, store accounting, books and documents, financial statements preparation & ratio analysis, accounting information system, risk management, chart of accounts, audit management. Suitable for: Accounts Officer, Finance Officer, Program Managers, and Audit Officers.

Procurement, Inventory & Vehicle Management

Date: March 20-24, 2005 (5 days)

Major contents: Procurement procedure & planning, expenditure authorization and approval, books and documents for procurement record, foreign procurement, maintaining inventory accounts, closing stock valuation, fixed assets management, disposal of assets, depreciation calculation, developing standard procurement policy, vehicle allocation & driver assignment, vehicle management system, safety & security of vehicles, fuel purchasing procedure, reporting & maintenance of vehicle. Suitable for: Admin. Officers, Finance Officers, Procurement & Inventory Officers, Transport officer

Designing Sustainable Projects & Writing Quality Proposal

Date: 1st Batch: February 27-March 03 and 2nd Batch: March 20-24, 2005 (5 days)

Major contents: Project design process & approaches, different aspects of project sustainability, household livelihood security (HLS) & right based approach (RBA), problem and need analysis, stakeholder analysis, intervention selection, risk analysis, log-frame dev. & analysis, deciding service delivery mechanism, budgeting & human resource planning, writing concept paper and proposal. Suitable for: NGO Directors, Senior managers, M&E Officers and practitioners.

Feasibility Analysis & Business Planning of Micro-enterprises / IGA

Date: March 13-17, 2005 (5 days)

Major contents: Basic concept on enterprise, entrepreneur, entrepreneurship, characteristics of IGA, ME & SE, appraisal of entrepreneurial career, broad areas of business feasibility analysis, viable business venture selection, market feasibility analysis, marketing mix, technical feasibility analysis, organizational plan, financial viability analysis, business plan preparation. Suitable for: Senior and mid-level managers and staff involved in business counseling.

Establishing and Practicing Good Governance in NGOs

Date: March 13-17, 2005 (5 days)

Major contents: Understanding governance, attitude/knowledge/skills towards governance, approaches to problem identification & solutions, governance & right based approach, responsibilities of boards in governance, achieving good governance in NGOs, building support for governance development, governance development plan, common implementation issues & concerns, maintaining momentum, governance development partnerships, facilitating & building on governance capacity, monitoring NGO governance, funding issues & strategies. Suitable for: Board Members, Executive Directors/CEOs, Program Directors/Managers.

FOR 5-DAY COURSES

Residential-Tk. 10,000/person
Non-Residential-Tk. 7,500/person

COURSE FEE:

FOR 3-DAY COURSES

Residential-Tk. 5,000/person
Non-Residential-Tk. 4,000/person

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E-mail: caremdc@bangla.net

Mode of Payment: Cash/ Pay order/DD/ in favor of "CARE Bangladesh".
• MDC is ready to conduct training at client organization's own campus.
• MDC offers consultancy services and exposure visit as well.

TENDER NOTICE

HEIDELBERGCEMENT BANGLADESH LIMITED

Sealed Tenders from reputed construction firms are hereby invited for following works:

- 1) Name of the works plant. - Construction of 2nd entry road of Kanchpur
- 2) Estimated cost - Tk. 8 lacs only.
- 3) Last date of submission of tender - 13th December 2004
- 4) Place of submission of tender - General Manager
Purchasing & Logistics department
Corporate Office,
HeidelbergCement Bangladesh Limited
17 Mohakhali C/A, Dhaka - 1212.

For details information including specifications can be collected from the Purchasing Department of Kanchpur Plant, Jatramora, Rupganj, Dist. Narayanganj, Telephone No. 8815602, 8815603.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

The Bank is looking for an experienced, energetic, dynamic, self motivated and skilled person to be appointed as **Personal Secretary to President and Managing Director**:

Eligibility for application:

- Age** : Not over 40 years as on 30.11.2004.
- Qualification** : Candidate having good academic background or Graduation with Diploma in Secretarial Science.
- Experience** : Minimum 7/8 years working experience in related field in any reputed local / foreign organization with minimum short hand speed in English and Bengali of 90 WPM and 60 WPM respectively and typing speed in key board of 40 WPM and 25 WPM respectively. Candidates who are or were in Banking service shall be given preference.
- Computer Literacy** : Should have Excellent operational knowledge in MS-Word, MS-Excel and Power Point.
- Salary** : Attractive compensation package shall be offered to the really deserving candidate. The candidate who draws present salary below Tk. 15,000/- need not to apply for the post.

Eligible and interested candidates are requested to send their application with complete resume along with attested copies of all academic certificates, 2 (two) copies of recent passport size photographs, contact telephone No. and experience certificate addressed to the **Senior Vice President, Human Resources Division, Southeast Bank Limited, Head Office, 1 Dilkusha C/A (3rd Floor), Dhaka-1000** in a sealed envelope marked "Application for the post of P.S. to President and Managing Director" within 15.12.2004.

Southeast Bank Limited



University of Dhaka WANETD

Applications in prescribed form obtainable from the office of the Registrar are invited from Bangladeshi nationals for filling up a permanent post of Technical Officer-Cum-Computer Operator for office of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor in the pay scale of Tk. 3400-170X7-4590-EB-185X11-6625/- plus usual allowances as admissible under the rules. Candidates should have 2nd class in graduation degree and must have 1st division in SSC or HSC examination. Candidates must have diploma course in Computer Science & Technology from Bangladesh Government recognised Institute, and have enough experiences in Dos.Windows-98, 2000, ME and XP. They must have experience in operating MS Word, MS Excel, MS Access, MS Power Point, Internet & E-mail, and must be able to type in computer accurately in both Bengali (30 words per minute) and English (40 words per minute). They must have adequate knowledge in Computer Assembling, Software Installation, Hardware Software & Network Trouble Shooting. Candidates must have atleast 5 years experience as computer operator.

Eight copies of application alongwith the copies of all certificate and testimonials togetherwith Pay Order/Bank Draft of Tk. 200 (two hundred) only payable to the Registrar should reach him on or before 18-12-2004. Candidates already in service must apply through proper channel. GD-766