

Shifting of film archive still uncertain

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The shifting of Bangladesh Film Archive (BFA) from Mohammadpur to Agargaon remains uncertain as the government is yet to approve the shifting plan.

The information ministry allocated a piece of land 12 years back for the archive, which has been running in several rented houses in the city since 1978. The authorities recently started renovation of the archive in its present building.

Sources said construction of the proposed Information Complex at Agargaon where the BFA would be shifted is still waiting for the approval of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Eneec).

"It now depends on the decision of planning ministry. I cannot say how long will it take," said Dilruba Begum, deputy chief, planning cell of information ministry.

The authorities felt the neces-

sity of renovating the archive for properly preserving the valuable documents and making it more effective for the film activists and other users.

"We have to run the archive with a very marginal budget and that is why we will do the renovation in phases," said Iftekhar Husain, director general (DG) of BFA.

The archive's vault where films are preserved will be renovated and five more air-conditioners, motorised film re-winders, view finder and high-speed inspection machines will be installed, officials said.

Besides, the tin cans where the positives and negatives of films are preserved will be replaced by aluminium cans.

Regular projection of films, one of the main objectives of the BFA, will be resumed within a month on the archive compound. "We are planning to show three to four films every week. Fifty viewers will be able to enjoy the show at a time," said the DG.

The archive library will also be renovated to preserve some 50,000 books, film scripts, still photographs, journals, posters and publications on film.

Nazrul Islam, librarian of BFA, said they are going to open an exhibition room at the library where old editing machines, negatives, cameras, scripts and many more objects with archaeological value will be displayed.

The archive established as Bangladesh Film Institute and Archive (BIFA) saw a separation of the film institute in 1983. It was later incorporated in the National Institute of Mass Media Communication (NIMCO).

Expressing disappointment at the separation of the institute, the DG said: "I believe the institute and archive are complementary to each other just as a medical college and an attached hospital for theoretical and practical work."

If the Film Institute merges with the archive, BFA would be

able to play a vital role in the film activities in Bangladesh," hoped the DG.

During 1981-82, the then BIFA conducted two film appreciation courses that produced many successful filmmakers of today but the course did not continue after 1982, depriving those interested in training on different aspects of the industry.

"We are thinking about reintroducing the appreciation course. We will invite film activists and other interested persons especially the students of previous courses to seek their opinions on how to make BFA more effective," said the DG.

The BFA authorities are now trying to collect and preserve all the films on the Liberation War to enhance its present collection of only 14 films on the war.

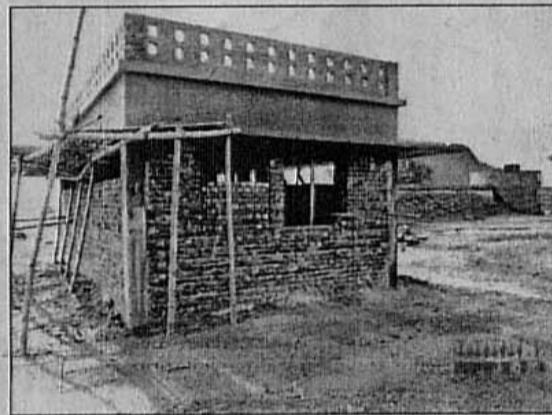
"We have made a list of 30 such films and requested the producers to donate a copy of each of these films to the BFA," said Jahangir Hossain, director of BFA.



The extension of the BFA library which is underway will have the capacity to accommodate at least 10 readers at a time.

HUNGER STRIKE TO PRESERVE SANCTITY OF MONUMENT

The central committee of 'Amra Muktijoddhar Sontan' (We are the children of freedom fighters) demonstrated a symbolic hunger strike yesterday to protest the construction of a public toilet by Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) near the Intellectual Martyrs Monument at Rayerbazar on the occasion of Intellectual Martyrs Day. The construction had been stopped as the civil society criticised the disrespect it caused on the sanctity of the monument. However, DCC restarted the work, ignoring a request made by the Liberation War Affairs Ministry to stop the construction.



A pain called Sonargaon intersection

SULTANA RAHMAN

Despite several initiatives to ease the ever-increasing traffic congestion at the Sonargaon intersection and its adjoining roads, the overall situation has not seen any improvement.

The recent installation and test run of automated traffic signals has also failed to control the traffic at this intersection. Vehicles remained stranded creating mile long jams. The Bashundhara City, which was inaugurated about a month ago on the Panthapath has also given birth to more traffic congestion.

"As the city does not have an East-West road network, huge volumes of traffic move through the Sonargaon intersection," observed professor Nazrul Islam of the department of Geography and Environment of Dhaka University.

"If a road can be built from Bijoy Sarani to Tejgaon, then the pressure on the Sonargaon intersection will be reduced," he added.

After the opening of the Mohakhali Flyover, it was hoped that the traffic would flow smoothly. But due to the slow movement at the Sonargaon intersection, which is the focal point of five diversion roads, peak-hour congestion has not eased a bit.

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) could not switch on the electronic traffic signals from this month at the intersection as the test run resulted in some of the longest traffic jams in recent months.

According to the DCC, around 10,000 vehicles pass through the Sonargaon intersection per hour during peak hours while the ideal

number should be 4800. On an average, every vehicle has to waste at least three minutes at the crossing which amounts to a staggering Tk 7.6 crore worth of fuel consumption a year.

"Hardly 20-25 vehicles can cross the intersection at one signal cycle while the number of vehicles gathered at a time is seldom less than 130. It often takes a car three signal cycles to cross the intersection which is about 8-9 minutes of wait," said Helaluddin Nagari of Dhaka Transport Coordination Board (DTCB). "It can take as long as 30 minutes even if the adjoining roads are not free."

The DCC had planned on bringing

16 intersections of Dhaka under the electronic signal system by November 9.

When it was finally switched on this month at the Sonargaon intersection within an hour the entire area became heavily congested.

"Then we had to turn off the digital system and return to the manual ways," said Shamsul Haq, an on duty traffic police at Sonargaon intersection.

Project director of Dhaka Urban Transport Project (DUTP) on DCC-supervised works Abdul Quaim said as the number of vehicles commuting through the Sonargaon intersection is nearly double of its capacity, it is very

tough to control the area digitally as it takes time to adjust the signal duration with the flow of vehicles.

DCC officials also blamed the roundabout at the Sonargaon intersection for the unbearable traffic jams and said the situation will not improve until it is removed.

"The flow of the vehicles is obstructed by the roundabout and it takes more time to cross the intersection. After setting up of the digital system, it will take around two weeks more to adjust the signals at Sonargaon intersection with the volume of traffic movement," said an official of the DCC.



useful telephone numbers

COURIER SERVICES

International
Air Borne Express- 9561371, 9561372, 9550724
Air Couriers Int'l (BD) Ltd.- 8815970
Aramex International Courier- 9558003, 9559582, 9565075
Airspeed Express- 9563494
Asian Courier Services Ltd.- 8313543
Baisakhi Courier Service- 9553606
Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.- 9565114
Bangladesh Courier Service- 9563989
Bengal Express- 9560642, 9552666
Bangladesh Int'l 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- 932431, 8321169
Pacific Courier- 9568446
Reliance Express Service- 958515, 7110249
Sky International service- 9660442
Skynet World Wide Express- 958062, 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, 9557975
Cosmopolitan Services- 9552793, 95526222
Dhaka Courier Services- 7236222



LIBRARY & INFO-

Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers
Central Public Library- 8626001-4, Shishu Academy- 9564128
Shilpakar 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

TIPS
Do you know according to Dhaka City Corporation, you must deposit your waste at the collection site between 4pm and 10pm

OUTING

Museum and Zoo

National Museum- 8619396-9
Open: 10 am- 5 pm, Friday 3 pm- 8 pm, Thursday closed
Mukiljuddha 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
1 Gulistan-Shahbagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 10, 11, 12
2 Gulistan-Shahbagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 1, 2
3 Gulistan-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Mahakhal-Airport-Azampur
4 Shyampur-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Airport-Tongi
5 Sayedabad-Kamalapur-Motijheel-Airport-Joydebpur-Gazipur
6 A Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Gulshan 1, 2
6 B Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 1, 2
6 C Motijheel Shapla chatter- Malibagh- Farmgate- Gulshan 2
7 Sadarghat-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 2
8 Chittagong-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Asad Gate-Kalyanpur-Gabtoli
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-Fakirpail-Maghbazar-Mohakhal-Tongi Bridge
11/A Sayedabad-Khiloan-Malibagh-Rampura-Airport-Tongi Bridge
12 Shanik Akhra-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Asadgate-Mohammedpur
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-Mohakhal-Airport-Uttara-Bipole

Starts from
Golap Shah Mazar
Phoolbaria bus station
Phoolbaria bus station
Shyampur
Sayedabad
Kamalapur
Kamalapur
Motijheel Shapla chatter
Sadarghat
Chittagong Road
Demra Rani mahal
Sadarghat
Sayedabad
Syedabad
Shanik Akhra
Motijheel
Signboard (Chittagong Road)
Chittagong Road
Gulistan