

Traffic police get serious about jaywalkers

SYED TASHEEN CHOWDHURY

Traffic police have started fining pedestrians who violate traffic laws on the stretch of the road from Farmgate to Hotel Sonargaon crossing.

The drive, which began about two weeks ago, was initiated to generate awareness among the general public.

"We are trying to cure the tendency of the city dweller to disobey traffic rules," said on duty constable Abul Khair of Tejgaon police station. According to Section 12 of the Motor Vehicles Ordinance, 1983, traffic police can fine pedestrians for violating traffic laws.

Traffic policemen in civil clothes have been posted at various points on either sides of the road to spot the violators as they try to cross to the other side over the road divider which is not allowed.

As soon as someone commits the offence a policeman approaches him and takes him to the on-duty sergeant writes a

receipt with an official stamp on it and fines Tk five.

"Over the past few days, we have continuously requested people whom we have fined to use the over-bridges or the underpass for their own safety," said sergeant Altaf Hossain of Tejgaon Police station.

According to Sgt. Hossain, all kinds of people disobey the law but interestingly, most violators are educated persons.

"Due to the ego factor, most of them prefer to argue rather than pay the fine," said Hossain.

When someone refuses to pay up, he is detained on the spot for half an hour or taken to the police station where he is later handed over to family members.

Sgt. Hossain feels that the average rate of traffic law violation on this particular stretch was gradually decreasing since the initiation of the drive.

"Yesterday, we had fined 600 people while today, the number has come down to

500," said Hossain.

Recently, when the Karwan Bazar underpass was undergoing renovations, people were allowed to cross the busy road at any point.

But now the underpass has been reopened to the public and there are a couple of foot over-bridges in the Farmgate area. Still people tend to cross over the dividers.

"We always put up fences in order to restrain such activities but the violators still cross the road by uprooting the wire or fencing," said a traffic policeman.

"We took up the initiative to partially solve a major traffic problem of the city," said Mazharul Islam, deputy commissioner (West) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

"Hopefully this initiative will lead to further improvement in traffic systems in other areas and will also generate awareness among members of the community and the police force," added Islam.



Two policemen stand in watch on the median on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue to prevent pedestrians violating traffic laws.



Rajuk under pressure

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Managing approvals with back dates, landowners aided by some dishonest Rajuk officials are constructing buildings in the city.

But high officials of Rajuk said they could not take actions against the perpetrators as they lack a proper monitoring cell to look into the issue.

"Our hands are tied because those who are constructing buildings illegally are very influential," said a board member of Rajuk.

Sources in the Rajuk said that a section of its officials were engaged in managing approvals and clearances from concerned departments for constructing buildings in Dhaka. Although most of the approved designs are adapted as per building construction rules, it is alleged that the designs go through drastic changes when buildings are constructed.

"On paper, there are very few buildings which violate the building construction act. But the reality is totally different," a senior Rajuk official said.

"We are helpless against the violators especially against those who have influence in the society. They are so powerful that they can even have our jobs terminated or can harass us professionally," he added.

Rajuk officials said that a number of cases have been filed

A section of Rajuk's officials were engaged in managing approvals and clearances from concerned departments for constructing buildings in Dhaka. Most approved designs are adapted as per building construction rules, but it is alleged that these go through drastic changes during construction

against people who violated construction rules. Rajuk last month filed a case against a company owned by a prominent businessman charging it of filling up a part of the Gulshan Lake in Mohakhali. A good number of buildings were also identified that have been built in violation of the construction act. Rajuk issued letters asking the persons concerned to go by the rules or face demolition of the structures.

"If Rajuk could demolish even one single building, it would have discouraged a lot of people who violate the rules," said Rajuk's

chief engineer M Emdadul Islam. According to Rajuk's building laws, high rises are not allowed where adjacent roads are not at least 25 feet wide. But in Dhaka, multistoried buildings have gone up even in areas with just nine feet wide road network.

Constructing a new building now requires meeting nearly forty conditions that include the building's height, road network, environment, parking space and clearances from utility service agencies.

"Getting clearance from all concerned departments take

more than six months. Moreover, we are forced to bribe people at every stage of the clearance process. Even then the approval remains uncertain," said Motahar Hossain, a landowner of Uttarkhan.

It has been alleged that corrupt officials and middlemen in Rajuk get clearances from the utility agencies and the department of environment by sharing bribe money and sometimes they even supply fake clearances.

"We have found some fake clearances with forged signatures but we do not know who are behind this forgery," said Islam.

Recently Rajuk suspended five of its officials following an investigation into how certain buildings could be raised without approval. Rajuk had submitted complaints against 86 buildings in the city to the recently abolished Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) for investigation as they were not erected with the approval from Rajuk. But the ACB did not take any action against the owners of those buildings. The files have now been transferred to the newly formed Anti Corruption Commission (ACC).

"We could not take any measures against the unapproved buildings because of a corrupt circle which includes Rajuk officials and law enforcement officers," said Emdadul Islam.

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,

Shamaria Hospital- 9131901

Suhrwardy 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 Mafulul Islam (Kakrail)
9336611, Gandaria 7319808,
7318166,
Al-Markajul Islam 9127867,

MARKET CLOSED

Gulshan 1, 2 markets-Friday
Elephant Road-Friday
Bishal Center-Friday
Baitual 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-Thursdays
Ahsan Manzil-Thursdays
New Market-Tuesday
Gausia Market-Tuesday
Mouchak Market-Sunday
Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday
Eastern Plaza-Sunday
Farmview Super Market-Sunday
Muktijuddha Jadughar-Sunday
Dhaka Zoo-Sunday
Shishu Jadughar-Sunday

TAXI CAB

Yellow Cab

Navana 9558065
Salida 9344477, 0171620881
Cosmo 9112959 and 8127191
Cab One 7113282-3
Nihon 8624741-2
Orion 9347277
Anudip 8125285 and 8127611
Capital 9352847

Union 8130485

Kool 0171826731

Black Cab

Cab Ex 9358401
Cabline 8321162
JBS Cab 019364575
Sajan 018126036
Anudip -- 8125285 and 8127611

Cab One 7113282-3

Paiki 0171052500

Cab I 7113282

Jatri 0171540074

Nipun 9572277

R-Cab 8914782

Star Cab 9571919

Shihab 018202477 & 018228675

KGK 8620011

TRAIN TIMING

Subarna Express
Mahanagar Prabhati
Mahanagar Godhuli
Turna
Parabat Express
Joyantika Express
Upaban Express
Tista Express
Ekata Express
Upakul Express
Agnibeena Express

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 6:40 am
Leaves Dhaka at 12:45 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 9:45 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 7:00 am
Leaves Dhaka at 5:00 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 8:00 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 9:20 pm

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- 8850141-2
The Russian Cultural Centre-
9116314, 9118531, 9118314
Drik Photo Gallery- 9120125,
8112954, 8123412
Press Institute of Bangladesh
(PIB) 9330081-4