



A billboard erected by the DCC near the Sonargaon intersection on Kazi Nuzrul Islam Avenue.

No stop to illegal advertising

SABRINA KARIM MURSHED

Advertising agencies are allegedly installing modern advertising boards illegally by occupying pavements and public places and luring big companies into buying the spaces for crores of Taka.

Officials of the Revenue Department of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) said all billboards that have been installed after June 30, 2003 were illegal as the DCC had stopped issuing new permits and renewing old ones since that date.

However, companies buying the spaces are not aware of this and most of them claimed that the agencies had shown them the DCC's permit.

"We have hired the board from an agency last year and they showed us the consent paper. We have no reasons to check with the DCC regarding whether it is a false paper or not," said the marketing officer of a reputed company.

Sources in the DCC said that some agencies obtain false permissions through some corrupt officials. These so-

called permits do not have any files to back up their legitimacy. The new trend in advertising boards is unipole. It is a single high column placed beside roads and intersections having advertising space on both sides. Tri-vision boards are imported from Italy and advertisements are seen from three angles. These types of billboards are now found at almost every major intersection of the city.

These advertising boards are risky for the traffic as they obstruct the vision and also divert the attention of drivers," said Abul Hasnat, executive engineer, Zone-Six of DCC.

DCC officials told Star City that advertising agencies now prefer to install unipoles as they occupy less space at the bottom, are easier to set up and also costs less.

Secretary of Outdoor Advertising Owners Association (OAOA) Haji Mohammed Rashed claimed that the new unipoles were being erected on private lands as the DCC was not permitting advertisement boards on public places.

About unipoles, the secretary agreed that they occupy less ground space. "Unlike other boards, it does not take up a lot of space or create vision hazard for drivers and commuters.

Therefore it does not hamper the beauty of the city," said Rashed who however denied that unipoles were less expensive. "One unipole may cost around Tk2.5," he said.

When asked how certain agencies were installing unipole billboards on private land without necessary permission from DCC, Rashed said that all the advertisers have applied for permits. "But of course you can not call it legal unless they get the permission," he added.

The DCC has reportedly directed its zonal offices to deal with the billboard issue instead of the revenue department which had looked after it before. Officials of zonal offices said that they had started dismantling the illegal boards.

"We have limited manpower but we are trying our best," said an official of Zone Six. He also said that the DCC has been unable to dismantle all illegal billboards even after a year of initiating the move because of an injunction from the Appellate Division of Supreme Court following a writ petition filed by OAOA.

Nuisance gangs on the prowl

SYED TASHFİN CHOWDHURY

At least six organised groups of nuisance creators often pounce on innocent passersby near the National Theater in Gulistan and adjoining areas.

Most of the times, incidents of harassment are not reported, as the victims do not want to agitate the miscreants.

Kazi Nilufer Yasmin had to pay over 300 Taka to a certain scoundrel who was carrying a handful of human excreta. The rascal threatened to rub it on Nilufer unless she paid him 100 Taka just after she had got down from a CNG-run taxi near the Rajuk building on one afternoon.

"Bewildered by the whole situation, I reached into my bag, brought out a couple of 100 Taka notes and handed them over to him. Within seconds the miscreant disappeared in the crowd," said Nilufer.

Nilufer later learned from others that such criminals, who are called 'gu-baba' pry on victims around the Rajuk building and at times even stalk people near the Secretariat.

"They apparently ask for higher amounts from males," said Nilufer.

Women are also easy preys of another gang whose members suddenly start to rip apart their own skins with sharp objects and continue to demand money at the same time. The

There is another gang that gets its members to spit on each other and then puts the blame on their desired victim and creates a scene. Soon, other miscreants of the group who lurk nearby, show up and an ugly-situation arises.

abruptness and the gory events, prompt victims into paying the money.

"One such weirdo tried to threaten me into paying him but when I started beating him up he fled the scene with his associates," said a resident of Dhanmondi.

There is another gang that gets its members to spit on each other and then puts the blame on their desired victim and creates a scene. Soon, other miscreants of the group who lurk nearby, show up and an ugly situation arises. The embarrassed victim is thus forced to pay up to maintain his dignity.

The 'bumping' group follows almost the same procedure but picking up a fight with an unsuspecting pedestrian by

intentionally bumping on him. Some foot over bridges in the city are notorious for a gang of women who blackmail mostly rural visitors to the capital.

One of the women usually rush up to the victim, grabs him and starts screaming at the top of her voice claiming that the man had tried to harass her sexually. They also threaten to go to the police and press charges for attempted rape if the victim denies to pay their desired amount.

There are lots of other similar nuisances gangs lurking in certain areas and residents believe that they operate in connivance with corrupt policemen.



An aerial view of the overcrowded Gulistan area, where organised groups harass innocent passers-by.

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
Azampur 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-83111731-25
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 Collage Hospital -- 7310061-4, 7319002-6
Cholera Research Hospital (ICDDR)-8811751-60
Monowra Hospital 8319802, 8318135
- Blood Bank**
Red Crescent Centre-9116563
Sandhani (DMCH)-8624040
Sandhani (SMCH)-7310061, 7310061, 7319022
Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital-8626812-9
- Eye Bank**
Sandhani International Eye Bank-8614040
- Ambulances For Dead Body**
Anzuman Mafidul Islam (Kakrail) 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
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
- Black Cab**
Cab Ex 9359401
Cabline 8321162
JBS Cab 019364575
Sajan 018126036
Anudip -- 8125285 and 8127611
- Union** 8130485
Kool 0171826731
- Cab One** 7113282-3
Paiki 0171052500
Cab I 7113282
Jatri 0171540074
Nipun 9572277
R-Cab 8914782
Star Cab 9571919
Shihab 018202477 & 018228675
KGN 8620011
- TRAIN TIMING**
- Subarna Express
Mahanagar Prabhathi
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