

Study to relocate city rail lines soon

CITY CORRESPONDENT

The government will conduct a feasibility study on relocating the railway lines between the Airport

Station and the Kamalapur Railway Station. The communication minister believes rearrangement, provided the expenditure is feasible, would be a better solution than moving

the Kamalapur Station elsewhere to ease the traffic gridlock at level crossings.

"If we can change the direction of the rail tracks so that trains reach Kamalapur without touching the many roads, we could build elevated rail lines at places where the lines would still intersect a road," said minister for communications Nazmul Huda.

"When the present rail line in the city was established during the British period it was aimed at making Tejgaon station active. That station now is almost useless. So there is no obstacle to rearranging the rail line," Huda added.

At present, the tracks intersect 18 points of the city's road network including busy locations like Notun Bazar, Staff Road, Old DOHS, Mohakhali, Tejgaon, Karwan Bazar, Moghbazar, Noyatola, Wireless Gate and Malibagh Bazar creating long traffic jams at crossings.

About 72 trains arrive and depart Kamalapur Railway Station everyday and pass these level crossings. On an average, traffic at each crossing come to a standstill for 288 minutes everyday as a train takes three to five minutes to pass by.

"If the station is shifted at Joydevpur or Tongi, the passengers of the main city will find the destination difficult to reach and security of the passengers will be another factor of concern especially at night," said Huda.

He also says the relocation of Kamalapur station out side Dhaka would hamper the business as cost of carrying cargo will increase.

Dhaka Transport Coordination Board (DTCB) had a plan to construct partial grade separation (bridges over the rail crossing) at existing level crossings of the city to ease traffic congestion. But experts opposed that plan.



The Kamalapur Railway Station in a sombre state, while (left) a bus waits at a railway crossing for the train to pass

Chhayanaut Bhaban gets Rajuk's nod



STAR PHOTO

The Chhayanaut Bhaban is now ready to continue with construction after it finally received approval from Rajuk.

AVIK SANWAR RAHMAN

Chhayanaut has finally won approval for its planned Shangkritik Bhaban (cultural centre) from the Rajdhani Unnayan Katrapakkha (Rajuk) after a two-year wait. Rajuk had suspended the construction in September 2002.

"Rajuk issued a letter to us last month (January) informing that the Shangkritik Bhaban's plan had been approved with some changes made to the revised plan that was submitted two years ago," said Khairul Anam Shakil, general secretary of Chhayanaut.

"In December last year, minister for Housing & Public Works Mirza Abbas called officials of Chhayanaut to his office to discuss about the plan and instructed Rajuk to do the needful. We have been taking classes here and there for more than 40 years and now we are very happy that at last we are getting a building of our own," said Shakil.

About 1300 students are now studying song, dance, tabla and sitar at Chhayanaut.

"We need at least 20 class rooms for our students. We hope to start construction by April," added Shakil.

The Housing & Public Works Ministry had allotted Chhayanaut one-bigha land on Road 26 (old) of Dhanmondi residential area on a 99-year lease for Tk 1,001 in 2001 to build the Shangkritik Bhaban.

Bashirul Haq did the architectural design of the building and Rajuk passed the plan on May 13, 2002. Construction work began following the approval but Rajuk later sent a notice to Chhayanaut telling it to stop the work for breaching Rajuk's code in the plan.

According to a Rajuk report, the land for Chhayanaut Bhaban was allotted in a residential area but the residential area code does not allow separate entrance and exit ways in any building. But Bashirul

Haq's plan had separate entrance and exit facilities.

"Although the land was allotted in exchange for a token sum, Chhayanaut had to spend Tk 20 lakh to get the permission of constructing a commercial building. We had already spent another 20 lakh Taka in construction before we were stopped by Rajuk," said Sanzida Khatun,

According to a Rajuk report, the land for Chhayanaut Bhaban was allotted in a residential area but the residential area code does not allow separate entrance and exit ways in any building, yet the architect's design had a separate entrance and an exit

principal of Chhayanaut.

The estimated expenditure of the six-storied building is Tk five crore. Chhayanaut is expecting to cover the cost from donations.

"We started with our own funds amounting Tk one crore," said Sanzida. Chhayanaut also received huge

response from people of all walks of life. More than one crore Taka has already been collected from Bangladeshis at home and abroad.

"Our artists also contribute by staging programmes. Theatre and recital groups donate from their show money, individuals send cheques. People are contributing in whatever way they can. Even a peon of a government office gave 100 Taka for the Bhaban," said Sanzida.

Chhayanaut has released a 60-minute cassette comprising recitation of Golam Mustofa and songs of Nilufar Yasmin.

"Those were the last performances by Golam Mustofa and Nilufar Yasmin before they passed away. They did the cassette to raise funds for the Bhaban," said Sanzida.

But Chhayanaut is concerned at the cost of construction material going up.

"The fund collection has been hampered due to the stop order from the Rajuk and the delay in passing the revised plan. Two years have passed since they stopped the construction and now the cost will be more, especially because of the abnormal price hike of rods," said Shakil.

The Chhayanaut Shangkritik Bhaban will have an auditorium for cultural programmes, classrooms and a recording studio.

Chhayanaut was established in 1961. At that time its artists performed at the Bashanta Utshab (autumn festival), Pohela Baishakh, birth anniversaries of Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam. After the establishment of the school in 1963, some 40,000 students have studied at this institution and many of the country's leading cultural personalities have graduated from here. After independence, Chhayanaut ran its school at the University Laboratory School and later when students increased, it rented class rooms of Kalabagan Girl's School at Lake Circus.

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COURIER SERVICES

International
Air Borne Express- 9561371, 9561372, 9550724
Air Couriers Intl (BD) Ltd.- 8815970
Aramex International Courier- 9558003, 9559582, 9565075
Airspeed Express- 9563494
Asian Courier Services Ltd.- 8313543
Baishakhi Courier Service- 9558606
Banladesh Express Co. Ltd.- 9565114
Bangladesh Courier Service- 9563989
Bengal Express- 9560642, 9552666
Bangladesh Intl 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- 9352431, 8321169
Pacific Courier- 9568446
Reliance Express Service- 9558515, 7110249
Sky International service- 9660442
Skynet world Wide Express- 9558062, 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,
Cosmopol Services- 9552793, 9557975
Dhaka Courier Services- 7236222

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

LIBRARY & INFO

Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers
Central Public Library- 8626001-4,
Shishu Academy- 9564128
Shilpakala 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- 8850141, 8850142
The Russian Cultural Centre- 9116314, 9118531, 9118314
Drik Photo Gallery- 9120125, 8112954, 8123412

OUTING

Museum and Zoo
National Museum- 8619396-9
Open: 10 am 5 pm, Friday 3 pm- 8 pm, Thursday closed
Muktijuddha 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	Starts from
1	Gulistan-Shahbagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 10, 11, 12	Golap Shah Mazar
2	Gulistan-Shahbagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 1, 2	Phoolbaria bus station
3	Gulistan-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Mahakhali-Airport-Azampur	Phoolbaria bus station
4	Shyampur-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Airport-Tongi	Shyampur
5	Sayedabad-Kamalapur-Motijheel-Airport-Joydebpur-Gazipur	Sayedabad
6A	Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Gulshan 1, 2	Kamalapur
6B	Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 1, 2	Kamalapur
6C	Motijheel Shapla chattr- Malibagh- Farmgate- Gulshan 2	Motijheel Shaplachattr
7	Sadarghat-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 2	Sadarghat
8	Chittagong-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Asad Gate-Kalyanpur-Gabtoil	Chittagong Road
9	Demra Rani mahal-Motijheel-Kalabagan-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 10, 11, 12	Demra Ranimahat
10	Sadarghat-Gulistan-Kakrail-Mailbagh-Rampura-Biswa Road-Tongi Bridge	Sadarghat
11	Sayedabad-Motijheel-Fakirapool-Maghbazar-Mohakhali-Tongi Bridge	Sayedabad
11/A	Sayedabad-Khilgoan-Mailbagh-Rampura-Airport-Tongi Bridge	Syedabad
12	Shanir Akhra-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Asadgate-Mohammadpur	Shanir Akhra
13	Motijheel-Shahbagh-New Market-Jhigatola-Shangkar-Mohammedpur	Motijheel
14	Signboard -Motijheel-Shahbagh-New Market-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 12	Signboard (Chittagong Road)
15	Chittagong Road-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Mirpur 12	Chittagong Road
24	Gulistan-Maghbazar-Mohakhali-Airport-Uttara-Bipile	Gulistan