

BRTC's tourism service delayed

SABRINA KARIM MURSHED

The state-owned Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC)' s planned launching of minibus service for tourism in collaboration with Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC) has been put back as the BRTC has not received the minibuses yet. "We wanted to begin the service from this June but Progoti Industries could not deliver even one of the 20 minibuses," said a high official of BRTC. Progoti assembles heavy vehicles in the country by bringing components from abroad. "Maybe it is taking more time because of the import process," said the official. He was however confident that the service could begin from July this year. Progoti Industries, a wing of Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation is

due to supply the 20 minibuses to BRTC for running cheap and comfortable bus service for tourism in the capital and adjoining areas. BRTC chairman Taimur Alam Khandokar had earlier told the Star City that the initiative had been taken to enable low and middle income groups and especially students to avail the opportunity of visiting historical places and important establishments at a low cost. "We believe this offer will be convenient for people to visit tourist attractions easily," the chairman said. He said the BRTC opted for the minibuses as they cost less. Also, the BRTC has to withdraw its buses from regular routes when people or organisations hire buses for pleasure trips. Once the service is in operation, such problems would not arise. "Heavy buses cost around 24 lakh Taka each while each

of the 30-seater minibuses will cost 12.63 lakh Taka." Progoti Industries will supply 20 minibuses in first phase. Eventually, the target is to have 50 buses in the fleet. The chairman said the minibuses might run on specific routes fixed by the BRTC to cover different tourist attractions. Ten such spots including the Ahsan Manzil and Lalbagh Fort have been selected but not finalised. The buses will be available for hire by educational institutions and other organisations. When asked about the fare, BRTC officials said that nothing has been fixed as yet. They said it would depend on fuel cost. The chairman however, said the fare would be less than that of private bus companies.

Waste management at hospitals, clinics to start soon

IMRUL HASAN

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) in association with a private organisation named Prism Bangladesh has taken an initiative for the waste management of government and non-government hospitals, private clinics and diagnostics centres. An agreement was signed between DCC and Prism in 2003. Accordingly, a one-acre land at Matuail has been allotted to Prism which will begin its waste management operation soon. "Our trained staff and waste carrying trucks are ready but some official formalities are yet to be completed," said Anisur Rahman, executive director of Prism Bangladesh. The waste management would start with Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) and 26 non-government hospitals, clinics and diagnostics centres of Dhanmondi area. "We are the first to take an initiative in removing harmful waste of clinics and hospitals. If the progress is satisfactory then the entire city will come under our area of operation in the future," said Soheli Farouque, chief conservancy officer of DCC.

Prism officials said that using the hi-tech incinerator method is very much needed to destroy the harmful medical waste. Only the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases Research, Bangladesh (ICDDRDB) use this technology in the country. It is very expensive because one dollar is spent on destroying every 12kg of waste. The Japanese government is reportedly interested in investing in this project.

There is another technique, the decompose system, which is less expensive and more viable in the context of Bangladesh. In this method, waste like human tissues, body-parts, blood and blood products, body fluids, linen, soaked bandage are buried in different layers of the ground. Papers, clothes, boxes, medicine, containers, polythene, plastic containers and similar stuff will be recycled. Water Sanitation Program (WSP), an organization of World Bank (WB) is funding the training programme while Canadian International development Agency (CIDA) is helping with the establishment and transportation. Workers of Prism Bangladesh will collect the waste from the hospitals and clinics before dumping it at the designated location in Matuail. "We have taken steps to raise awareness about waste management at clinics and hospitals. Soon we will arrange a seminar for the media. Government and political patronage is also needed," said Anisur Rahman. Prism Bangladesh is involved with agriculture, rural industry, science and medicine related works. It has been in operation since 1989.



The existing dumping ground at Matuail.

useful telephonenumber numbers

OURIER 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
Banmgladesh Express Co. Ltd.- 9565114
Bangladesh Courier Sercive- 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- 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

Dolphin Courier- 9558802
Dreamland Courier Service- 9550326, 9566975
Pioneer Courier Services- 9561727, 9569759
Probashi Courier Services- 9346359
Rainbow Express Parcel Services Ltd.- 8322773, 8315703
Reliance Express Services- 9558515, 7110249
Sundarban Courier Services- 9551984, 9556189, 9551656
Sunrise Courier Services- 9568751
World Runner Express Ltd. 9112068, Fax - 880-2-9112068

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

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
6 A	Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Gulshan 1, 2	Kamalapur
6 B	Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 1, 2	Kamalapur
6 C	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-Gabtol	Chittagong Road
9	Demra Rani mahal-Motijheel-Kalbagan-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 10, 11, 12	Demra Ranimahal
10	Sadarghat-Gulistan-Kakrail-Malibagh-Rampura-Biswa Road-Tongi Bridge	Sadarghat
11	Sayedabad-Motijheel-Fakirapool-Maghbazar-Mohakhali-Tongi Bridge	Sayedabad
11/A	Sayedabad-Khilgoan-Malibagh-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

3x2

7x6

4x2