

Chaotic parking Indira Road's bane

IMRUL HASAN

Haphazard and illegal parking at Indira Road is causing severe traffic congestion in the busy Farmgate intersection.

The authorities concerned have not taken any effective initiative to address the situation. On duty traffic policemen appear least interested in discouraging drivers of buses and minibuses from stopping their vehicles at will on supposed no-parking zones.

Although there is a Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) designated bus stop almost half a mile from the intersection, drivers do not prefer that location. Rather they just park their vehicles near the crowded spots and wait indefinitely for passengers. In exchange, each bus reportedly has to pay the local police a bribe of Tk 100 everyday.

"As passengers do not go to the designated bus stop, we are bound to halt here. We are never disturbed by the police as they take Tk 100 everyday per bus," said Matir Rahman, a bus driver.

The DC Traffic (North) however, denied the allegation and claimed that the authorities take stern action against corrupt law enforcers if specific complaints are lodged. "People can come to me directly with names of such traffic policemen with evidence," said Md. Feroj Al Mujahid Khan.

Meanwhile, commuters using the road everyday complained that drivers stop

A Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) designated bus stop almost half a mile from the intersection stands on Indira road, but drivers prefer to park their vehicles near the crowded spots and wait indefinitely for passengers. In exchange, each bus reportedly has to pay the local police a bribe of Tk 100 everyday.

their buses haphazardly right under the noses of the law enforcers. Accidents often occur when passengers are in a rush to get on board buses. Crossing the road has also become unsafe.

On-duty traffic policemen at Farmgate said that they were trying to keep illegal parking under control but admitted it was a tough job.

"Traffic congestion in this area happens mainly because the road is not wide enough. Another reason is that hundreds of people wait on the road for transports. That is why a chaotic situation is created when buses stop here," said an on-duty police sergeant. "We do not let the buses stay here for a long

time to minimise the traffic congestion," he added.

Farmgate is one of the busiest intersections in the city. A large number of buses of various routes pass through it. As a result, Indira Road remains occupied almost throughout the day. Farmgate is also home to a large number of coaching centres, educational institutions and shopping centres which attract thousands of people. Besides, tempos and human haulers occupy one third of the road stretching from Tejgaon College to Dhaka Coaching. Drivers of these vehicles also constantly fight for parking space on the road and often become reckless.



Buses are parked anywhere along Indira Road to pick and drop passengers, immaterial of the designated bus-stops.

Work on Wasa's bottled water plant delayed

KAUSAR ISLAM AYON

Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) could not start work on its bottled water plant this month as the land is yet to

be prepared for setting up the plant which will be run commercially.

Wasa officials had earlier said they would start the construction work by June. But they failed to hand over the land to Paragon

Enterprise Limited, the company which got the contract.

"It will take about one month to fill up the wetland and make it ready for setting up the plant. By that time the company will finalise their design and work plan,"

said Wasa Managing Director ANH Akhter Hossain.

Wasa signed the contract with Paragon earlier this month.

The Tk 13-crore project includes setting up of a water plant and a plastic bottle manufacturing unit," said the Wasa managing director. "We hope the project will complete by December this year."

The plant is likely to start production in January next year.

The plant will produce 10,000 litres of water an hour. Wasa officials said they will provide the customers with pure drinking water at the cheapest possible price.

"Our price will be at least 30 percent lower than that of other companies," Akhter Hossain said.

The project was initiated during the tenure of the previous government but Wasa took three years to complete the tender process.

Initially it was decided that a mineral water plant would be set up at the Sayedabad Water Treatment Plant. In March 2004, the LGRD ministry suggested setting up of both water and bottle manufacturing plants.

"Now we have decided to set up both the plants on Wasa's own land," said the Wasa managing director.



A Wasa tank supplying water to residences in the water-crisis hit Mohammadpur area.

useful telephonenumber 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
Baishakhi Courier Service- 9558606
Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.- 9565114
Bangladesh Courier Service- 9563999
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, 9556404, 4,9886395
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 Shaplachatter
7	Sadarghat-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 2	Sadarghat
8	Chittagong-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Asad Gate-Kalyanpur-Gabtolli	Chittagong Road
9	Demra Rani mahal-Motijheel-Kalbagan-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 10, 11, 12	Demra Ranimahall
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