



A scientist at work at the DNA lab.

DNA lab gets going on trial basis

KAUSAR ISLAM AYON

The first ever DNA (deoxyribose nucleic acid) testing laboratory in the country has started functioning on a trial basis from April this year but its formal launch could be delayed.

The lab at the Dhaka Medical College's (DMC) forensic department was originally scheduled for a December 2003 launch but bureaucratic wrangles put back its journey by over two years. Officials at the lab who are now working on an experimental basis said that some more time is needed before it could be fully operational.

"We need to train up the police and the doctors as they are the ones who will collect the DNA samples from the victims and the crime spots. They must know how to collect and preserve samples prop-

The lab at the Dhaka Medical College's (DMC) forensic department was originally scheduled for a December 2003 launch but bureaucratic wrangles put back its journey by over two years.

erly before sending to the lab for testing. Otherwise, the results might be erroneous," said national technical advisor to the DNA lab Sharif Akteruzzaman

"Lawyers should also know how to protest or substantiate the evidences involving DNA test results," he added.

Akteruzzaman emphasised on the need to build up a data-

base of DNA records with samples from the common people as well as known criminals. "For this we need help from the Ministry of Home Affairs."

Meanwhile, employees of the lab are concerned about their job status as they have not been put under the revenue.

On October 2004, 11

employees of the lab were recruited and since the experimental launch in April, they have only received four day's salary in six months.

"Our job is not secured. The contract can be terminated at any time with a month's prior notice. Under this situation, it is impossible to give 100 percent effort," said an employee of the lab who also acknowledged the risk factor on the government's part.

"To train us, the authorities are spending a huge amount of money. If an employee leaves all of a sudden, then that investment goes to total waste," he.

The lab still does not have a direct phone connection and has to rely on the DMCH's PABX system. Lab officials have pleaded for internet connection but at the moment only the national technical advisor enjoys that facility.

Local businesses protest DCC's proposed Nilkhet Square

CITY CORRESPONDENT

The decision of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) to construct Nilkhet Square has triggered protests from local businesspeople.

DCC Mayor Sadek Hossain Khoka, on July 18, laid the foundation stone for the construction of Nilkhet Square a six-storied building --at the northern end of the existing market complex. The stone was laid on the footpath obstructing pedestrian movement.

He said the square was being put up to enhance the beauty of the Nilkhet area, and is included in DCC's development programme where multi-storied shopping complexes, business centres and apartments on its own land at Gulshan, Banani, Ramna and Mirpur would shortly be built.

DCC will own 25 percent shares of Nilkhet Square while Esna Resources, the company that will bear the construction costs, will get 75 percent shares. The construction cost is estimated at Tk 5.5 crore and is expected to be completed in 30 months.

"There are many educational institutions including Dhaka University around the site, so the square will become the hub of this zone," said Motahar Hossain

Jahangir, commissioner of DCC Ward number 52.

But the Bakushah Hawker's Market Cooperative Society, Islamia Market Banik Samity, Babupura Small Businessmen's Association, Shajalal Market and Banijya Bitan Super Market and the local businesspeople are against the construction.

"The land in front of our market, for the proposed square, is government khas land. The authorities have not allotted the area nor has DCC got approval from Rajuk for the construction," said Nurul Islam Alam, general secretary of the Bakushah Hawker's Market Cooperative Society.

"We filed a case against DCC for not registering 1.7 acres of land within the market areas, which the DCC was supposed to do. The High Court on December 14, 2004 ordered DCC not to create obstacles to the place we occupy," he added.

A silent protest programme, by business associations of different markets of Nilkhet area, against the DCC move, was observed on August 3.

The protest demanded that construction of Nilkhet Square should be suspended until 1.7 acres of land was handed over to shop owners.

Shop owners claimed that they paid DCC Tk. 16.821 crore for the land and are still awaiting purchase receipts.

"Last month I spent Tk 2 lakh for interior decor of my shop. But now I fear that DCC might demolish it," said Sanaullah, proprietor of Anamika Tailors and Fabrics whose shop is just beside the spot where the square is expected to be constructed.

"I depend on the income of this shop to support my family and so are the three persons employed by me," he added.

Opposing the DCC plan to construct Nilkhet Square, Abdul Khalek, president of the Bakushah Complex Samity said: "The market would not only ruin business of 2,000 shops, but also create severe traffic congestion."

But businesspersons of the already existing DCC market allege that Bakushah Complex too, is illegal as the land on which the Bakushah Market is located does not have Rajuk allocation.

The proposed Nilkhet Square will be built on 18.87 kathas and will house 483 shops with modern facilities including car parking, elevator and generator backup.



An aerial view of the Nilkhet area.

useful telephone 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
Baisakhli Courier Service- 9558606
Banmgladesh Express Co. Ltd.- 9565114
Bangladesh Courier Service- 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 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
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 Shaplachattar
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	Sayedabad
12	Shanir Akhra-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Asadgate-Mohammadpur	Shanir Akhra
13	Motijheel-Shahbagh-New Market-Jhigatola-Shangkar-Mohammadpur	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