

Bus bays fail to ease traffic jam on Airport Road

Drivers, passengers reluctant to use bus bays

SULTANA RAHMAN

Commuters still face traffic jam on the Airport Road as bus drivers do not stop their vehicles at the newly constructed bus bays. They take passengers from the roadside and even

middle of the road.

Ten bus bays were constructed recently for the smooth flow of traffic and to ensure passengers' safety on the road.

"None of the buses uses the bays, forcing the commuters to wait beside the main road and footpaths for bus," said Md Feroz Al

Mujahid Khan, DC Traffic (North) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP).

"Road safety and traffic management depend on both the passengers and the bus drivers. If they use the bus bays, it would help manage traffic on this accident-prone road," he added.

According to DMP, on average 15 people are killed a year in accidents on this road.

Thousands of passengers commute by bus on this road every day. Each of the 22 bus companies, which set up ticket counters at the bus bays, sells on average 200 tickets daily.

Besides, around 1,500 buses are operated on this route without setting up counters for selling tickets. Passengers waiting on the roadside without any queue scramble to get on these buses.

The commuters and the drivers, however, blame each other for not using the bay. "Buses do not stop in front of their counters at the bay. So we are forced to wait beside the main road," a passenger alleged.

The drivers said they stop the buses outside the bays for the convenience of the passengers as the bays are always blocked by non-motorised vehicles, especially rickshaws.

Roads and Highways Department (RHD) constructed the bays in the last fiscal year under a Tk 20 crore project that also included widening of roads, beautification and lighting.

RHD officials said it is the duty of traffic police to ensure the use of the bus bays for smooth flow of traffic on the road.

Golam Mohammad, an official of RHD, said, "The drivers as well as the passengers need motivation through traffic department to ensure the use of the bays for the sake of road safety."

But traffic department officials said the bays have been built without separating them from the main road. The DC traffic (North) said that if there were medians between the main road and the bays, the drivers and passengers would have been encouraged to use them.



Newly constructed bus bays cannot ensure smooth flow of traffic as vehicles are parked indiscriminately on the airport road.

STAR PHOTO

DU lacks fund for buying new books

IMRUL HASAN

The students of Dhaka University are deprived of latest edition of books as the university authorities are unable to buy new books for the DU libraries and departments due to lack of funds.

"We have to follow the 1982 edition of 'Introduction to Soil Microbiology,' a book by Alexander. The new edition is not available in the library," said Alamgir Hussain, a fourth-year student of Soil, Water and Environment Department.

"Sometimes we have to buy books from Nilkhet or New Market as we cannot find them in our libraries or departments," he said. "We are deprived of learning new concepts due to lack of latest books."

DU library officials admitted the fact. They said the DU authorities do not have adequate fund for buying new books for the students as the prices of books and journals are increasing rapidly.

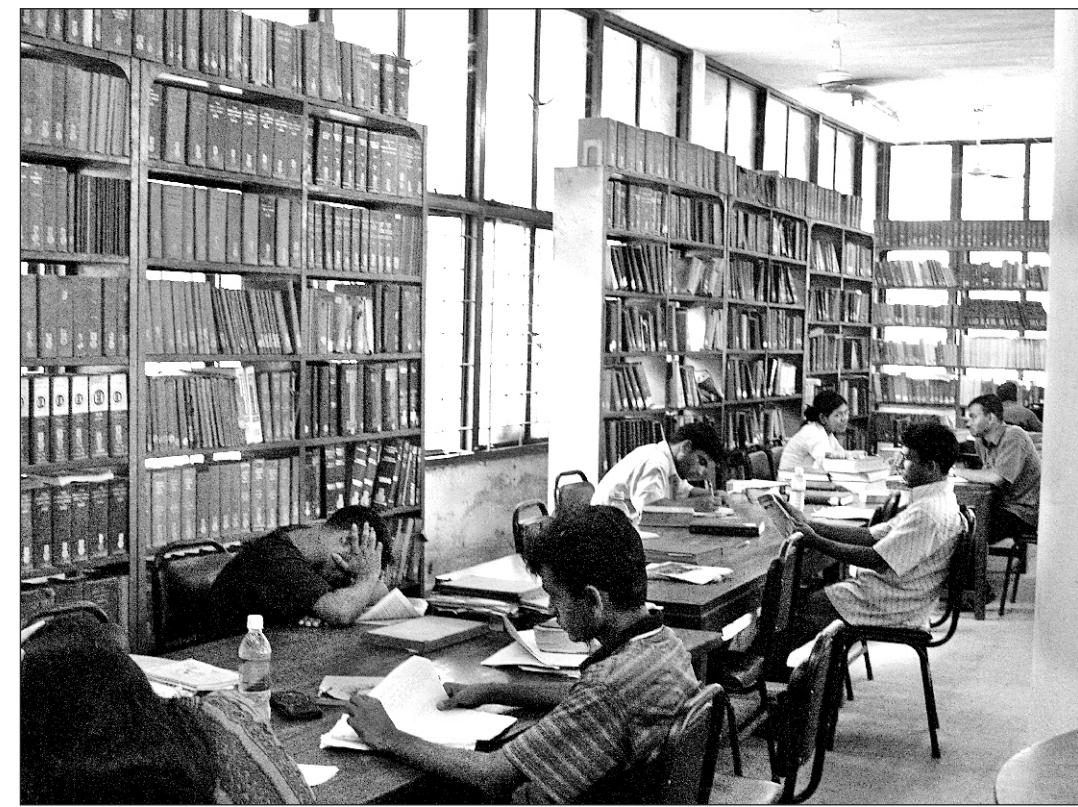
An official of the central library said the book crisis can be minimised by providing the students with photocopies of latest books of foreign publishers that are sold in market at a very high price.

The teachers also face the same problem.

"The Journal of Information Science costs \$335 a copy. I have brought this expensive book from England. The university authorities cannot afford to spend such a huge amount on a book," said a junior teacher of the Department of Information Science and Library Management.

There should be an alternative way to solve the crisis of books, he said, suggesting that the management of the central library should be handed over to professional librarians.

Prof Golam Rahman, chairman of Mass Communication and Journalism Department, said the



Inadequate supply of latest editions in the DU libraries deprives students of advanced knowledge.

book purchase fund of

"We suggest the central library should buy two books where five are needed. As the price of books is very high most of the teachers follow their personal

research materials in

to increase the allotment for buying books so that students get books of latest edition."

Khandaker Fazlur Rahman, in charge of planning and development at the DU central library, said "We are trying

He said the budget of this fiscal year for buying books is Tk 89 lakh.

10x3

10x2

12x3