

Drivers reluctant to use bus bays

IMRUL HASAN

Bus drivers who do not use the newly built bays on the road side, are causing traffic jam on the busy roads of the city thanks to the reluctance and irresponsible behaviour. They stop their vehicles to take passengers in the middle of the streets instead of the bays making the flow of traffic slow.

Naturally, those waiting to board a bus don't have any choice but to wait on the streets instead of the footpaths risking their lives.

The bays were built as an extension of the roads beside a bus stop to ensure that buses exit and enter the city-streets from the stops to a separate lane.

"If the bus bays are used by the drivers regularly, the passengers would not be forced to wait here and there," said SM Mizanur Rahman, the commis-

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sioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) adding that several bus bays were constructed on the busy roads of Dhaka city to ease traffic jam.

"By using the bus bays, the drivers can also help improve the road safety and traffic management system," he said.

When asked why the on duty traffic police do not enforce their power, the police commissioner said: "Police department is very conscious about its role and responsibilities, but nothing will

improve if there is no public awareness."

According to DMP, on average 35 people are killed a year in road accidents.

Thousands of passengers commute by bus in Dhaka every day. Almost all the bus companies have set up their ticket counters at the bays.

Moreover, around 4500 buses and 8500 minibuses of both government and private companies run in the city on different routes.

Passengers waiting on the roadside scramble to get on these buses since they do not stop at the designated spots.

The commuters and the drivers blame each other for the inconvenience.

"Buses do not stop in front of their counters at the bay. So we are forced to wait on the main road," said Hasan Jahid, a Dhaka University student who was waiting for a bus at Shahbagh.

On the other hand, Md. Anis, a



A bus bay at Kakoli intersection in Banani remain empty while buses stop in the middle of the streets.

bus driver on route 8 said: "As the non-motorised vehicles, especially rickshaw pullers park their rickshaws in the bus bays, it is difficult for us to stop our buses there."

Roads and Highways Department (RHD) constructed the bays in 2004-05 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 that bus drivers use the bays for smooth flow of traffic.

"Both passengers and bus drivers must be made aware of the positive impacts of using bus

bays and it can effectively be done by the traffic department," a high official of RHD said.

But traffic department officials said that there are flaws in the way these bays have been constructed, which is not encouraging the passengers and the drivers to use the bus bays.

A high official of the DC traffic (West) of DMP said: "If the main roads and bus bays are separated by dividers, it would be more convenient for the passengers and the bus drivers to use the bays."

Nam village facilities weigh over jute research institute

TAWFIQUE ALI

Parliament Secretariat and Public Works Department (PWD), ignoring the speaker's verbal instructions for postponement, remain rigid to take the land where the Bangladesh Jute Research Institute (BJRI) intends to set up laboratory and training centre for jute diversification.

While the BJRI plans to establish a biotechnology laboratory, training centre and dormitory, parliament secretariat wants to set up police barracks, parking, barbershop and departmental store to facilitate the residents of NAM Village on Manik Miah Avenue just beside the institute.

The PWD's resource division will implement the work under its Special Apartment Implementation Project (SAIP) as required by the parliament secretariat.

"We will consult with the higher authority soon regarding the take over of land from BJRI, in line with the decision taken by the residential sub-committee of the parlia-

mentary standing committee," said executive engineer Rawshan Habib, head of PWD's resource division.

Speakers' instruction to stall the move was verbal, said Habib, also manager of SAIP, but the residential sub-committee resolved that the NAM Village project would not be complete unless the said establishments are available to provide residents with amenities.

"I am not sure if the rules require land transfer in this case to follow the procedure of land acquisition," he said. "It is the Architecture Department that determines site and area of land for government establishments," he added.

"They will take over the land in the same arbitrary manner they took the 4.7 acres of the institute's land earlier for NAM flat project," said a BJRI top official seeking anonymity.

The institute has prepared the project proposal (PP) for setting up of a biotechnology laboratory, training centre and dormitory for jute diversification research work

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at the said land exceeding one bigha.

"The agriculture ministry forwarded the PP to the Architecture Department for approval of the construction plan," said the official adding that a biotech laboratory is an integral part of the institute and has to be on the same premises.

This site has been BJRI's home since its inception in 1952, but the Architecture Department raised an objection to the con-

struction design submitted by BJRI, said Rawshan Habib.

Amenities for NAM residents will be developed in the second phase of the SAIP project, said its director Anwar Hossain.

Parliament secretariat simply took over BJRI's land on several occasions according to its requirements, said a mid-level officer of BJRI requesting anonymity.

"This time, they are disregarding a vital cause of jute research

and diversification to ensure convenience of the NAM residents who include parliament members and other influential people," he said. "It is now up to the government to decide what has to be done," he added.

Dr. Md Kamal Uddin, president of BJRI's scientific officers' association, said that then institute wrote to the agriculture ministry to stop the move take over the land required for the establishment of the research

institute.

Following ministry's intervention, the speaker verbally asked the parliamentary standing committee to hold the move.

"The Jute institute's project for research and diversification is an approved scheme by the government itself," Kamal said.

"Far as I am aware, a floating work order and hiring a project consultant is underway," he said.

"Whether we realise it or not, environmentalists and the inter-

national community are eager to promote diversified uses of jute in today's context of environmental challenges across the globe," he added.

Kamal further said that they hoped the authorities concerned will refrain from the move to use the land for a purpose other than jute research, after the speaker's instructions.

Parliament secretariat's assistant secretary Mansur Ahmed Khan the to BJRI's director general (DG) on May 15 that they have already had the plans passed for construction of the said establishments.

The establishments will be set up on the land located to the west of Building no-6 and to the south of Building no-3 of the NAM Village.

Learning of the move to take its land much earlier, the BJRI authorities through agriculture ministry requested the PWD on April 18 to take such initiatives as per existing rules.

The PWD, as per rules, should send a proposal to the agriculture ministry and meet all the formal-

ties of land transfer from BJRI. It is also required to compensate the BJRI for the land.

None of these requirements has been met in this case.

Earlier 4.7 acres of BJRI land was taken for six buildings of the NAM Village in which case too rules of government land transfer were not followed.

In the face of an audit objection, the Public Works Ministry paid the compensation for the land in June 2006, according to a top official of BJRI.

Expressing their disappointment, officials of BJRI said that they are helpless in a situation when land for research work for jute diversification is being taken for parking and barbershop.

Budget for biotechnology and other buildings are to be carried out under a project for jute production, diversification and the expansion programme.

BJRI's DG Dr Firoze Shah Shikder declined to comment saying: "The agriculture ministry is dealing with the matter."

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HEALTH

Hospitals

Anjuman-e-Mofidul Islam 9336611, 7411660

BARDEM 8616641-50

Cholera Hospital (ICDDR) 8811751-60

CMH (Dhaka) 9870011

Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital 8628612-6

Holy Family Red Crescent 8311721-5

Islamia Eye Hospital 9119315, 8112156

Lion Eye Hospital 9129127

Medinova Medical Services 8620353-4

Mirpur General Hospital (Pvt) Ltd 9007873, 8015444

Mitford Hospital 7319002-6

National Heart Foundation Hospital 8014914, 8010491, 8021399

Orthopedic Hospital 9112150

Salimullah Medical College Hospital 7319002-6

Samorita Hospital 9131901

Shahid Suhrawardi Hospital 9122560-78, 9112086, 8114856, 9130800

Shishu Hospital 8116061-2, 9119119

Clinics

Akand Clinic 8015855, 8022581

Aroggaya Niketan 9333730

BAVS Maternity 8016413-4

Dhaka Monorog Clinic 9005050

Gulshan Mother & Child Clinic 8822738, 8812992

Ibn Sina Clinic 8119513

Jahanara Clinic (Pvt) Ltd 8912929

Judi Maternity 9113322

Paltan Poly Clinic 9557385

Retina Eye Center (Clinic) 9884588, 9884566

Shishu Bekash Clinic 9351625

MARKET CLOSED

The Eye Clinic 9333238

Blood Bank

Red Crescent Centre- 9116563

Sandhani (DMCH)- 8624040

Sandhani (SMCH)- 7310061, 7310061,7319022

Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital- 8626812-9

Eye Bank

Sandhani International Eye Bank- 8614040

Ambulances For Dead Body

Anzuman Mafidul Islam (Kakrail) 9336611, Gandaria 7319808, 7318166,

Al-Markajul Islam 9127867,

Gulshan 1, 2 markets-Friday

Elephant Road-Friday

Bishal Center-Friday

Baitual Mukarram Market-Friday

Polwell Market-Friday

BCS Computer City-Friday

Isha Khan Shopping Complex-Friday.

Rajlaxmi Complex-Friday

Stadium Market-Friday

Bangabazar Market-Friday

National Museum-Thursday

Ahsan Manzil--Thursday.

New Market-Tuesday

Gausia Market-Tuesday

Mouchak Market-Sunday

Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesdeay

Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday

Eastern Plaza-Sunday

Farmview Super Market-Sunday

Muktijuddha Jadughar-Sunday

Dhaka Zoo-Sunday

Shishu Jadughar-Sunday

TAXI CAB

Passenger's Complain

01711-000990, 01711-000991, 01711-000992, DMP-999, 2627.

Cab Salida Ltd. 9344477, 01711-620888, 01711-610405

Cosmo Cab Ltd. 9112959, 8127191,

Nitol Cab Co. Ltd. 8125285, 01711-621953

JBS Cab Ltd.0191-364575

Coal Cab Ltd 8130485, 01711-826731

Limujin Cab Ltd. 9318351, 9337204

Multi-Cab Ltd. 9666502, 9570740

Nihon Taxi Cab Ltd. 8624742,

8624741

Orion Taxi Cab Ltd. 9347277, 9347277, 01711-155144

Reliance Cab Ltd. 9339563-4

RMS Cab Ltd. 8118536

Shatarupa Taxi Cab Ltd. 731083, 01711-458740

Tinni Cab Ltd. 9662009, 01711-645257

Teletex Cab Ltd. 7202201

Alif Cab Co. Ltd. 0191-357838, 83116948

Cab One Ltd. 9563054 Ext.-3077, 3178

United Cab Ltd. 7510166, 01711-

Leaves Dhaka at 4:30 pm

Leaves Dhaka at 7:30 am

Leaves Dhaka at 3:15 pm

Leaves Dhaka at 11:00 pm

Leaves Dhaka at 6:40 am

Leaves Dhaka at 12:45 pm

Leaves Dhaka at 9:45 pm

Leaves Dhaka at 7:00 am

Leaves Dhaka at 5:00 pm

Leaves Dhaka at 8:00 pm

Leaves Dhaka at 9:20 pm

TRAIN TIMING

Subarna Express

Mahanagar Prabhati

Mahanagar Godhuli

Turna

Parabat Express

Joyantika Express

Upaban Express

Tista Express

Ekata Express

Upakul Express

Agnibeena Express

Reaches Chittagong at 10:35 pm

Reaches Chittagong at 1:55 pm

Reaches Chittagong at 10:55 pm

Reaches Chittagong at 6:40 am

Reaches Sylhet at 2:30 pm

Reaches Sylhet at 9:20 pm

Reaches Sylhet at 6:40 am

Reaches Bahadurabad at 1:05 pm

Reaches Bahadurabad at 11:15

Reaches Noakhali at 5:00 am

Reaches Jagannath at 2:30 pm

LIBRARY & INFO

Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers

Central Public Library- 8626001-4,

Shishu Academy- 9564128

Shilpakala Academy- 8614673

Bangla Academy- 8619550

Islamic Foundation- 9550280, 9556407

Nazrul Institute- 9114602

Ford Foundation- 8116133

Alliance Francaise- 8611557

Information Resource Center, The American Center - 8813440-4, 9886395-9

British Council- 8618867-8, 8618905-7

Community Development Library- 8113769, 8113604

Goethe Institute Int'l- Dhaka- 9126525-6

Indian Information Centre & Cultural Library- 8850141-2

The Russian Cultural Centre- 9116314, 9118531, 9118314

Drik Photo Gallery- 9120125, 8112954, 8123412

Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) 9330081-4