

DCC struggles to arrange car park at Karwan Bazar

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Karwan Bazar, one of the most important commercial areas in Dhaka, becomes an example of encroaching spree of public land while Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) failed to provide any parking place for the increasing number of vehicles in the area.

The corporation tried to arrange car park on the one-way roads in Karwan Bazar but Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) rejected it fearing traffic congestion. While the DCC struggles to arrange parking space in the area, a children's park and a designated place for car parking remain under the grip of the encroachers.

Karwan Bazar children's park has become a wholesale market. The 3-acre space where the existing Karwan Bazar Khudra

Kanchamal Arat Babosayi Bahumukhu Samabay Samity. The place was designated for a children's park during Ershad regime.

After the fall of Ershad government in 1990, the businessmen in the area started encroaching the park and established the market. About ten years ago the encroachers filed a case against DCC following a notice issued by it to leave the park's space. The court then issued a stay order on encroachment.

After fighting the legal battle, DCC allowed the Babosayi Bahumukhu Samabay Samity to use the land on payment.

An official of the DCC Estate Department said the market will be relocated when the park will be established as per their master plan. He however does not have any idea when they would be able to relocate the biggest kitchen

market in the city.

Just before the last Saarc Summit in Dhaka, the Babosayi Samabay Samity built a permanent structure in their encroached spot for market. There are now 104 shops with 185 square feet area and DCC gets Tk 1,850 per month from each shop.

Beside the park, another open space on the east side of the kitchen market has also remained encroached for several years. This open space was designated for a car park in the area.

The DCC and local hoodlums constructed two concrete buildings in the area earmarked for multi-storeyed car park.

During the last mayor's tenure about five years ago, the DCC secretly allocated 160 shops around the same space, which totally took the open space out of sight from the main road.

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Despite continuous protests the wholesale market at Karwan Bazar, designated for a children's park, is yet to be evacuated.



Recent traffic congestions in the city prompted authorities to initiate new traffic rules during upcoming Ramadan.

New traffic rules during Ramdan in Dhaka

CITY CORRESPONDENT

No rallies or demonstrations will be permitted at key traffic points to allow smooth traffic flow in the city Dhaka during Ramdan and Durga puja, the home ministry decided on Monday.

The law enforcing authorities will give importance on keeping the entry points congestion free during the holy month.

"It will be a miracle for city dwellers especially the transport workers if the traffic flow remains smooth during the Ramdan," Aminul Islam, a bus driver told Star City on yesterday.

"I usually take a detour to get to Motijheel from Mirpur because the roads are closed," he said, adding that on an average he makes 14 to 15 trips a day along the normal route but when the roads are closed due to demonstrations at key traffic points he misses some scheduled trips.

His daily income depended on the number of trips he made a day, and missing trips meant lesser earnings. "I get Tk 70 for each round trip," he said adding that his helper too, like him loses money with the loss of trips. As thousands of people come into the city in Ramdan, it creates

Emphasising on the problem, the ministry took initiatives to keep the traffic flow smooth. The authority will not allow the iftar sellers to set up any structures along the sides of the roads and footpaths in the city during the Ramadan that will also help to ease traffic congestion

pressure on traffic.

"We may lose income but implementation of the decisions may help the transport workers for a better Eid after the Ramdan," he said.

Muktangan, Paltan, Parade ground, Manik Miah Avenue,

Sabujbagh Balur Math are the fixed places for holding rallies in the city and programmes in these places always contributes a lot in creating heavy congestion across the city, a top police official of the traffic wing told Star City.

He said that programmes in such places force the traffic police to divert traffic in different directions, which results heavy traffic pressure on most of the main arterials of the city. "It takes extra effort to divert traffic and it also puts heavy pressure on the whole traffic system," he said.

Rallies at key traffic points in the city cause a landslide in transport workers' daily income and increase inconveniences and sufferings for commuters and the traffic department of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP).

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Iftar sellers will have to display their items within the shop

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city express

The latest crop of quotes from the city's press -- words worth repeating, we feel, for their humour, insight or sheer outrageousness. Star City does not necessarily support the opinions expressed in this column.

"As the survey shows, most people across the country support Awami League (AL). But ignoring this huge popular support that our party enjoys, the prime minister is desperate to hold an election"



Sheikh Hasina

Leader of the opposition and AL President

Said at a view exchange meeting at her Dhanmondi office with presidents and general secretaries of Dhaka metropolitan AL and front organisations, on Thursday.

Source: The Daily Star

"The way the country is moving ahead we will reach the level of developed countries within ten years"

-- Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan

Secretary General, BNP

Said at a meeting of Diploma Agriculturists' Association at the T&T ground of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, on Monday.

Source: Prothom Alo

"Two heads are better than one. Similarly four heads are better than three"

-- MA Aziz

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)

Told reporters defending the newly appointed CEC Manud Hasan Mansur's visit to EC secretariat without taking the oath of office, on Sunday.

Source: The Daily Star

"Why did you not deal with the journalists by paying them Tk 100?"

-- Iqbal Hassan Mahmood

State Minister for Agriculture

Said to the project director of Bangladesh Sugarcane Research Institute at a workshop at Pabna when he was told that local reporters were publishing negative news, on Monday.

Source: Prothom Alo

"Only god knows where they [prices] will end up during the Ramadan"

-- A shopper at Karwan Bazar

Told reporters as essentials turn pricey in spite of slashing import tax on three items, on Thursday.

Source: The Daily Star

"More importance is given on marks than how much the students know, understand and learn"

-- Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury

Told reporters about the prevailing education system, on Monday.

Source: Prothom Alo

Dhaka: Yesterday, today and tomorrow

The Daily Star (TDS): What is your first memory of Dhaka?

Zakaria Pintu (ZP): I came to Dhaka first in 1957 by train with my father to get admitted to Jagannath College. When I first arrived, it was like a dream come true. My other aim was to get admitted to Jagannath College and play and lead the college football team because at that time it was a popular game.

TDS: What was the city like when you first came to Dhaka?

ZP: The city used to be deserted at that time, which stirred up curiosity and fears in my mind. I was very curious to explore my dream city and I was afraid that I would get lost in this big, unknown city. Only rickshaws, bicycles and a few cars were seen on the roads. From Phulbari Train Station it took hardly 5 to 6 minutes on rickshaw to come to Jagannath College. At present it takes 1 hour.

TDS: What do you miss most in the city as compared to your early days in Dhaka?



Zakaria Pintu

ZP: I miss the horse carts, playgrounds and the open spaces. In Jagannath College there was a huge field where we used to practice. There was a beautiful canal beside the college, which is now occupied. Living in the dormitory I could hear the roar of a tiger. Nowadays I can hardly hear a bird's chirp let alone a tiger's roar.

TDS: How have the changes in the city affected your life?

ZP: Being a sportsman I cannot practice for the lack of playgrounds. There is no open space where I can walk and breathe some fresh air. Nowadays the law and order situation has become so fragile that we have to remain vigilant all the time. I cannot move freely as I did earlier.

TDS: Which part of Dhaka in your eyes, we should be proud of?

ZP: The Jatiyo Sangsad Bhaban is a place we should all be proud of. I travelled to lots of countries but I have never seen such a

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It is painful for the veteran footballer Zakaria Pintu to witness rapid disappearance of playing fields in the city.