

Unruly pedestrians ignore over bridge

RIZANUZZAMAN LASKAR

The majority of pedestrians prefer to cross streets in an undisciplined manner ignoring the 40 odd foot-over bridges that have been built across the city for their use.

According to Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) officials, most city dwellers are unaware of the over-bridge usage benefits and could face street accidents by running across the street.

DCC has placed barricades at several road joints to stop pedestrians from following this practice, compelling them to use the over-bridges. However, even with such compulsion city dwellers seem reluctant to use the foot-over bridges.

"I don't want to walk all the up and down just to get across the street," said Mizan, a Dhaka University (DU) student and resident of Maghbazar.

"We are usually in a rush to either get to office and back home," said Zahidul Hoque, a service holder from Farmgate.

"I do not have any energy left after

a hard day's work for the added amount of exercise," he added.

Pedestrians also allege that because of the vendors who are into illegal businesses, sex workers and beggars invading these bridges they are overcome by a sense of fear,

Market over bridge.

He said that there is hardly any space for a passer-by to walk through as these hawkers leave little space for two people to walk.

The DCC and Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP)

when asked about their concerns about the issue.

On the other hand Tejgaon police officials said that the hawkers and beggars of the Farmgate foot-over bridge have recently been evicted.

"They would be back soon,

Regarding the return of the evicted beggars, vendors and sex workers, Rahman told Star City that there was very little the police could do as they tend to come back as soon as the patrolling officers leave the spot.

While most in relevant places, some of the bridges such as the ones located at DU and Bashabo are built at spots hardly used by any pedestrian.

"I don't see why they built a foot-over bridge here at this crossing that is not at all important," said Humayan, a student of BUET.

An example of how DCC misuses public funds in constructing poorly planned over bridges is the Paribagh foot-over bridge near the Hotel Sheraton intersection that lay half-constructed for a long time before being demolished last year.

Having already spent Tk 11 lakh to build the initial structure; the DCC spent a further Tk 60,000 to demolish it.

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although these bridges are located at the busiest points of the city.

"It seems that the over bridges have been built for hawkers, people cannot use them," said Selim, a pedestrian who chose to run across the road instead of using the New

responsible for the upkeep and security of the bridges respectively have failed to keep most of these foot-over bridges from illegal use.

"Our responsibility was to construct the bridge, which ended as we opened it for public use," said a senior DCC official

as always," said a nearby shop owner at the Tejgaon over bridge.

"We are constantly trying to improve the situation on the foot-over bridges by increasing police patrols and frequent raids," said SM Mizanur Rahman DMP commissioner.



STAR PHOTO

People risk lives to cross busy roads though an over bridge is a stones throw away.

Eid sees smooth supplies of power and water



STAR PHOTO

With Dhaka deserted load shedding and water crisis suddenly disappeared.

CITY CORRESPONDENT

The consumption of electricity, water and gas that was reduced by half with an estimated five million dwellers away, rendered a well deserved interval in the series of supply shortages.

The city virtually experienced neither power failures, nor gas or water shortages over the past six days.

City scenes were refreshing and quite a contrast to the ones seen in recent times with no crowds queuing for water or experiencing blackouts at night.

"There hasn't been any load shedding for the last few days," said a resident of Bashabo. "It was just a week ago that we had 8-10 hours of load shedding," he added.

Some of the severely affected areas in the city plagued with recurrent load shedding faced occasional power failures during the Eid holidays.

Harun-ur-Rashid, member secretary of Demra-Shyampur Pani Bidyut Sangram Committee told Star City that they had a few hours of power shortages during the holidays, compared with the 10-12 hours

of load shedding that usually occurred daily.

"Both electricity and water supplies weren't much of a problem for the past week," Rashid said.

According to residents of certain areas, apart from a few incidents of power fluctuations

power supply during the past week.

According to Dhaka Electricity Supply Authority (DESA) sources, the amount of electricity consumed during the period of the Eid holiday was around 1000 MW to 1200 MW, while the usual consumption is

experienced dramatic decrease during the Eid holidays. The city that requires around 200 crore litres of water each day, consumed only around 98 crore litres in the past six days, said a WASA source.

"The reduction is attributed to the reduction of half the city

"The power voltage tend to dwindle from time to time, but there hasn't been any load shedding lately," said a resident of Khilgaon. With frequent load shedding and power outages being an integral part of city life, it was a welcoming change for residents who relished the uninterrupted power supply during the past week

at night, the supply of electricity was uninterrupted.

"The power voltage tend to dwindle from time to time, but there hasn't been any load shedding lately," said a resident of Khilgaon.

With frequent load shedding and power outages being an integral part of city life, it was a welcoming change for residents who relished the uninterrupted

around 1500 MW to 1850 MW.

"With summer almost at its end, the consumption of electricity tends to go down towards the latter part of the year," said an official of DESA.

"The Eid festival has just helped smoothen the otherwise impossible situation as half the population was away from the city," he said.

Water consumption also

population," said Mahfuzur Rahman, WASA's public relations officer. "Apart from that, the reduction was also due to industries being closed during the week," he added.

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Gulshan 1, 2 markets-Friday
Elephant Road-Friday
Bishal Center-Friday

Baitul Mukarram Market-Friday
Polwell Market-Friday
BCS Computer City-Friday

Isha Khan Shopping Complex-Friday.
Rajlaxmi Complex-Friday

Bangabazar Market-Friday
National Museum-Thursday

Ahsan Manzil-Thursday.
New Market-Tuesday

Gausia Market-Tuesday
Mouchak Market-Sunday

Dhamondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday
Dhamondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday

Dhaka Zoo-Sunday
Shishu Jadughar-Sunday