

Dark streets pave haven for muggers

Installed in 2005 under a Tk 800-crore project streetlights in Malibagh, Mughda still remain off, where incidents of mugging are rampant

RAIHAN SABUKTAGIN

To the sufferings of thousands of commuters and locals, streetlights on a stretch of 5 kilometre-long road between Malibagh and Mugda are still not operational although the lights were installed in March 2005.

Furthermore, it is alleged that the firm responsible for installing the lights already pocketed the payment for the work before the authorities issued operational clearance for the streetlights.

Without the streetlights, this key road touching Rajarbagh, Peerjangi Mazar and Kamalapur turned dangerous for the users and a safe haven for marauders. Accidents and mugging at night are very common on this street.

Without the streetlights, this key road touching Rajarbagh, Peerjangi Mazar and Kamalapur turned dangerous for the users and a safe haven for marauders. Accidents and mugging at night are very common on this street

of Tk 800 crore for Dhaka city. RHD was supposed to hand over the streetlights to Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) after completing the work.

The implementation period of the DUTP project was over on March 31 in 2005, but RHD is yet to hand over the streetlights to Dhaka City Corporation (DCC).

Zafar Ahmed, superintendent engineer of DCC, confirmed to Star City that RHD did not hand over the lights to DCC. He also said, "DCC is under pressure from thousands of locals of this vast area.... without receiving the

lights, how can we light up the road?"

Before the handing over, both RHD and DCC should conduct a joint survey over the installation and relevant documents should also be handed over, Zafar recommended.

Zafar also complained that DCC wrote several letters to RHD during the last two years requesting handing over of the lights, but RHD did not bother to respond.

During this time, DCC also informed the communication ministry to expedite the process of the handing

over. The ministry, after investigating the situation, ordered RHD to hand over the streetlights to DCC as soon as possible, but RHD still did not comply.

When contacted, the RHD authorities claimed that they had already handed over the lights to DCC and the records of the handing over are available at Dhaka Transport Coordination Board (DTCB).

Star City pursued this issue with DTCB and they, after checking their documents, confirmed that RHD has yet to hand over the streetlights to DCC.



STAR PHOTO

Most streetlights in the city remain out of order.

A glimpse of hope for slum children



Poor children attend class at the school at Free School Street.

SHAHNAZ PARVEEN

When politics takes centre stage, glimpse of hope beacons at Kathalbagan area of the city. At Free School Street, around 250 slum children find their way to education. Sultan-Safa Paathshala, a school offering free education and books to destitute children since 1980.

Sonia a class seven student of the school said that she finds her school very interesting. "Our teachers take good care of us," she said. After school hour Sonia sells flower in the Shahbag area. Her family cannot afford to send her to a regular school.

The school is an effort of late Ahmad Safa, a prominent writer. After his death friends of the writer opened up Safa Trust and took over all the responsibility of the school. In the beginning the school was opened for Katabon slum children. It soon attracted more students from other areas.

Mukta lives at Shabujibagan near Ramna Police Station. "Every day I walk my way to school. My parents are more interested than me," she said.

With nine full and part time teachers the school provides free education up to class eight and books for everyone.

The school is an effort of late Ahmad Safa, a prominent writer. After his death friends of the writer opened up Safa Trust and took over all the responsibility of the school. In the beginning the school was opened for Katabon slum children. It soon attracted more students from other areas.

From last year the school started distributing free uniforms.

Headmaster of the school Abul Hasan said that due to space constraint they have to continue education in a very crowded condition.

"Sometimes we are forced to use the teachers room due to space constraint," Hasan said.

"This year we still could not buy books for distribution. We are reusing books from last year," he added.

"Around 62 percent of our students are girls," he added.

One of the common experiences of the school is parents of the boys send them to work and girls are married off at a very early age. "During house visits we have to persuade some parents to send their

children back," the headmaster said. Parents however are more attentive these days.

"In 2005 we had 40 percent dropout rate but the rate is dropping," he added.

After students' finish class eight, the school authority helps them pursue higher education in other institutions. Md. Abbas Uddin finished his study a year ago. He is now attending SSC level education at the Open University. Abbas also works at the school after study.

The school is planning to add vocational education for the student from this year, which will include computer skill and special English language training.

Advertising, Bank & market timing

AD AGENCIES

ART & CULTURAL CENTERS

BANKS

MARKET CLOSED

Adcomm Ltd 9896600.9887665	Alliance Francaise De Dhaka 26, Mirpur Road, Dhamondi, Dhaka, Tel: 8611557 Fax: 8616462, Email: info@afdfacca.com	House 330B, Road 28 (Old), Dhamondi, Dhaka Tel: 9114500, Fax: 9118051, Email: nazrulin@citecho.net	House 58, Road 15A(New), Dhamondi, Dhaka Tel: 9120125, Fax: 9115044, Email: office@drif.net	Agrani Bank 9566153-54, 956616069, 9566074-75	9555092, 9563043-5, Fax: 9561784 8015276, 8811417
Asiatic Marketing Communication Ltd 9892768,9893303	Bangla Academy Dhaka University Area, Dhaka, Tel: 8619577, 8619583, Fax: 8612352, Email: bacademy@citecho.net	House-510, Road-7, Dhamondi, Dhaka, Tel: 9118531 Fax: 8113026, Email: roscl@accesstel.net	House-21, Road-4, Dhamondi R/A, Dhaka Tel: 8620345, Email: chitrak@agni.com	Bangladesh Bank 7126101-20, Fax: 9566212	Prime Bank Ltd 9567265, 9556282 Fax: 9567230
Bitopi Advertising 91141121, 9115121	Bangladesh Shishu Academy Old High Court Road (Opp. Carzon Hall), Dhaka-1000; Tel: 9550317, 9564128	Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000 Tel: 9562801-4	National Art Gallery Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000 Tel: 9562801-4	BRAC Bank Ltd 8824051-4, Fax: 8813543	Shahjalal Bank Ltd 9570812, 9567435, Fax: 9557413
Expressions Ltd 9562380,9568326, 966481	Shilpakala Academy Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000 Tel: 9561709, 9562801-4	Shilpa Rag House 15, Road 16, Dhamondi, Dhaka, Tel: 8117085 Fax: 8117085, Email: shilparg@vasdigital.com	Shilpagan House-25, Road-5, Dhamondi, Dhaka, Tel: 8614246	Citibank NA 9550060, Fax: 9562236	South East Bank 9550081, 9551411, Fax: 9550093
Grey Advertising Bangladesh Ltd 8811541, 8827862, 9881689 Fax: 8811541	Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts House 275/F, Road 27, Dhamondi, Dhaka Tel: 8112315 Email: bf@bdonline.com	Eastern Bank Ltd 9558390-1, Fax: 9562364	Janata Bank 9560000, 9560027-30, Fax: 9564644	Standard Chartered Bank Ltd 9550181, Fax: 9562332	Sonali Bank 9550426-34 Fax: 9561410
Interface Communications 9362624,8351148, Fax: 8314306	Cezanne Art Gallery House 10, Road 9, Dhamondi, Dhaka Tel: 9126525, 9126526, Fax: 8110712	First Security Bank Limited 9562878, PABX: 9560229, Fax: 9561637	Mercantile Bank Limited 9559333, 9560329 Fax: 9561213	The City Bank Limited 9565925, Fax: 9562347	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
Interspeed Advertising 8810675, 9891859	German Cultural Center House 10, Road 9, Dhamondi, Dhaka Tel: 9126525, 9126526, Fax: 8110712	Grameen Bank 8011138, Fax: 8013559	National Bank Ltd 9563081-5, Fax: 9563953	The Trust Bank Ltd 9871095, 9871074, 9888068, Fax: 4071094	Shahidullah Complex-Friday Stadium Market-Friday Bangabazar Market-Friday National Museum-Thursday Ahsan Manzil-Thursday New Market-Tuesday Gausia Market-Tuesday Mouchak Market-Sunday Dhamondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday Tuesdays
Maitra 8317456, 9331057, Fax: 9330556	Indian Cultural Center H-25, Road-96, Gulshan-2, Dhaka-1212 Tel: 8826578, Email: cezanne@bangla.net	Habib Bank Ltd	Uttara Bank Ltd 9561438, 9551162-3, Fax: 8613529	United Commercial Bank Ltd 9561580, Fax: 88-02-9560587	Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday Eastern Plaza-Sunday Farmview Super Market-Sunday Muktijuddha Jagduhar-Sunday Dhaka Zoo-Sunday Shishu Jagduhar-Sunday
Media Comm Ltd 8861521 (9 lines)	Drik Gallery				
Unifrend Ltd 9124380-4					
A Positive Advertising Ltd 8856598-9, 8837751-2					
Nazrul Institute					