

# DCC removes illegal billboards

RIZANUZZAMAN LASKAR

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC), after almost a month into their announcement, has finally launched a drive to knock down hundreds of illegal mushrooming billboards all over the capital.

These gigantic hoardings had turned out to be an eyesore and a cause of vision pollution for the city inhabitants while depriving them of viewing natural and architectural aesthetics of the city.

A DCC eviction team led by Saifuddin Ahmed, chief executive officer of DCC, Chief Estate Officer Kamruzzaman Chowdhury and chief cleaning staff commander Sohel Faruqi along with number of other officials from the corporation knocked down around 50 illegal billboards during a 5-hour drive on Thursday night from 11:00pm to 4:00am.

"We started the drive later at night for the convenience of general people and to avoid traffic congestion," said

Kamruzzaman Chowdhury, chief estate officer at DCC.

Three teams of DCC officials with the help of the army and the police started the drive from Phulbaria Bus Terminal, Minto Road and Paribagh Sakura Market and pulled down the illegal billboards with 8 cranes, 10 bulldozers, and 5 gas cutters along with around 50 vehicles.

"We knocked down those billboards because most of them were built either without authorisation or violated terms of authorisation," said Kamruzzaman Chowdhury.

The teams began the drive by removing the massive billboard of a private telecom company of around 2,000 sq feet in front of Hotel Sheraton. Fasihullah, the executive officer of DCC region 6 said the billboard was constructed without DCC approval.

The officials went on to demolish a number of other billboards from Minto Road, Paribagh, Phulbaria, Gulistan

intersection and the adjacent areas.

"Majority of the billboards that were knocked down during the drive were as big as 1,800 sq feet to 2,500 sq feet -- complete violation of our permitted area of 600 sq feet," said Saifuddin Ahmed, chief executive officer of DCC.

During the drive on Minto Road, owners and officials from Uttara Art, Basundhara Communications and a few other advertisement firms arrived on the spot and protested against the drive.

"They blamed us for indiscriminately knocking down the billboards, but we told them that we published a number of final notices and advertisements in national dailies a week prior to the drive," said Kamruzzaman Chowdhury.

According to sources, there are around 367 billboards that DCC had authorised. DCC officials however failed to give out the figure of illegally built billboards. Some of the billboards also fall under

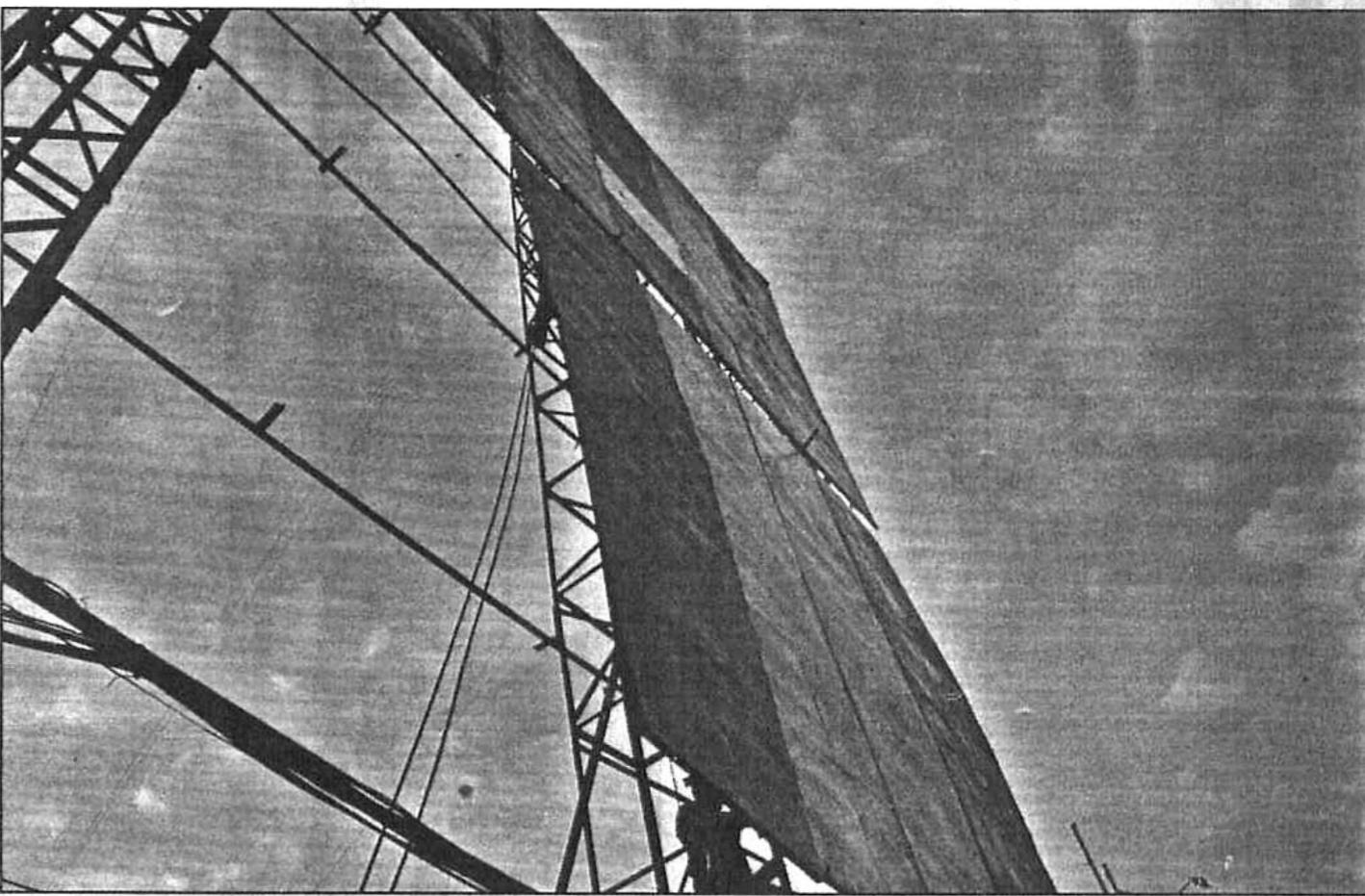
the jurisdiction of Public Works Department while others belong to Roads and Highways Department.

The maximum area of a billboard permitted in the city is 600 square feet. There is also a surveyor group of DCC operating in the city to randomly monitor violation of the permissible size, DCC officials said.

Saifuddin Ahmed, CEO of DCC, told this correspondent that they would continue the drive until all illegal billboards are wiped out from the city.

"DCC will continue this drive to remove illegal billboards every Thursday for an indefinite period from now on as the advertisement agencies are evading millions of taka in taxes each year," said Ahmed.

"Although many advertisement firms were approved to build billboards maintaining specific a size, they built bigger ones by violating the terms of the agreement," he added.



The steel frame of an illegal billboard removed on Friday still stands as an eyesore on the western side of Hotel Sheraton.

STAR PHOTO

## health, bus services, airlines & train timing

### HOSPITALS & CLINICS

Ahsania Mission Cancer & General Hospital	8311721-25	Ratan's Dental Clinic	Drooti	lines	Druk Air	Malaysia Airlines	Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers
9008919, 8051618	9333739	Islam Bank Hospital	8014563	Aeroflot	9862243, 9892862,	9888211-20	Central Public Library- 8626001-4,
Apollo Hospitals Dhaka	9891680-4, 01713046684/85	Japan Bangladesh Friendship Hospital	7101504	9559930, 9559111, Fax: 9563787	Emirates	Airport Office: 8916953, Fax: 9890478	Shishu Academy- 9564128
Emergency no. 9896623, 0171409000	8828855, 8827575	Samorita Hospital Ltd	9131901	Air India	9892801, 9885574-75	PIA	Shilpkala Academy- 8614673
Bangladesh Medical College & Hospital	9118202, 8115843	Labaid Cardiac Hospital	9122560-78	Green Line Paribahan	8617783, 8611929, Fax: 9670591	9349293-5, Fax: 9345300	Bangla Academy- 8619550
Central Hospital	9660015-19,	Shahid Suhrawardy Hospital	9102116	Biman Bangladesh Airlines	8825845-9, Airport Office: 8960404, 8915699, Fax: 8826115	8811504-7, 9883259	Islamic Foundation- 9550280,
China Bangla Hospital (JV) Ltd	8913674	Shishu Hospital	7101894, 7101250, 9121280	British Airways	9130123-5, Airport Office: 8914573	Airport Office: 8911928, Fax: 8811503	9556407
Dhaka Medical College Hospital	8626812-16	United Hospital	9123743	98815111, Fax: 8815346,	Indian Airlines Ltd	Thai Airways	Nazrul Institute- 9114602
Gana Shasthyo Kendra	8617208, 8617383, 8620178,	Medinova Medical Services Ltd	7101945, 7101951, 9123092	9557117, Fax: 9562667	9555915, 9557813,	8314711-18, 8914343	Ford Foundation- 81161133
Greenland Hospital	8912663	Monowara Hospital	Shohag Paribahan	9883948	Kuwait Airways	8816324-5, Fax: 9896481	Alliance Francaise- 8611557
Gulshan Mother & Child Clinic	8822738, 8812992	Pangu Hospital	9334152, 8316766, 8126293	Neptune A/C Coach Service	9115182, 9118829	British Council- 8618867-8,	Information Resource Center, The American Center- 8813440-4,
Holy Family Hospital	8317606, 9557354, 8317819	PG Hospital (BSMMU)	9112150, 9113041	7102461	9557117, Fax: 9562667	8618905-7	8612954, 8123412
		Shahmoni General Hospital	9883948	Shyamoli Paribahan	Leaves Dhaka at 4:30 pm	Community Development Library- 8113769, 8113604	Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) 9330081-4
			9668690	9333803	Leaves Dhaka at 7-30 am	Goethe Institute Int'l- Dhaka- 9126525-6	
					Leaves Dhaka at 3-15 pm	Indian Information Centre & Cultural Library- 8850141-2	
					Leaves Dhaka at 6-40 am	The Russian Cultural Centre- 9116314, 9118531, 9118314	
					Leaves Dhaka at 12-45 pm	9116314, 9118531, 9118314	
					Leaves Dhaka at 9-45 pm	Drik Photo Gallery- 9120125,	
					Leaves Dhaka at 7-00 am	8112954, 8123412	
					Leaves Dhaka at 5-00 pm	Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) 9330081-4	
					Leaves Dhaka at 8-00 pm		
					Leaves Dhaka at 9-20 pm		

### BUS SERVICES

BLOOD BANK	Shohag Paribahan (Pvt) Ltd	Subarna Express	Leaves Dhaka at 4:30 pm	Reaches Chittagong at 10:35 pm
	9334152, 8316766, 8126293	Mahanagar Prabhati	Leaves Dhaka at 7-30 am	Reaches Chittagong at 1-55 pm
		Mahanagar Godhuli	Leaves Dhaka at 3-15 pm	Reaches Chittagong at 10-55 pm
		Turna	Leaves Dhaka at 11-00 pm	Reaches Chittagong at 6-40 am
		Parabat Express	Leaves Dhaka at 6-40 am	Reaches Chittagong at 2-30 pm
		Joyantika Express	Leaves Dhaka at 12-45 pm	Reaches Sylhet at 9-20 pm
		Silk Line	Leaves Dhaka at 9-45 pm	Reaches Sylhet at 6-40 am
		7102461	Leaves Dhaka at 7-00 am	Reaches Bahadurabad at 1-05 pm
		Tista Express	Leaves Dhaka at 5-00 pm	Reaches Bahadurabad at 11-15
		Ekata Express	Leaves Dhaka at 5-00 pm	Reaches Noakhali at 5-00 am
		Upakul Express	Leaves Dhaka at 8-00 pm	Reaches Noakhali at 2-30 pm
		Agnibenna Express	Leaves Dhaka at 9-20 pm	

### AIRLINES

lines	Druk Air	Malaysia Airlines	Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers
Aeroflot	9862243, 9892862,	9888211-20	Central Public Library- 8626001-4,
9559930, 9559111, Fax: 9563787	Emirates	Airport Office: 8916953, Fax: 9890478	Shishu Academy- 9564128
7101504	Air India	9892801, 9885574-75	Shilpkala Academy- 8614673
	8617783, 8611929, Fax: 9670591	9349293-5, Fax: 9345300	Bangla Academy- 8619550
	Biman Bangladesh Airlines	8825845-9, Airport Office: 8960404, 8915699, Fax: 8826115	Islamic Foundation- 9550280,
	8917400-19, 9560151, 9559610	98815111, Fax: 8815346,	9556407
	Airport Office: 8917400, Fax: 8913005	9130123-5, Airport Office: 8914573	Nazrul Institute- 9114602
		9130123-5, Airport Office: 8914573	Ford Foundation- 81161133
		9115182, 9118829	Alliance Francaise- 8611557
			Information Resource Center, The American Center- 8813440-4,
			8612954, 8123412
			Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) 9330081-4

### TRAIN TIMING

Shohag Paribahan	Leaves Dhaka at 4:30 pm	Reaches Chittagong at 10:35 pm
	Leaves Dhaka at 7-30 am	Reaches Chittagong at 1-55 pm
	Leaves Dhaka at 3-15 pm	Reaches Chittagong at 10-55 pm
	Leaves Dhaka at 11-00 pm	Reaches Chittagong at 6-40 am
	Leaves Dhaka at 6-40 am	Reaches Chittagong at 2-30 pm
	Leaves Dhaka at 12-45 pm	Reaches Sylhet at 9-20 pm
	Leaves Dhaka at 9-45 pm	Reaches Sylhet at 6-40 am
	Leaves Dhaka at 7-00 am	Reaches Bahadurabad at 1-05 pm
	Leaves Dhaka at 5-00 pm	Reaches Bahadurabad at 11-15
	Leaves Dhaka at 8-00 pm	Reaches Noakhali at 5-00 am
	Leaves Dhaka at 9-20 pm	Reaches Jagannath at 2-30 pm

### LIBRARY & INFO-

Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers	Central Public Library- 8626001-4,
	Shishu Academy- 9564128
	Shilpkala Academy- 8614673