

Shutdown of shopping malls in the evening receives mixed reaction

SHAHNAZ PARVEEN

Shutdown of the shopping malls from 7pm in the evening receives mixed reaction from city dwellers. Shop owners say loss is imminent, while some city dwellers argue that a life-style change is all we need.

Owner of a readymade garment store at Mohammadia Super Market in Sobhanbag said, "6 to 9pm in the evening is our pick sales hour. We are incurring serious loss because of the early shutdown"

Shopkeepers however hail the idea. "Our 9am to 9pm work hour was very long. It was really tiring. Now we can go home early", said one of the shopkeepers at Rifles Square. "I could never have interaction with my kids because I used to go home very late. Now I get to see their faces when I go home", added another shopkeeper at Bashundhara City.

Child labourers are the happiest party about the early shutdown, as they will have spare time to study or play. It opens up possibilities of night shift education for hundreds of child labourers of the city.

"I am used to shopping in the evening. But I like the idea of early shutdown. I think it is

Shopkeepers however hail the idea. "Our 9am to 9pm work hour was very long. It was really tiring. Now we can go home early", said one of the shopkeepers at Rifles Square. "I could never have interaction with my kids because I used to go home very late. Now I get to see their faces when I go home", added another shopkeeper at Bashundhara City

more important to have electricity at home than being able to shop after dark", said Naima Akhtar a homemaker from Dhanmondi shopping at Rifles Square.

"It will also help us spend more time with family members at home. We just need to change our lifestyle ", she added.

Bithi Mahboob a resident of Dhanmondi 32 said, "In the developed world they have sufficient power generation still they shutdown malls early. We should learn to save our resources"

Nipa Khaled, owner of a handicraft store in Aziz Super Market, Shahbag said, "At home I can now spend more

time designing and production of the handmade items"

A tailoring shop worker at Mohammadia Super Market however said, "We could not deliver clothes on time since our night shift production is off"

Starting from February 25, all shopping malls, markets and shops in the city is being closed down by around 7pm in accordance with the government's plan to save electricity in the evening peak-hours.

The government has taken the electricity rationing measure because of the severe power shortage.

Kitchen markets, restaurants, fast food shops, drug stores, grocery shops and small shops along lanes and

by-lanes, however, remained open.

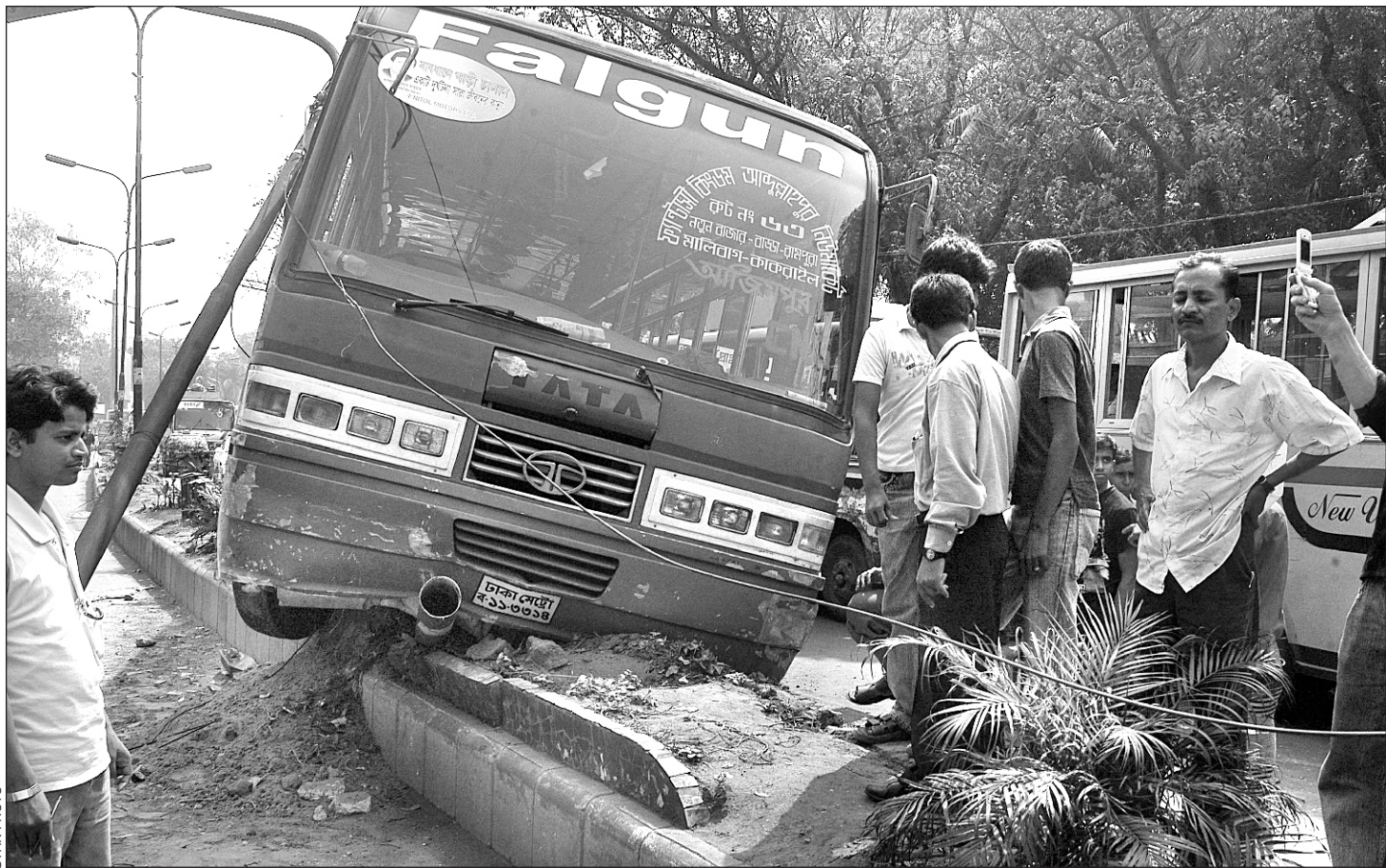
Rationing succeeded in reducing current load to some extent.

According to the DESA control room at Katabon the shutdown has saved around 60 MW electricity per day in its area, whereas DESCO central control room at Bashundhara confirms around 40 MW.

A high official from the National Load Dispatch Centre of Power Division, Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources corroborated the information. He said that in Dhaka city the shutdown is saving around 100 MW per day.



Shopkeepers coming out of the Bashundhara City shopping mall in the evening following shutdown at 7pm.



A bus was stuck in the road divider in front of the Shishu Park at Shahbagh on Thursday morning. The driver and helper of the vehicle left the scene soon after the accident apparently caused by brake failure.

Thousands at risk under unsafe

FROM PAGE 21

unthinkable might happen anytime. "Whenever there is a dull thud in this busy market, most shopkeepers start running for their live abandoning their shops."

Except for putting up the warning sign nearly one year ago, the DCC authorities did almost nothing so far to prevent a catastrophe by taking effective measures.

DCC executive engineer of Bazar circle Syed Mozaffar Hossain admitted that a danger looms over the busy and one of the oldest kitchen markets in the city. He however said that the bureaucratic process had been started to demolish and reconstruct the structure. The shopkeepers of the market would be temporarily rehabilitated under the same DCC initiative.

"After examining the situation, we sent our report to the estate department of DCC for further action," Syed Mozaffar Hossain added.

However, when this correspondent contacted chief

estate officer of DCC Kamruzzaman Chowdhury, he expressed his ignorance on the matter as he did not yet receive any document in this regard.

"No paper has reached my office. Even if it reaches my office, I will have to refer the matter to another section with recommendation for temporary rehabilitation of the traders," said the chief estate officer.

The way DCC authorities are addressing this urgent matter, it seems that it might take months if not years to demolish the risky 2-storey structure and replace it with a safer one.

While talking to this correspondent, the executive engineer of Bazar circle explained that auctioning the old structure is a long process and he was not sure how the temporary rehabilitation of the traders could take place.

"Usually under the circumstances, the victims suggest us a place where they would set up their shops during demolition of the risky structure and

reconstruction of the new one," the executive engineer added.

Rickshaw pullers

FROM PAGE 21

Van Malik Oikya Parishad, said, "Licensing of all the rickshaws would not only regulate and ensure safe traffic conducts in the streets, but also would allow the rickshaw pullers to have a legal document to help them protect themselves from harassment."

"Moreover, in the event of any accidents it would be easier to verify the identity of the rickshaw-puller," he added.

Meanwhile, the Traffic Department of DMP has asked the rickshaw owners to attach a 6-inch by 3-inch light-reflecting sticker on the back of the rickshaws to avoid accidents during night time. The stickers don't have any prescribed design. Anybody can buy such light-reflecting stickers from shops," said Md Jahur, a traffic inspector.

health,busservices,airlines&traintiming

OSPITALS & CLINICS

Ahsania Mission Cancer & General Hospital 9008919, 8051618	8311721-25
Apollo Hospitals Dhaka 9891680-4, 01713046684/85 Emergency no. 9896623, 0171409000	Islami Bank Hospital 9333739
Bangladesh Medical College & Hospital 9118202, 8115843	Japan Bangladesh Friendship Hospital 8828855, 8827575
Central Hospital 9660015-19,	Labaid Cardiac Hospital 8610793-8
China Bangla Hospital (JV) Ltd 8913674	Marie Stopes Clinic 8821874
Dhaka Medical College Hospital 8626812-16	Medinova Medical Services Ltd 8620353,
Gana Shasthyo Kendra 8617208, 8617383, 8620178,	Monowara Hospital 8318135, 8319802
Greenland Hospital 8912663	Pangu Hospital 9112150, 9113041
Gulshan Mother & Child Clinic 8822738, 8812992	PG Hospital (BSMMU) 9614545-9, 9612550-4
Holy Family Hospital	Rashmono General Hospital 8317606, 9557354, 8317819

Ratan's Dental Clinic 9111090
Salimullah Medical College Hospital 7319002-6
Samorita Hospital Ltd 9131901
Shahid Suhrawardy Hospital 9122560-78
Shishu Hospital 8116061-2, 9119119
United Hospital 8836444, 0194001234

BLOOD BANK

Bangladesh Red Crescent Blood Bank 9116563
Modern Clinic & Blood Center 9883948
Sandhani, Dhaka Medical College 9668690

BUS SERVICES

Drouti 8014563
Eagle Paribahan 7101504
Green Line Paribahan 9339623, 9342580, 8353005
Hanif Enterprise 9120116
Keya Paribahan 7101894, 7101250, 9121280
Modern Enterprise 9123743
Neptune A/C Coach Service 7101945, 7101951, 9123092
Shohag Paribahan (Pvt) Ltd 9334152, 8316766, 8126293
Shoukhin Paribahan 8014397, 9001796
Silk Line 7102461
Shyamoli Paribahan 9333803

AIRLINES

lines Aeroflot 9559930, 9559111, Fax: 9563787	Druk Air 9862243, 9892862,
Air India 8617783, 8611929, Fax: 9670591	Emirates 9892801, 9885574-75
Biman Bangladesh Airlines 8917400-19 9560151, 9559610 Airport Office: 8917400, Fax:8913005	GMG Airlines 8825845-9, Airport Office: 8960404,8915699, Fax: 8826115
British Airways 8815111, Fax: 8815346,	Gulf Air 9130123-5, Airport Office: 8914573
Cathay Pacific 9557117, Fax: 9562667	Indian Airlines Ltd 9555915, 9557813,
	Kuwait Airways 9115182, 9118829

TRAIN TIMING

Subarna Express	Leaves Dhaka at 4:30 pm
Mahanagar Prabhati	Leaves Dhaka at 7-30 am
Mahanagar Godhuli	Leaves Dhaka at 3-15 pm
Turna	Leaves Dhaka at 11-00 pm
Parabat Express	Leaves Dhaka at 6-40 am
Joyantika Express	Leaves Dhaka at 12-45 pm
Upaban Express	Leaves Dhaka at 9-45 pm
Tista Express	Leaves Dhaka at 7-00 am
Ekata Express	Leaves Dhaka at 5-00 pm
Upakul Express	Leaves Dhaka at 8-00 pm
Agnibena Express	Leaves Dhaka at 9-20 pm

Malaysia Airlines 9888211-20 Airport Office: 8916953, Fax: 9890478	PIA 9349293-5, Fax: 9345300
Singapore Airlines 8811504-7, 9883259 Airport Office: 8911928, Fax: 8811503	Thai Airways 8314711-18, 8914343
Virgin Atlantic Airways 8816324-5, Fax: 9896481	



Reaches Chittagong at 10:35 pm
Reaches Chittagong at 1-55 pm
Reaches Chittagong at 10-55 pm
Reaches Sylhet at 6-40 am
Reaches Sylhet at 2-30 pm
Reaches Sylhet at 6-40 am
Reaches Sylhet at 6-40 am
Reaches Bahadurabad at 11-15
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