

# Shutdown of shopping malls in the evening receives mixed reaction

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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 lifestyle change is all we need.

Owner of a readymade garment store at Mohammadia Super Market in Sobhannbag 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

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more important to have electricity at home than being able to shop after dark", said Naima Akhtar a homemaker from Dhamondi 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 Dhamondi 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, Shahbagh 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.

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



STAR PHOTO

## Thousands at risk under unsafe

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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

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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	8311721-25
Islam Bank Hospital	9333739
Apollo Hospitals Dhaka	9891680-4, 01713046684/85
Emergency no. 9896623, 0171409000	
Bangladesh Medical College & Hospital	9118202, 8115843
Central Hospital	9660015-19,
China Bangla Hospital (JV) Ltd	8913674
Dhaka Medical College Hospital	8626812-16
Gana Shasthyo Kendra	8617208, 8617383, 8620178,
Greenland Hospital	8912663
Gulshan Mother & Child Clinic	8822738, 8812992
Holy Family Hospital	8317606, 9557354, 8317819

### BUS SERVICES

BLOOD BANK	
Bangladesh Red Crescent Blood Bank	9334152, 8316766, 8126293
Pangu Hospital	9112150, 9113041
PG Hospital (BSMMU)	9614549-5, 9612550-4
Rashmoni General Hospital	96668690

### AIRLINES

lines	Drak Air	Malaysia Airlines
Aeroflat	9862243, 9892862,	9888211-20
9559930, 9559111, Fax: 9563787	Airport Office: 8916953, Fax: 9890478	
Eagle Paribahan	9892801, 9885574-75	PIA
7101504	9349293-5, Fax: 9345300	Singapore Airlines
Green Line Paribahan	8825845-9, Airport Office:	8811504-7, 9883259
9339623, 9342580, 8353005	8960404, 8915699, Fax: 8826115	Gulf Air
Samorita Hospital Ltd	Airport Office: 8917400, Fax: 8913005	9130123-5, Airport Office: 8914573
9131901	9555915, 9557813,	Indian Airlines Ltd
Hanif Enterprise	9120116	Kuwait Airways
Shahid Suhrawardy Hospital	Keya Paribahan	9115182, 9118829
9122560-78	7101894, 7101250, 9121280	Thai Airways
Shishu Hospital	Modern Enterprise	8314711-18, 8914343
8116061-2, 9119119	9123743	Virgin Atlantic Airways
United Hospital	Neptune A/C Coach Service	8816324-5, Fax: 9896481
8836444, 0194001234	7101945, 7101951, 9123092	
Monowara Hospital	Shohag Paribahan (Pvt) Ltd	
8318135, 8319802	9334152, 8316766, 8126293	
Pangu Hospital	Eagle Paribahan	
9112150, 9113041	7101504	
PG Hospital (BSMMU)	Green Line Paribahan	
9614549-5, 9612550-4	9339623, 9342580, 8353005	
Rashmoni General Hospital	Hanif Enterprise	
8822738, 8812992	9120116	
Holy Family Hospital	Keya Paribahan	
8317606, 9557354, 8317819	7101894, 7101250, 9121280	

### TRAIN TIMING

Subarna Express	Leaves Dhaka at 4:30 pm	Reaches Chittagong at 10:35 pm
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 Sylhet at 2:30 pm
Joyantika Express	Leaves Dhaka at 12:45 pm	Reaches Sylhet at 9:20 pm
Upabani Express	Leaves Dhaka at 9:45 pm	Reaches Sylhet at 6:40 am
Tista Express	Leaves Dhaka at 7:00 am	Reaches Bahadurabad at 1:05 pm
Ekata Express	Leaves Dhaka at 5:00 pm	Reaches Bahadurabad at 11:15
Upakul Express	Leaves Dhaka at 8:00 pm	Reaches Noakhali at 5:00 am
Agnibeeba Express	Leaves Dhaka at 9:20 pm	Reaches Jagannath at 2:30 pm

### LIBRARIES, CULTURAL AND INFORMATION CENTERS

Central Public Library- 8626001-4,	Shishu Academy- 9564128
Shilpkala Academy- 8614673	Bangla Academy- 8619550
Islamic Foundation- 9550280,	Islamic Foundation- 9556407
Nazrul Institute- 9114602	Nazrul Institute- 9114602
Ford Foundation- 8116133	Ford Foundation- 8116133
Alliance Francaise- 8611557	Alliance Francaise- 8611557
Information Resource Center, The American Center- 8813440-4,	Information Resource Center, The American Center- 8813440-4,
9886395-9	9886395-9
British Council- 8618867-8,	British Council- 8618867-8,
8618905-7	8618905-7
Community Development Library- 8113769, 8113604	Community Development Library- 8113769, 8113604
Goethe Institute Int'l- Dhaka- 9126525-6	Goethe Institute Int'l- Dhaka- 9126525-6
Indian Information Centre & Cultural Library- 8850141-2	Indian Information Centre & Cultural Library- 8850141-2
The Russian Cultural Centre- 9116314, 9118531, 9118314	The Russian Cultural Centre- 9116314, 9118531, 9118314
Drik Photo Gallery- 8120125,	Drik Photo Gallery- 8120125,
8112954, 8123412	8112954, 8123412
Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) 9330081-4	Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) 9330081-4