

Roads named after language heroes

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Eight roads of Dhaka city have recently been named after language heroes. Last year in December road 9 and 10 of Dhanmondi were named Kazi Golam Mahbub Road. Last February Dhaka City Corporation renamed seven roads after the language heroes.

From now on road 3 of Dhanmondi will be known as 'Bhasha Shoinik (language hero) Mohammad Sultan', road 4 as 'Bhasha Shoinik Oli Ahad, road 5 as 'Bhasha Shoinik Abdul Rashid Torkobagish', road 6 as 'Bhasha Shoinik Abul Kalam Shamsuddin', road 7 as 'Bhasha Shoinik MA Matin', road 8 'Bhasha Shoinik Gaziul Haq' and from Mirpur technical to Mirpur 1 as 'Bhasha Shoinik Abul Kashem'.

DCC Mayor Sadeq Hossain Khoka said, "We have a plan to inaugurate more roads after historical persons in future. We also have a plan to introduce people friendly short names instead of full names of the persons," as people have a tendency to call the roads in their previous names or shorter names.

Three of the eight language heroes got this honours in their lifetime. On February 10 Abdul Matin, on February 15 Gaziul Haq and on February 27 Oli Ahad inaugurated the roads named after them.

Khoka inaugurated rest of the roads. Earlier, 11 roads were named after 11 sector commanders.



Dhanmondi road 6 is named after Bhasha Shoinik Abul Kalam Shamsuddin.

Victim of pathetic planning

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"The project is a victim of absolute inconsistent management. There is no easy access to the terminals due to absence of approach roads and no policy on types of vehicles eligible to ply the waterway. There is no proper dredging, proper width and no other corresponding services," he said.

About BIWTA's claim of success in cargo transportation, Habib said the landing station of Aminbazar is serving the purpose of the traders who use the waterway to transport goods anyway. "The traders built landing stations in Aminbazar on their own to meet their own needs for easier cargo transportation."

"But we want the eastern side [second phase] project to start because we want to see CW succeed," he added.

Dr Abu Saeed M Ahmed, head of architecture at University of Asia Pacific,

said, "CW is one of the priorities of the city dwellers. If we can maintain it, CW will lessen the pressure of traffic and the maintenance cost will be less than building a road. If vital water bodies of the city -- Begunbari canal, Gulshan lake, Hatirheel and the Balu river -- could be linked, we can guarantee that these canals would not be dead and would help drain out floodwaters."

If the inner canals of the city could be connected, people in the city can travel on waterways. For an instance, if the Begunbari canal can be revived, a person can go to Karwan Bazar from Rampura without going through the jam-packed city streets.

Abdullah Abu Sayeed, member of Buriganga Task Force, said there are very few cities in the world, which are surrounded by rivers and canals. The waterways could be an inexpensive way to transport human and cargo

and promote tourism.

He said if dredging could be done successfully, water flow of rivers and canals connected with the Buriganga would increase and that would reduce pollution in the dying river.

Estimated cost for the second phase of the 40-km waterway consisting rivers Balu and Shitalakkhya and Tongi canal is Tk 103 crore. Tk 40 crore is allocated for dredging which is yet to be approved. Tk 52 crore is allocated for building approach roads -- to be completed by Local Government Engineering Department (LGED).

The second phase of the project is pending for Executive Committee on National Economic Council's (Ecne) approval for the last one year due to bureaucratic tangles and reservations against this project, said BIWTA sources.

Tangles of overhead

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Iqbal Hossain, senior information officer of Desa.

"But the negotiation effort didn't go as well as we had anticipated. Although we had announced that we would remove their cables, we could not do so due to different reasons," he added.

Most utility service providers however refused to take responsibility for the cable mess and they pointed fingers at others for the haphazard distribution of cables.

According to BTB officials, most telephone cables in the city are channelled through underground channels and the cables are connecting to different telephone cabinets in

different zones. Each of these cabinets has a capacity to support a limited number of telephone connections and usually a 100 to 150 feet overhead cable is required to connect a telephone.

"I don't see how people can blame us for the tangle as most of our cable network is underground and the only cables that are visible to the people are just the ones going in their houses from our cabinets," said a BTB official seeking anonymity.

On the contrary, Cable Operators Association of Bangladesh (COAB) officials blamed other service providers for the untidy practice. They

also blamed the authorities for poor maintenance of the utility poles as well as the cables.

"We had an agreement with Desco that we would compensate in return for the maintenance of our cables, so Desco should be blamed for the tangles," said Anwar Parvez, president of COAB.

"As we use optical fibre technology to provide our connection to the subscribers, we need only one cable for multiple connections. The internet service providers and BTB however has to use individual cables for each connection," he explained.

Internal feuds, greed mar reputation

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on the Brahmo Temple premises without following the building code.

Rajuk has recently ordered the Brahmos to demolish the building, the source said. The demolition would cost a huge amount of money, he added.

"They are not thinking about the library or progressive activities of our ancestors," said a member of the society.

He mentioned that the Brahmos established Dhaka Brahmo School, which is now Jagannath University. They also established Eden Female School, which is now Eden University College, he added.

Pranesh Somaddar Acharya, now disabled due to old age, has been serving as librarian and the main priest of the society since 1958.

He told Star City that the

library was a large one before the Liberation War of 1971. Most of the books were destroyed during the war.

About the library's present state, he said he could not move for the last few months and was not aware of the situation. "I can only say, the library had more than a thousand books when I was there last time (about 2/3 months ago)," he said.

About the legal battles, he said, practice of the Brahmo norms by both the groups could solve the problems and save the sanctity of the temple and the library.

He too lodged a writ petition at the High court over the construction work. About the petition, he said the situation reached such a point that he had to go to court to stop the demolishing of the library

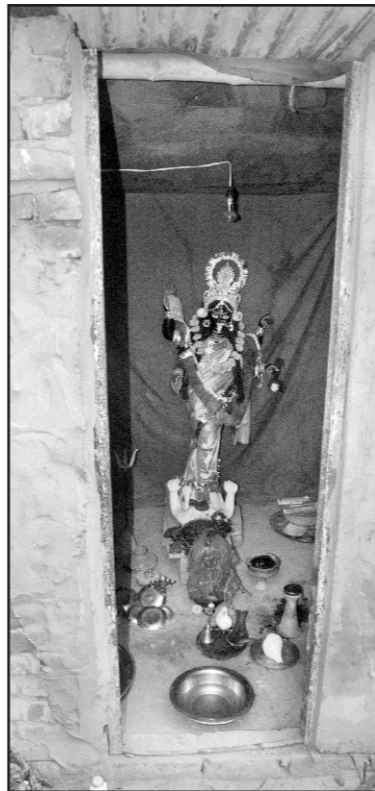
building and the confrontation between two groups.

"Somebody has to come forward to save the Brahmo Society and the library, I don't know who will be the restorer, may be caretaker government or not. But I know I have to fight for the Bramho Society and for the people up to the last."

On the temple premise this reporter met Murad, an expatriate Bangladeshi businessman who recently came from Dubai with his wife after three decades.

"I came here as my wife wanted to visit this place. I wanted to show the temple where once Rabindranath worshiped his Creator, but nothing is left. I am feeling sorry for the building which is going to be demolished soon."

The vacant place (right) on Mitford Road in the old town of the city is remains of an ancient temple on 'Debottor' property, which means it belongs to none other than the temple. Some local goons, allegedly backed-up by former lawmaker Nasiruddin Pintu, demolished the temple and grabbed the precious land in the congested old town. The deity was however taken to the rooftop of a nearby building and kept there for worship.



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 Shasthio 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 9112563	
Modern Clinic & Blood Center 9883948	
Sandhani, Dhaka Medical College 9668690	
Drooti 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,	Malaysia Airlines 9888211-20 Airport Office: 8916953, Fax: 9890478
Air India 8617783, 8611929, Fax: 9670591	Emirates 9892801, 9885574-75	PIA 9349293-5, Fax: 9345300
Biman Bangladesh Airlines 8917400-19 9560151, 9559610 Airport Office: 8917400, Fax:8913005	GMG Airlines 8825845-9, Airport Office: 8960404,8915699, Fax: 8826115	Singapore Airlines 8811504-7, 9883259 Airport Office: 8911928, Fax: 8811503
British Airways 8815111, Fax: 8815346,	Gulf Air 9130123-5, Airport Office: 8914573	Thai Airways 8314711-18, 8914343
Cathay Pacific 9557117, Fax: 9562667	Indian Airlines Ltd 9555915, 9557813,	Virgin Atlantic Airways 8816324-5, Fax: 9896481
Kuwait Airways 9115182, 9118829	Leaves Dhaka at 4:30 pm Leaves Dhaka at 7:30 am Leaves Dhaka at 3:15 pm Leaves Dhaka at 11:00 pm Leaves Dhaka at 6:40 am Leaves Dhaka at 12:45 pm Leaves Dhaka at 9:45 pm Leaves Dhaka at 7:00 am Leaves Dhaka at 5:00 pm Leaves Dhaka at 8:00 pm Leaves Dhaka at 9:20 pm	Reaches Chittagong at 10:35 pm Reaches Chittagong at 1:55 pm Reaches Chittagong at 10:55 pm Reaches Chittagong at 6:40 am Reaches Sylhet at 2:30 pm Reaches Sylhet at 6:40 am Reaches Sylhet at 11:05 pm Reaches Bahadurabad at 11:15 Reaches Noakhali at 5:00 am Reaches Jagannath at 2:30 pm

TRAIN TIMING

Subarna Express
Mahanagar Prabhathi
Mahanagar Godhuli
Turna
Parabat Express
Joyantika Express
Upaban Express
Tista Express
Ekata Express
Upakul Express
Agnibeena Express

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
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