

FOLLOW-UP

## KARWAN BAZAR

# DCC sleeps over car park

CITY CORRESPONDENT

The planned car park in the city's Karwan Bazar commercial area is yet to be built despite site selection and handing over of the land to the authorities concerned.

The DCC and the army-led joint forces in the last week of January demolished dozens of makeshift shops, offices of different political parties and vendors illegally set up on the designated car park area at Karwan Bazar. The DCC has so far taken no initiative to convert the area into a car park facility. At present hundreds of rickshaw vans use the area to park their three wheelers during daytime.

Despite its importance as one of the most prestigious commercial areas accommodating a hundreds of important offices and business houses Karwan Bazar is devoid of parking facilities.

**Hundreds of cars are illegally parked in multiple rows severely disrupting traffic flow. Karwan Bazar also houses the largest wholesale market of vegetable and fruits in the country**

Karwan Bazar is devoid of parking facilities. Hundreds of cars are illegally parked in multiple rows severely disrupting traffic flow. Karwan Bazar also houses the largest wholesale market of vegetable and fruits in the country.

"We have selected a site of Roads and Highways Department at Tejgaon to shift the market. If that is done then we will be able to make space for car park and provide commercial facilities to the buildings in that area," said Khoka.

Sadeque Hossain Khoka, Mayor, Dhaka City Corporation (DCC), said that as soon as the wholesale mar-

ket of Karwan Bazar is relocated a car park would be built.

Maintenance of Karwan Bazar kitchen market was handed over to DCC during Ershad regime in 1985. The land for the car park was illegally leased out to traders to make room for 160 makeshift shops.

After Khoka took over as the mayor, DCC leased out a children's park to the wholesale traders of the kitchen market. The park was set up in 1985 on two bighas of land. It was finally turned into a market by 2005.

These shops have been running for decades under the patronage of professional criminals and toll collectors belonging to two major political and the police.



The planned car park space which was vacated months ago is now a rickshaw van garage.



Many motorcyclists ignore safety rules, against which BRTA is revising the law.

fine. Punishment for second time offence is three years jail.

"This is the first time we are planning to bring owners under the jurisdiction of amended law. If the fitness of the vehicle is maintained properly road safety will increase. Owners will have to take responsibility of road safety too", Shahjahan said.

Metre tampering, changing the original feature of the vehicle, adding more seats to public buses will be punished under article 158 with six months jail or one to three thousand taka fine. For the same offence twice the punishment is cancellation of the registration.

Environmental issues are also given special attention. To improve the air quality, penalty for emission under the revised act will be one to three thousand taka. For same offence second time, fitness certificate of the vehicle and driving licence will be cancelled. Under section 150, current punishment is only Tk. 200.

## BRTA revises rules to go tough on reckless motorists

SHAHNAZ PARVEEN

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) is revising the Motor Vehicle Ordinance 1983 with a view to impose tougher penalties on motorists violating traffic rules.

The proposed amendment will give special emphasis on road safety. It would ban talking over mobile phone while driving. Wearing seatbelts for front seat passengers and drivers would also be made mandatory.

"When the ordinance was enacted in 1983 situation in the streets was different. Today public behaviour changed, condition of the streets altered. It is now imperative to modify the law to make it more sophisticated", said Abu Bakar Md Shahjahan, Chairman, Bangladesh Road Transport Authority.

"The penalties included in the current act seem too lenient, which is why drivers in the street do not care about the rules", he added.

Shahjahan said that some of the clause would be revised. "In the revised version tougher penalty will be introduced for offenders", he added.

BRTA formed a seven-member committee headed by Md Abdur Rauf, Director (Enforcement) to draft the revised version. The committee placed the recommendation to the Communication Ministry last week and currently awaiting approval.

Rauf said that safety issues are given priority because of the increasing number of road accidents. Seatbelt does not prevent or minimise the probability of accident but it helps reduce the impact.

Use of helmet while riding motorbikes will be strictly enforced. If violated, the offenders will be fined Tk. 500. Fine will be doubled if the same offence is repeated.

In 95% cases lack of helmet was the primary reason for fatalities in motorbike related accidents.

Violation of traffic signal is one of the main reasons for accidents in the city. Section 143 will be revised to take stern action against rough driving, speeding in intersection and traffic signal violation. Punishment under the revised version will be 3 months to one-year jail or two thousand taka fine.

Drivers involved in road accidents will be punished with 6 months imprisonment or one to three thousand taka

## health, bus services, airlines & train timing

## HOSPITALS &amp; CLINICS

|   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| Ahsania Mission Cancer & General Hospital | 8311721-25                 |
| Islamia Bank Hospital                     | 9333739                    |
| Apollo Hospitals Dhaka                    | 9891680-4, 01713046684/85  |
| Emergency no. 9896623, 0171409000         |                            |
| Bangladesh Medical College & Hospital     | 8828855, 8827575           |
| Labaid Cardiac Hospital                   | 8610793-8                  |
| 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)                | 9614545-9, 9612550-4      |
| Rashmoni General Hospital          | 8317606, 9557354, 8317819 |
| Sandhani, Dhaka Medical College    | 9668690                   |

## AIRLINES

|                                |  |                         |
|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| lines                          | Druk Air   | Malaysia Airlines       |
| Aeroflot                       | 9862243, 9892862,                                  | 9888211-20              |
| 9559930, 9559111, Fax: 9563787 | Airport Office: 8916953, Fax: 9890478              |                         |
| Eagle Paribahan                | 9892801, 9885574-75                                |                         |
| 7101504                        |  |                         |
| Green Line Paribahan           | GMR Airlines                                       | PIA                     |
| 9339623, 9342580, 8353005      | 8825845-9, Airport Office: 9349293-5, Fax: 9345300 | 8811504-7, 9883259      |
| Hanif Enterprise               | 8917400-19, 9560151, 9559610                       | Singapore Airlines      |
| 9120116                        | Airport Office: 8917400, Fax: 8913005              | 8811928, Fax: 8811503   |
| Keya Paribahan                 | 9130123-5, Airport Office: 8914573                 | Thai Airways            |
| 7101894, 7101250, 9121280      |  | 8314711-18, 8914343     |
| Modern Enterprise              | Indian Airlines Ltd                                | Virgin Atlantic Airways |
| 9123743                        | 9555915, 9557813,                                  | 8816324-5, Fax: 9896481 |
| Neptune A/C Coach Service      | Kuwait Airways                                     |                         |
| 7101945, 7101951, 9123092      | 9115182, 9118829                                   |                         |

## 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 9:00 pm       |
| Upaban Express     | Leaves Dhaka at 9:45 pm  | Reaches Sylhet at 6:40 pm       |
| 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 pm |
| Upakul Express     | Leaves Dhaka at 8:00 pm  | Reaches Noakhali at 5:00 am     |
| Agnibeena Express  | Leaves Dhaka at 9:20 pm  | Reaches Jagannath at 2:30 pm    |

## LIBRARIES, CULTURAL AND INFORMATION CENTERS

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| 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 Galler- 9120125, 8123412                                    |
| Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) 9330081-4                          |