

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 hand-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.

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Sadeque Hossain Khoka, mayor, Dhaka City Corporation (DCC), said that as soon as the wholesale market

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

"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.

Sources in Nagar Bhaban said that the relocation of the

Karwan Bazar wholesale market is at a conceptual stage. It might take years, if the initiatives are taken now, to relocate the wholesale market and create the so-called parking facility.

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 big has 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.

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.

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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

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.

health, busservices, airlines & train timing

HOSPITALS & CLINICS

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

BUS SERVICES

<b>Ratan's Dental Clinic</b> 9111090	<b>Drooti</b> 8014563
<b>Salimullah Medical College Hospital</b> 7319002-6	<b>Eagle Paribahan</b> 7101504
<b>Samorita Hospital Ltd</b> 9131901	<b>Green Line Paribahan</b> 9339623, 9342580, 8353005
<b>Shahid Suhrawardy Hospital</b> 9122560-78	<b>Hanif Enterprise</b> 9120116
<b>Shishu Hospital</b> 8116061-2, 9119119	<b>Keya Paribahan</b> 7101894, 7101250, 9121280
<b>United Hospital</b> 8836444, 0194001234	<b>Modern Enterprise</b> 9123743
<b>BLOOD BANK</b>	<b>Neptune A/C Coach Service</b> 7101945, 7101951, 9123092
<b>Bangladesh Red Crescent Blood Bank</b> 9116563	<b>Shohag Paribahan (Pvt) Ltd</b> 9334152, 8316766, 8126293
<b>Modern Clinic &amp; Blood Center</b> 9883948	<b>Shoukhin Paribahan</b> 8014397, 9001796
<b>Sandhani, Dhaka Medical College</b> 9668690	<b>Silk Line</b> 7102461
	<b>Shyamoli Paribahan</b> 9333803

AIRLINES

<b>lines</b>	<b>Druk Air</b> 9862243, 9892862, 9559930, 9559111, Fax: 9563787	<b>Malaysia Airlines</b> 9888211-20 Airport Office: 8916953, Fax: 9890478
<b>Aeroflot</b> 9559930, 9559111, Fax: 9563787	<b>Emirates</b> 9892801, 9885574-75	<b>PIA</b> 9349293-5, Fax: 9345300
<b>Air India</b> 8617783, 8611929, Fax: 9670591	<b>GMG Airlines</b> 8825845-9, Airport Office: 8960404, 8915699, Fax: 8826115	<b>Singapore Airlines</b> 8811504-7, 9883259 Airport Office: 8911928, Fax: 8811503
<b>Biman Bangladesh Airlines</b> 8917400-19 9560151, 9559610 Airport Office: 8917400, Fax: 8913005	<b>Gulf Air</b> 9130123-5, Airport Office: 8914573	<b>Thai Airways</b> 8314711-18, 8914343
<b>British Airways</b> 8815111, Fax: 8815346,	<b>Indian Airlines Ltd</b> 9555915, 9557813, <b>Kuwait Airways</b> 9115182, 9118829	<b>Virgin Atlantic Airways</b> 8816324-5, Fax: 9896481
<b>Cathay Pacific</b> 9557117, Fax: 9562667		

TRAIN TIMING

<b>Subarna Express</b> <b>Mahanagar Prabhati</b> <b>Mahanagar Godhuli</b> <b>Turna</b> <b>Parabat Express</b> <b>Joyantika Express</b> <b>Upaban Express</b> <b>Tista Express</b> <b>Ekata Express</b> <b>Upakul Express</b> <b>Agni Beena Express</b>	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 am Leaves Dhaka at 9:20 pm	Reaches Chittagong at 10:35 pm Reaches Chittagong at 1:55 pm Reaches Chittagong at 10:55 am Reaches Sylhet at 2:30 pm Reaches Sylhet at 9:20 pm Reaches Sylhet at 6:40 am Reaches Bahadurabad at 1:05 pm Reaches Bahadurabad at 11:15 Reaches Noakhali at 5:00 am Reaches Jagannath at 2:30 pm
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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