

Coaching centres operate sans official definition

CITY CORRESPONDENT

As soon as the HSC exam ends students rush to get admitted to the coaching centres. Often most students get admitted even before the exam is over. But these coaching centres are not operating under any uniform rule.

According to the directors and owners of coaching centres there is no proper rule and regulation for the coaching centres.

Syed Mahbubul Haque, director, Omeca, said that they are paying income tax since 2001 but there is no definite rule under which the coaching centres could operate.

"Even if we have the desire to do business with legal trade licence we are not able to do that because on the government's part there is no definition for a coaching centre," said Haque.

"There is no proper rule and regulations for coaching centres and on paper we are operating as a training centre," he said.

Generally 40 to 50 students get admitted to a batch. Most students get admitted to the coaching centres with an amount of Tk 7,000 to 8,000 before the HSC result is published. After the result is published a good portion of the students do not have the required points to get admitted to Dhaka University (DU), Dhaka Medical College (DMC), Buettan and other public universities.

So they at last do not get

Coaching centres are in fact a by product of our education system. In our system teachers and students both think that students should be put into some bindings to learn something and from this view students get admitted to a coaching centre. Tough competition to get admitted to the best institutes is another reason of the rise of the coaching centres,

admitted to the respective coaching centres but do not get their money back. Absence of a uniform rule is giving rise to this kind of incidents.

"Coaching centres do not have any organisation of their own. We had one in past but now it is nonexistent. It happens because many people come to this business from different backgrounds so they cannot become unanimous on different issues and nothing fruitful comes out of the meetings. Right now there is no communication among different coaching centres," said Haque.

Selim Raihan, assistant professor, Department of Economics, DU, said that the coaching centres should come under a uniform rule.

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and students both think that students should be put into some bindings to learn something and from this view students get admitted to a coaching centre. Tough competition to get admitted to the best institutes is another reason of the rise of the coaching centres," he said.

Scarcely students have the desire to study on their own and the coaching centres take this advantage, he said.

"If the colleges can give proper coaching to their students after the HSC exams and organise weekly workshops with teachers of DU, DMC and Buettan that can be an alternative to the present system of coaching centres," said Raihan.

According to most students getting admitted to a coaching centre is a trend rather than a necessity. With so many advertisements they sometimes confuse the students about

which would be the perfect for them. Many students end up getting admitted to more than one coaching centres.

Sadat (not real name), an HSC examinee thinking of getting admitted to a coaching centre, said, "There are so many coaching centres offering so many concessions that sometimes I become confused about in which to get admitted."

"But in most cases our parents are more impatient to get us admitted to a coaching centre. Getting admitted to the coaching centres before the exam is over is more like a trend than a necessity. We want some respite after the exam ends," he said.

Recently the coaching centres has come up with an innovative way to inform the students about their courses. They distribute forms at private coaching homes of reputed teachers where students are



requested to fill up the form with their mobile phone numbers. Later the centres send sms [short message service] to the students about the concessions

they are offering. "Besides prospectus and newspaper advertisements it is a very useful medium to contact with the students especially

those coming from outside the city. We can contact with them with the quickest possible time and let them know about our offers and concessions," said

Haque.

Rat race for plan

FROM PAGE 21
obtaining clearance certificates from the Department of Environment, Civil Aviation Authority and Dhaka Transport Coordination Board as it is usually difficult to obtain certificates from those agencies.

Checking genuineness of thousands of clearance certificates in a time-constrained situation was just impossible, said authorised officers and members of clearance certificate scrutiny committee of Rajuk at that time.

A highly placed source at Rajuk said that thousands of plans were passed in an unprecedented hurry during June 4 to 30 of 2006 to avoid guidelines of the new rules.

The new rules aim at checking the raging irregularities in building constructions, both private and commercial, in the capital city. It is also meant to address the loopholes and inadequacy of the existing construction rules of 1996.

The government extended effectiveness of the old rules again and again in the face of tremendous pressure from an association of commercial builders, said former public works secretary Iqbal Uddin Chowdhury at a meeting.

Caught in a gruelling watery cycle!

FROM PAGE 21
pipes from his rich neighbour's five-storey building rooftop. "My three member family showered in the rain. If we had more buckets, we would have collected more," he added.

A few blocks away in Rupnagar slum, Momena, a seven-month pregnant young woman, often pays her neighbour's son Tk. 20 to fetch a container of water from a nearby washing plant.

Momena said, "We get water supply in every alternate day. Women in our slum manage somehow, but I cannot carry water in this condition. So while my husband [a CNG auto rickshaw driver] is away, I have to manage this way."

At present, 75 percent of the city is under Wasa (Water And Sewerage Authority) water supply coverage. The Wasa currently has a network of more than 2,500 kilometres of pipelines, which supplies water to its 2 lakh legal subscribers. Wasa officials suspect that there are around 50,000 illegal connections in the city that mostly provide water for slum dwelling people.

Experts say because slum dwell-

ing people do not have access to safe water, illegal connection is a by-product of their need.

"Slum dwelling people migrate to the capital from all corners of the country. They come here looking for work. Without them we will have hard time finding garment workers, domestic aids, drivers or night guards," said Professor CR Abrar, director of Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) at University of Dhaka.

"These people provide very important services to the city dwellers. We cannot ignore their contribution in our economy and their rights to safe water," he added.

"Everyday we are taking their services. We cannot expect them to live without necessities like water," Abrar said.

"At the end of the day, they are paying someone. With the amount of water they buy every day these slum dwelling people are paying more than the Wasa subscribers. The question is who gets paid," said the professor.

Experts attributed unplanned

urbanisation as the most important reason behind the current situation.

"When Wasa was created in 1963, Dhaka city was not the capital of Bangladesh. After independence, it was made the capital and then it started to grow. Growth of the city was immense comparing to its capacity," said Kazi MD Sheesh, former chief engineer, Dhaka Wasa.

"The city was planned with only two-storey buildings in mind. Migrating people were not included in the plan. Now the system cannot hold that much growth," he added.

Another reason Sheesh said was the vertical growth of the city. "If the city grew horizontally, people would not have to live in concentrated areas and the pressure of water extraction could also be distributed," he said.

Sheesh worked with Wasa for 34 years and observed that the city dwellers now are compelled to depend solely on piped water from the Wasa since "we encroached on all the important water bodies of the city. Canals used to flow inside the city. If those still existed, people could easily use the water for construction

work, factory use or for a simple car wash," Sheesh added.

Due to overexploitation of groundwater, the water table is gradually falling as well.

Excessive dependence on the groundwater has caused its level to drop in an alarming low level and it is one of the main reasons of reduced water supply of Wasa.

Studies say the water level goes lower into the ground by 2 to 3 metres every year. The water level was recorded at 26.6 metres from the surface in 1996, going down until it reached 52 metres in 2007. The level is varies in different parts of the city.

85 per cent of the Wasa water comes from the underground source of water while the remaining 15 per cent from surface water. Presently, Wasa has 454 deep tube wells and two surface water treatment plants in Saidabad and Chadnighat.

There are around 1,326 privately owned deep tube wells of various capacities apart from the ones run by Wasa. These tube wells also attribute to the current water crisis.

Experts say over exploitation of

groundwater has major environmental implications.

"If we continue to extract water from the ground at the current rate, a vacuum will be created underneath and soil profile of the city will be distorted. This will lead to subsidence of buildings and infrastructure. The city will experience cracks on the surface."

Under the current circumstances, Wasa needs to develop more surface water treatment plants, Sheesh said adding that only two surface water treatment plants in 44 years is not a good achievement.

"We need to recover the water bodies of the city and connect them with the adjacent river. And we need more water treatment plants. If we can do that then the future is not as horrible as it seems," he added.

"Wasa is a commercial organisation. Low-income people living in the slum are not legally Wasa subscribers. It is not Wasa's responsibility to supply water to them. The

crisis that you see in the slums prevail because of this," said Shahidur Rahman Pradhan, managing director of Dhaka Wasa.

Pradhan however said Wasa would soon make some arrangements for slum dwellers and they will have access to safe water.

Pradhan mentioned that the Wasa with the help of World Bank is conducting surveys about how the destitute people can have access to safe drinking water under a project named "Dhaka and Chittagong Wasa Water and Sanitation Project".

"With the help of NGOs, community-based organisations that already sell water to slum people will be legalised. May be not directly from Wasa, but slum dwelling people will be [able to be] legal paying customers," Pradhan said.

health, bus services, airlines & train timing

OSPITALS & CLINICS

- Ahsania Mission Cancer & General Hospital**
9008919, 8051618
- 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**
- 8311721-25
- Islami Bank Hospital**
9333739
- Japan Bangladesh Friendship Hospital**
8828855, 8827575
- Labaid Cardiac Hospital**
8610793-8
- Marie Stopes Clinic**
8821874
- Medinova Medical Services Ltd**
8620353,
- Monowara Hospital**
8318135, 8319802
- Pangu Hospital**
9112150, 9113041
- PG Hospital (BSMMU)**
9614545-9, 9612550-4
- Rashmono General Hospital**
8317806, 9557354, 8317819

BLOOD BANK

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

BUS SERVICES

- Drooli**
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
- Air India**
8617783, 8611929, Fax: 9670591
- Biman Bangladesh Airlines**
8917400-19 9560151, 9559610
Airport Office: 8917400, Fax: 8913005
- British Airways**
8815111, Fax: 8815346,
- Cathay Pacific**
9557117, Fax: 9562667
- Druk Air**
9862243, 9892862,
- Emirates**
9892801, 9885574-75
- GMG Airlines**
8825845-9, Airport Office:
8960404, 8915699, Fax: 8826115
- Gulf Air**
9130123-5, Airport Office: 8914573
- Indian Airlines Ltd**
9555915, 9557813,
- Kuwait Airways**
9115182, 9118829
- 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 Chittagong at 6:40 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

TRAIN TIMING

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