

Quest for a quick passage thru' BDR HQ

CITY CORRESPONDENT

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Allowing an easy and quick passage through the restricted area of Bangladesh Rifles headquarters in Pilkhana just before the 8 o'clock curfew deadline on August 22, the BDR authorities saved hundreds university students and residents of the adjoining areas from sufferings.

The BDR authorities kept open the road connecting the third gate and Jigatola gate of the BDR headquarters for around three hours, which helped the commuters enor-

mously in reaching home.

As soon as the authorities announced to impose a curfew and asked the university students to vacate the dormitories within 8:00pm on the day, thousands of men, women and children rushed to a safe shelter.

The vast area of BDR headquarters in the middle of the city usually remains off limits to public movement. Following announcement of curfew in the afternoon, a good number of female students staying at Kuwait Maitri Hall and Fazilatunnesa Hall of Dhaka

University gathered at the BDR third gate and requested the authorities to allow them an easy passage as the entire Nilkhet and New Market areas turned into a battle field.

Then the BDR authorities opened the passage allowing the university students vacating their dormitories and residents Azimpur, Jigatola and Dhanmondi areas to pass through the BDR headquarters to reach their destinations before the curfew hour starts.

"We would be in trouble unless the BDR opened the gate and facilitated an easy

passage," said Mithila, a student of Bangladesh-Kuwait Maitri Hall.

A trader in New Market, Fuad Ali, who was travelling along with his wife along the BDR headquarters road, said it would have been extremely difficult for them to get back home safely if BDR did not let people pass through the restricted area. "BDR can do a great service to the public allowing the opportunity during peak traffic hours every day," he said.

MA Khan, another resident of Dhanmondi, who passed

through BDR headquarters on that evening by a rickshaw said, "One kilometre of short-cut passage would save a detour of around five kilometres."

When contacted, Major Mahmud of BDR said a number of female students of Dhaka University requested them to let them pass through BDR headquarters on that day. "We just entertained the request of some stranded female students and facilitated their easy passage."

"It was an exceptional situation and we just took an impromptu measure. But it is not possible to allow free public movement round the clock," he added.

Prof Muzaffer Ahmad, a resident of Dhanmondi and chairman of TIB Trustee Board, said that the Dhanmondi residents suffer badly due to traffic congestion on the road no-2 and it takes them far longer to get to the New Market and university areas. "It will save a lot of commuter sufferings if BDR opens the road to public," he said.

"It is not understandable why the road should not remain open for public use if it is open for those going to Rifles School and College and those attending functions at Darbar Hall, both situated within the BDR area," he added.

Commercial establishments like Rifles Square market have worsened the traffic situation on Dhanmondi road no-2, Prof Ahmad said.

According to him, it would be of great ease and convenience for the residents of Dhanmondi, Jhigatola, Rayerbazar and Maneswar Road to travel to New Market, Nilkhet, Azimpur, Dhaka University and old town if the road across BDR headquarters was open to public.



A bust of national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam set up on the Nazrul Chattar on the premises of Bangla Academy is not being properly maintained due to the indifference of the authority.

10x3

10x2

10x3