

No jams without rickshaws, says Dhaka mayor after banning the three-wheelers



TRAFFIC JAM CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka East City Corporation recently banned all rickshaws from plying the city corporation streets, with Mayor Dhapash saying the move was taken to ease the city's extreme traffic congestion.

"It has reached epic levels, the city's traffic jams, so we have decided to ban rickshaws," Dhapash said in a press conference yesterday. "It will also reduce the noise pollution, as the infernal trring ring, trring ring will no longer be heard..."

He had to pause as the blaring horns of cars and buses on the street outside his office drowned out his words.

"It will also increase the beauty of our streets, because really, who wants to see people toiling away in the glare of the sun to pull two or three people to their destinations?" Dhapash continued.

"It's just not a good look, especially as the country is on the cusp of graduating to developing country status," he said.

Reporters, most of whom had to pay more than they normally would have to get to the

press conference, then asked how rickshaws – which measure around three feet across on streets around 30 feet wide – could be the major cause of traffic jams.

"It is not just one rickshaw, as you all know," the mayor said. "These things are all over the place, there is no discipline. Other vehicles, like buses, have no chance when these things are on the streets."

He then moved on to the second part of the press conference.

"I would like to announce that we have signed deals with 45 new bus companies

to make up for the shortfall of transport options," he said with a big smile on his face.

Experts have said that the move to ban rickshaws will push lakhs of rickshaw-pullers into abject poverty. When asked about this, Dhapash said, "We have contingency plans for that too. 45 bus companies means a lot of buses, and a lot of commissions, and a lot of contracts... what was I saying?"

"You were saying you had contingency plans for the countless rickshaw-pullers who will be out of jobs," piped up a reporter.

"Oh yes, they will be given jobs to ride on

buses. With such an influx of new buses, it is inevitable that initially many of them will be empty. So jobless rickshaw-pullers will get to ride on the new buses."

Won't new buses add to the traffic problem, being as they are much bigger than rickshaws?

"Yes, but that will be offset by how shiny they will be, and how well-trained the drivers will be. I tell you, this will transform the city. And don't be worried about the rickshaw-pullers... never underestimate the Dhaka spirit," Dhapash concluded.

Bangladesh named Test cricket orientation and rehab centre

MAHBUB ALAM MUNNA

Test cricket is one of the most prestigious forms of sport. However, in modern times, it does not enjoy much popularity around the world as the International Cricket Council has not bothered to globalise the sport the way FIFA has been doing for football. There is a reason for this, other than the vast difference in riches between the two governing bodies.

"To add new nations to Test cricket's list isn't just a matter of wasting paper, but also a matter of funds and time to train these nations how to play cricket," an ICC representative, wishing anonymity, said.

Into the breach stepped Bangladesh.

"We will train newly promoted Test nations for free. We can also train nations who are lagging behind in rankings," spokesperson of Bangladesh Test Board (BTB) IM Malfix said.

Uninvited Nations (UN) was however doubtful.

"We also want Test cricket to be globalised. But we cannot let ICC leave this crucial responsibility in the hands of Bangladesh without properly assessing them. Bangladesh must show us some proof that they are capable of being a global training centre for test cricket," UN delegate Chabi Deina said in a press conference.

When asked for his reaction to the UN press conference, IM Malfix snickered, before putting on his game face -- something the country's cricketers had not been able to manage.

"We have been playing Test cricket since 2000. That means we have a vast experience of 21 years. We did a lot for the improvement of newly promoted Test playing nations.

"We like to teach others how to play Test

cricket by losing 'almost won' matches. Our focus is on newcomers to Test cricket and old-timers currently struggling to regain lost glories.

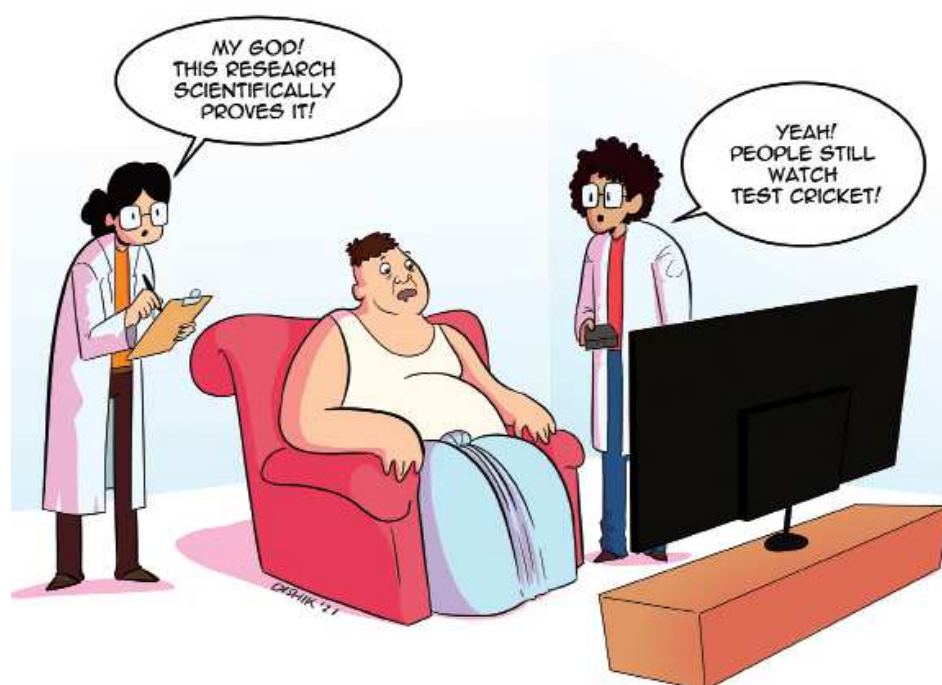
"As to the newcomers, we lost to Afghanistan in the first Test we played against them, and the third Test they played in their history. We also lost a match to Zimbabwe recently, at a time when they could not buy a Test win. In 2011, we lost to them after they had been away from cricket for five years," Malfix said.

"Most recently, and this is the best, we lost to the West Indies. If you recall, West Indies were the one nation that we could beat easily at home. But when they were missing a lot of their top players, and they came to these

shores, we lost to them in handsome fashion. There was a time when they could not play spin, but thanks to us, they can now say they have beaten a team with an army of spinners on spinning tracks," Malfix said.

"So don't let anyone question our credentials as a place where struggling teams come to be rehabilitated and new teams come to get their egos boosted. Don't let anyone tell you that Bangladesh hasn't done its bit for world cricket."

Satisfied by this burst of national and cricketing pride, the ICC and the UN named Bangladesh the rehabilitation and orientation centre of Test cricket. As part of it, the ICC will give Bangladesh a yearly stipend to keep developing their losing credentials.



Take it as a challenge, says boss asking for a week's work in 24 hours



NONE-OF-YOUR-BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

It had been 28 days since Shamim (29) last saw his newborn son. When he asked for paternity leave, his boss said "You should be teaching your son how to be self-sufficient. Do not make the same mistake your father did."

Shamim is one of the many young professionals trying to make it in Dhaka. With the Corvid-19 pandemic haemorrhaging opportunities in the job market, leaving is not an option for those who have just started.

Tasnuva Hossain (19), is one such intern at one of Dhaka's leading advertising agencies.

"I thought about taking a break after my A-levels to learn the ropes of Dhaka's corporate culture. I just didn't know the ropes would be around my neck," said Tasnuva before running away from the photocopy shop she was being interviewed in while the sound of screaming

leaked out from her phone.

Talking to this correspondent, HR specialist Shihab of Mediocre Digital Bangladeshi Agency had a lot to say on this matter.

"I joined this place as an intern in 2017. It's 2021 and I am still the intern but on Thursday, our MD sir showed up and told me to make an entire strategy pitch for a telecommunications company due Sunday. When I asked him how I would do this, he just told me to take it as a challenge and if I can't take challenges, I will never grow as a professional. I have been an intern for four years, bhaia. Is your newspaper hiring?"

We tried reaching out to several HR professionals regarding unfair work atmospheres but half of them refused to comment citing the fear of losing their jobs while the other half said they are changing jobs right now, promising to reach out to us asap. They no longer receive our calls.