



Every day, the lives of commuters in Dhaka come at a standstill on roads, as vehicles seemingly get stuck in time. Coupled with the heat and dust, the situation becomes agonising. But to date, there is no respite from this daily grind. These photos were taken yesterday from Old Dhaka's Babubazar and Science Lab on Mirpur Road.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

'All the roads need is a bit of discipline'

Speakers point out sorry state of transport sector

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is still possible to significantly reduce Dhaka's traffic congestion with the existing road network, by just bringing discipline in the transport sector, said Ilias Kanchan, chairperson of road-safety organisation Nirapad Sarak Chai.

Addressing a programme organised by Dhaka Utility Reporters Association (DURA) at Dhaka Reporters Unity, Kanchan said Narayanganj's police commissioner solved the traffic congestion problem in the area, which means doing so just needs a bit of effort. The authorities did this in the most traffic-jam prone area by clearing footpaths and disallowing battery-run vehicles to ply.

"So, we have to make a decision and work accordingly. But no one is taking that responsibility," he said.

Responding to a comment of LGRD Minister Md Tazul Islam, Kanchan said this government has been in power for the last 13 years, but people are just getting bombarded by dust and have been watching pillars standing idle at airport road for the last five years.

"Why have the pillars been standing idle, with no work being done, for the last five years? The work will have to be done properly. You [government] are even awarding contractors and engineers for not finishing the work timely. Will you find an example like this anywhere else in the world?" he commented.

Questioning the minister's comment on increasing the number of roads, Kanchan said people will not benefit from the roads if major parts of them remain occupied by parked vehicles, an example being the situation in front of Mohakhali bus terminal.

"We can do one thing. We can sit on the roads for two or three days to block the path of VIPs' vehicles, which ply the wrong way. When they'll be unable to move, they'll solve the problem," he added.

Prof Shamsul Hoque of Buet said to solve Dhaka's traffic problem, it is very important to discourage the use of small vehicles and prioritise public transport.

Shamsul said the government will have to stop construction of flyovers in the country and increase infrastructure of public transport.

He emphasised the importance of bus route rationalisation and said as the government is doing "transit-oriented development", there is no scope to discard the plan.

Shamsul said the philosophy of transit-oriented development is to develop cities centring metro stations. In the system, shops, residences and offices will be near the stations. So, a person will get everything within reach and will not need to use cars for transportation.

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Work progress ahead of target Says state minister on 3rd terminal at Dhaka airport



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Construction of the third terminal at Dhaka airport is 1.9 percent ahead of expectations. It is likely to be inaugurated by October next year, said State Minister for Civil Aviation M Mahub Ali yesterday.

He was briefing reporters after visiting the construction site at Kurmitola.

He said 32.7 percent of the construction work of the terminal was supposed to be completed by April 8. In reality, 34.6 percent has been done by this time.

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Extorting money on social media

Hacker who would take control of Facebook profiles and threaten users arrested, says DB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"Pay up to get your Facebook profile back, or we'll post anti-state and militant content through it."

With such threats, a man was extorting money from social media users, after hacking their accounts using phishing links.

If anyone ignored the threats and did not pay the money, militant content would be posted through the profiles, and then, the hacker would threaten to file cases.

Cyber-crime unit of police's detective branch (DB) yesterday claimed to have arrested the so-called hacker after conducting a drive in Savar's Ashulia.

The arrestee is Liton Islam (28).

Police seized a desktop computer, two mobile phones and 10 SIM cards from his possession.

Harun-or-Rashid, joint commissioner of DB, said Liton used to extort around Tk 10,000 from victims, after taking control of the accounts. The

arrestee is a member of an international "hacker-gang".

Around 2,500 local and international Facebook accounts and passwords were also found in his possession, officials said.

Md Najmul Hoque, additional deputy commissioner of DB, said the arrestee was merely a computer operator and used to work in a shop. Watching online tutorials, he learned to create phishing links.

A case was filed against the arrestee with Kadamtali Police Station on March 1, and while investigating the case, police came to know about Liton, said Najmul.

One of the victims, Anowar Hossain, said one "Olyulla Kari" sent a link in his Messenger. When Anowar entered the link, he was directed to a different page, which looked just like Facebook.

Unaware of the trickery, Anowar gave his account details, and soon after, lost all control of his account.

CHAWKBAZAR IFTAR MARKET

The good, the bad and the hype



Anyone going to Chawkbazar for iftar shopping will almost certainly be inundated by the amount of choices in front of them. But a veteran will be able to pick the items that are actually worth it. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

ASHIF AHMED RUDRO

After a two-year break due to Covid restrictions, Chawkbazar iftar market is once again buzzing with people. Every Ramadan, this place is the topic of discussion because of the popular iftar items sold there. They look great in photos, but to find out what they're really like, we paid a visit to the place and checked out the available items for a first-hand experience.

ITEMS THAT STOOD OUT

Pesta badam er sharbat: while the market is mostly dominated

by kebabs and meat-based items, there are a number of small stalls scattered all over the market that sell matha, badamer sharbat, firni, faluda and other desserts. Matha might not be appealing to some people, but the "pesta badam er sharbat" is highly recommended, and they are often overlooked.

Pigeon roast: if you come to Chawkbazar and don't try a meat-based item, it's not a proper iftar shopping. That being said, there are too many kebab items to choose from. Amongst all them, the pigeon roast was the one that stood out

the most, not just by its colour but most definitely by its taste. The flavour is deliciously fulfilling.

Shahi jilapi: they stand out because of their size, and the taste is brilliantly sweet. Even if you don't have a sweet tooth, this item will make an impression. With the enticing colour, the crunchy pieces combined with the sweet taste, the shahi jilapi was the one popular item that actually stood true to its reputation.

Sweet naan: unlike most naans that we are used to, instead of pale

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