

Tug-of-war between DCC and DESA

SOHEL ISLAM

The electricity cables of Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) are an obstruction to getting a number of under-construction foot-over bridges completed on time, said sources of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC).

"We have repeatedly requested DESA to relocate their cables so that we can finish the construction. But it has so far fallen on deaf ears," said a source of the Planning and Design Department of the DCC, requesting anonymity.

"We have deposited the money for relocation according to DESA's demand. But I don't think, we will be able to finish the foot-over-bridges before the first quarter of next year," alleged the source.

The overhead footbridges Mirpur section one and ten, Paribagh and Kazipara are the areas where the DCC's construction work is at a standstill.

DESA officials however expressed their surprise stating that they did not know anything about any requests from the DCC to relocate the electric cables. "If any department wants to bear the

cost of relocation we always comply," said Member (Engineering and Commerce) of DESA Abdul Mannan Mollah.

The DCC is constructing eleven multi winged foot-over-bridges with the provision of iron fences on the pavements which will compel the pedestrians to use these structures. On the other hand, the Dhaka Urban Transport Project (DUTP) is singly raising nine such bridges across the city.

The Government of Bangladesh (GOB) is implementing this project of the DCC at a cost of about Tk 10.5 crore. Chittagong Dry-docks, a government organisation was given the contract.

"The DCC hasn't floated any tenders because it would have taken a lot of time to finish the bidding process and then the construction itself. In involving Chittagong Dry-docks an expert in this field the project will be completed as soon as possible. That's why we didn't opt for any private party," said a source at the DCC.

The DUTP is building nine overhead footbridges at nine important crossings of the city at a cost of Tk 9 crore. The World Bank will bear seventy-five per cent of the total cost. The GOB will bear the rest.



A Half-finished foot over-bridge at Mughbazar intersection becomes a monument to DCC failures.

A cry for play space

BISHAWJIT DAS

Lack of playgrounds and parks may have a great impact in the city in future. Children would grow mentally immature due to insufficient physical recreation, said a mental health expert.

Children in the city are compelled to entertain themselves indoors and on the streets as markets and small businesses mostly occupy city playgrounds and parks.

Dhaka, a city of 10 million people with a child population of two thirds, has only 10 playgrounds and 41 parks owned by the Dhaka City Corporation.

Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA) in a survey conducted by them, found that several playgrounds and parks have disappeared.

There is hardly any initiative to preserve the rest or make any space for physical movement as in the recent past there were some initiatives to turn the grounds into high-rise apartment buildings or business complexes.

"The lack of physical movement may cause serious mental hindrance to children. It will not handicap them mentally but a mental imbalance is a probability," said Dr. AHM Firoz, Director, National Mental Health Institute.

"Adults may remain childish, mentally immature and the personality that would grow in them may not be that of a complete human being. Children may suffer from depression, frustration and turn themselves to some kind of addiction," he added.

"This addiction is not only to drugs, but may be also to computers and video games. In the urban areas there has been a new trend of Internet culture (chatting, pornography, etc.) and this too is a kind of addiction," Firoz pointed.

There are instances in the city

how playgrounds parks are encroached or occupied, at various occasions.

There was an attempt to encroach the playground of the Asad Gate colony this year. Though the attempt was a failure, the playground is left out of work. The dug up lands for the high-rise construction have become 'ponds' and this land cannot be used as a playground.

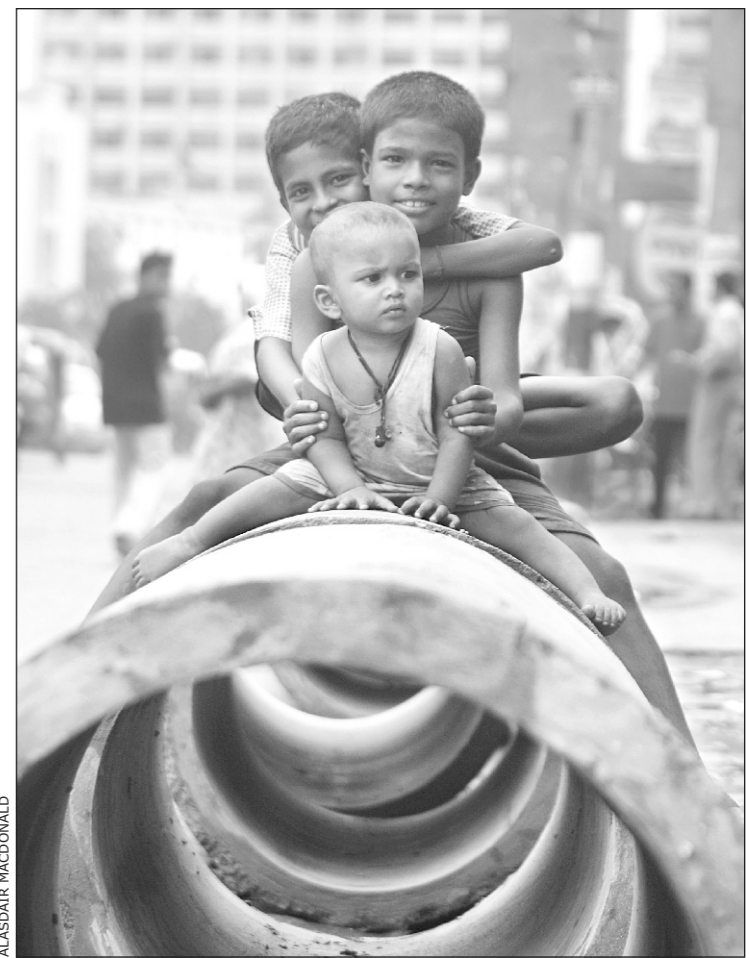
The Hazaribagh Park and playground is being occupied mostly by local daily bazars, haats: different programmes of the locality take place on that land.

The high-rise apartments growing in the city also lacks adequate play space for children residing in them. "The apartment I live does not have any play space. The ground floor can only facilitate the parking of cars," said a young resident of an apartment at Baily Road.

So, parents rush to have their children admitted to schools capacitated with large playgrounds. "Even the reputed educational institutions are constructing buildings on every inch of open space to enrol more students," said a parent. "The aim is to extend the school up to college level." This too is an incentive for parents to enrol students as the mad hunt for higher education institutes after a period of time will not be a matter of concern.

Besides most of the kindergartens, that accommodate thousands of students in the city, do not have playgrounds. Even if they do have any open space, this is not adequate for their students.

Green Force, the youth organisation of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolan (BAPA), indulges in a desperate cry for play space for growing children, youth and for life in general. Sports personnel pledge their support to the cause.



Many children have no choice but to play on the roadside, risking lives.

Good designs deserve good markets

Bangladesh has the potential to introduce modern designs to compete in the international market



A redesigned rickshaw fit for use in developed countries could cost as much as three lakh taka in Germany.

AVIK SANWAR RAHMAN

Industrial Product Designing would help sustain and evolve the products of the local small and medium industries, by adopting designs suited to competitive international markets, observed the speakers of a three day long workshop on Formal Product Design Education in Bangladesh. The workshop held at a local hotel in Dhaka ended last Monday.

In the inaugural speech the team leader of Design and Technology Centre (DTC) Franz Bauer remarked that to create an international market for Bangladeshi products, there is no alternate for formal product design education in Bangladesh.

Professor Hartmut, an expert in product designing from Germany said in his speech that he was amazed, observing how local people changed and reshaped anything as per their demand, whereas most of them never received any proper education or guidelines on product designing.

The professor also said that innovative modern designs of rickshaws with a lighting system would be acceptable in Germany rather than the existing traditional rickshaws of Bangladesh. A rickshaw would cost 5000 Euro or

Tk. three lakhs whereas Tk. seven thousand makes a local rickshaw.

"Bangladesh is producing electronic gadgets like voltage stabilisers but that lacks modern designs," said the

Professor.

Korean expert Kun-Pyo Lee said that since 1996 Korea has developed its product designing and started exporting all over the world. There are three major factors involved here. The government is to generate policy, industries to produce the products, and then schools and institutions to teach and research product designing.

The participants of the workshop were entrepreneurs, local brand developers; representatives from universities, educationists and policy makers in education.

The goal was to make participating institutes aware of the requirements needed to set up an industrial design department, where students could use the viability of this profession as a career option.

The universities and entrepreneurs would go along with the profile within the environment of the universities and use the input of professional help in the development and diversification of products and ensure sustainability of the product in the ever-competing market.

The potential products that would be benefited from product designing are leather, metal works, carpentry, jute and handicrafts, said the speakers.

The workshop was conducted by Design and Technology Centre a project of German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) who are working in product designing for one and half years.

MarketPrice

<p>Dhaka New Market, Dhaka</p> <p>CEREALS</p> <p>Rice (HYV) Aman Medium KGS17.33</p> <p>Rice coarse (HYV) KGS14.33</p> <p>Rice Chinihuri (Aromatic) KGS35.00</p> <p>Wheat Grain (Local White) KGS10.33</p> <p>PULSES</p> <p>Masuri Dal (Deshi) KGS44.67</p> <p>Masuri Dal (Imported) KGS39.33</p> <p>Khesari Dal (Deshi) KGS21.00</p> <p>OIL & OIL SEEDS</p> <p>Mustardseeds KGS38.00</p> <p>SPICES</p> <p>Onion (Deshi) KGS21.00</p> <p>Onion (India big) KGS18.67</p> <p>Garlic Big (Imported) KGS27.00</p> <p>Ginger (Deshi) KGS27.67</p> <p>Ginger (Imported) KGS38.00</p> <p>Turmeric KGS67.67</p> <p>Turmeric (India) KGS67.67</p> <p>Chili Green KGS18.00</p> <p>Chili Dried (Deshi Bogra) KGS82.67</p> <p>Chili Dried (Imported) KGS82.33</p> <p>VEGETABLES</p> <p>Potato (Holland) KGS9.83</p> <p>Bitter Gourd KGS15.00</p> <p>Okra KGS15.00</p> <p>Barbati Green (Long bean) KGS12.33</p> <p>Lau (Water Gourd) KGS13.67</p> <p>Patal KGS9.00</p> <p>Brinjal (Long purple) KGS13.67</p> <p>Pumpkin (Sweet) KGS7.00</p> <p>Papaya Green KGS7.67</p> <p>FRUITS</p>	<p>Banana Sagar (Medium) 4 PCS9.00</p> <p>Pineapple PCS10.00</p> <p>Apple (Australia) KGS55.00</p> <p>Coconut PCS12.33</p> <p>FISH</p> <p>Ruhi (Deshi) KGS172.50</p> <p>Hilsha KGS174.00</p> <p>Chingiri Small KGS108.00</p> <p>FERTILIZER</p> <p>Urea (Local) KGS6.00</p> <p>TSP (Imported) KGS12.20</p> <p>Reazuddin Bazar, Chittagong</p> <p>CEREALS</p> <p>Rice (HYV) Aman Medium KGS16.60</p> <p>Rice coarse (HYV) KGS14.65</p> <p>Rice Chinihuri (Aromatic) KGS32.40</p> <p>Wheat Grain (Local White) KGS10.50</p> <p>PULSES</p> <p>Masuri Dal (Deshi) KGS43.60</p> <p>Masuri Dal (Imported) KGS39.60</p> <p>Khesari Dal (Deshi) KGS24.40</p> <p>SPICES</p> <p>Onion (India big) KGS19.20</p> <p>Garlic Deshi (common) KGS45.20</p> <p>Garlic Big (Imported) KGS31.00</p> <p>Ginger (Deshi) KGS37.00</p> <p>Turmeric KGS55.00</p> <p>Turmeric (India) KGS64.40</p> <p>Chili Green KGS20.80</p> <p>Chili Dried (Deshi Bogra) KGS76.40</p> <p>Chili Dried (Imported) QUINTA69.00</p> <p>VEGETABLES</p> <p>Potato (Holland) KGS11.60</p> <p>Bitter Gourd KGS15.40</p> <p>Okra QUINTA14.80</p> <p>Barbati Green (Long bean) QUINTA</p>	<p>11.60</p> <p>Tomato Ripen (Imported) KGS29.00</p> <p>Carrot Medium Size KGS30.80</p> <p>Lau (Water Gourd) KGS7.60</p> <p>Okra KGS9.60</p> <p>Brinjal (Long purple) KGS14.80</p> <p>Pumpkin (Sweet) KGS9.40</p> <p>Papaya Green KGS6.60</p> <p>FRUITS</p> <p>Banana Sagar (Medium) 4 PCS9.60</p> <p>Pineapple 4 PCS58.80</p> <p>Guava (Deshi) KGS14.60</p> <p>Apple (Australia) KGS71.00</p> <p>FISH</p> <p>Ruhi (Deshi) KGS137.00</p> <p>Hilsha KGS141.00</p> <p>FERTILIZER</p> <p>Urea (Local) KGS5.96</p> <p>TSP (Imported) KGS11.96</p> <p>Comilla Chaka Bazar, Comilla</p> <p>PULSES</p> <p>Masuri Dal (Deshi) KGS44.40</p> <p>Masuri Dal (Imported) KGS35.80</p> <p>Khesari Dal (Deshi) KGS21.20</p> <p>SPICES</p> <p>Onion (Deshi) KGS20.80</p> <p>Onion (India big) KGS16.60</p> <p>Garlic Deshi (common) KGS35.80</p> <p>Garlic Big (Imported) KGS28.40</p> <p>Ginger (Deshi) KGS37.40</p> <p>Ginger (Imported) KGS50.40</p> <p>Turmeric KGS78.00</p> <p>Turmeric (India) KGS58.00</p> <p>Rajganj Bazar, Comilla</p> <p>SPICES</p>	<p>Chili Green KGS28.80</p> <p>Garlic Big (Imported) KGS85.00</p> <p>VEGETABLES</p> <p>Potato (Holland) KGS11.00</p> <p>Okra KGS12.80</p> <p>Barbati Green (Long bean) KGS13.20</p> <p>Brinjal (Long purple) KGS17.20</p> <p>Pumpkin (Sweet) KGS11.20</p> <p>Papaya Green KGS8.80</p> <p>FRUITS</p> <p>Banana Sagar (Medium) 4 PCS8.80</p> <p>Guava (Kazi) KGS17.60</p> <p>Apple (Australia) KGS58.00</p> <p>Apple (India) KGS52.00</p> <p>Coconut PCS11.20</p> <p>FISH</p> <p>Ruhi (Deshi) KGS147.00</p> <p>Hilsha KGS168.00</p> <p>Khuina Sadar Bara Bazar, Khuina</p> <p>CEREALS</p> <p>Rice coarse (HYV) KGS13.35</p> <p>Rice Chinihuri (Aromatic) KGS34.20</p> <p>Wheat Grain (Local White) KGS12.00</p> <p>PULSES</p> <p>Masuri Dal (Deshi) KGS41.40</p> <p>Masuri Dal (Imported) KGS39.20</p> <p>Khesari Dal (Deshi) KGS23.40</p> <p>OIL & OIL SEEDS</p> <p>Mustardseeds KGS27.50</p> <p>SPICES</p> <p>Onion (Deshi) KGS19.60</p> <p>Onion (India big) KGS18.60</p>	<p>Garlic Deshi (common) KGS35.00</p> <p>Garlic Big (Imported) KGS28.80</p> <p>Ginger (Deshi) KGS30.80</p> <p>Turmeric KGS68.20</p> <p>Chili Green KGS11.20</p> <p>Chili Dried (Deshi Bogra) KGS86.67</p> <p>Chili Dried (Imported) KGS92.50</p> <p>VEGETABLES</p> <p>Potato (Holland) KGS10.50</p> <p>Bitter Gourd KGS12.80</p> <p>Okra KGS9.20</p> <p>Barbati Green (Long bean) KGS11.20</p> <p>Lau (Water Gourd) KGS5.60</p> <p>Patal KGS6.80</p> <p>Brinjal (Long purple) KGS12.80</p> <p>Pumpkin (Sweet) KGS9.20</p> <p>Papaya Green KGS5.00</p> <p>FRUITS</p> <p>Banana Sagar (Medium) 4 PCS8.80</p> <p>Pineapple PCS12.80</p> <p>Apple (Australia) KGS83.00</p> <p>Apple (Pakistan) KGS73.00</p> <p>Coconut PCS11.20</p> <p>FISH</p> <p>Ruhi (Deshi) KGS129.00</p> <p>Hilsha KGS149.00</p> <p>FERTILIZER</p> <p>Urea (Local) KGS6.38</p> <p>TSP (Imported) KGS13.25</p> <p>Ghop Market, Jessore</p> <p>FERTILIZER</p> <p>Urea (Local) KGS6.35</p> <p>TSP (Imported) KGS14.60</p> <p>Jessore Sadar Bazar, Jessore</p> <p>CEREALS</p>	<p>Rice coarse (HYV) KGS12.85</p> <p>Rice Chinihuri (Aromatic) KGS33.60</p> <p>PULSES</p> <p>Masuri Dal (Deshi) KGS42.80</p> <p>Masuri Dal (Imported) KGS40.00</p> <p>Khesari Dal (Deshi) KGS21.00</p> <p>SPICES</p> <p>Onion (Deshi) KGS20.40</p> <p>Onion (India big) KGS16.40</p> <p>Garlic Deshi (common) KGS38.80</p> <p>Garlic Big (Imported) KGS31.20</p> <p>Ginger (Deshi) KGS38.60</p> <p>Ginger (Imported) KGS48.60</p> <p>Turmeric KGS62.20</p> <p>Chili Green KGS8.80</p> <p>Chili Dried (Deshi Bogra) KGS98.00</p> <p>Chili Dried (Imported) KGS98.00</p> <p>VEGETABLES</p> <p>Potato (Holland) KGS10.00</p> <p>Bitter Gourd KGS11.40</p> <p>Okra KGS10.80</p> <p>Barbati Green (Long bean) KGS13.00</p> <p>Local Bean Green KGS35.40</p> <p>Lau (Water Gourd) KGS9.00</p> <p>Patal KGS5.40</p> <p>Brinjal (Long purple) KGS11.20</p> <p>Pumpkin (Sweet) KGS9.20</p> <p>Papaya Green KGS4.60</p> <p>Radish White KGS10.80</p> <p>FRUITS</p> <p>Banana Sagar (Medium) 4 PCS7.40</p> <p>Apple (Australia) KGS68.80</p> <p>Apple (India) KGS58.60</p> <p>Coconut PCS8.20</p> <p>FISH</p>
--	---	---	--	--	--