

23 kitchen markets in 10 wards!

in excess to the authorised number

IMRUL HASAN

Although the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has authorised only 12 kitchen markets in the 10 wards of the Tejgaon-Ramna area, almost 23 exist, causing annoyance to city dwellers.

The 11 kitchen markets in Peyera Bagh, Nakhla Para, Bara Maghbazar, Begunbari, Tejkuni Para, the markets besides Farmgate railway crossing, Green Road intersection, in front of Ramna police station and similar places have not been approved by the DCC.

Residents around these markets allege that they have been suffering for years because of the noisy and filthy environment, as no one has yet looked into this matter.

"My children are sick of this environment. So, I have decided

to shift my family from here," Rahela Akhtar said about the Peyera Bagh kitchen market. Rahela and her family have been living in Tejkuni Para for five years.

No one rents the ground floor flats in buildings around this market because of the bad odour. Those who have already living in those flats, are desperate to leave.

"There were 15 families residing in my building six months back, but I am now left with only nine," said a landlord about the effect of the Peyera Bagh kitchen market.

Residents avoid the Bara Maghbazar kitchen market for its multifaceted problems like piled-up waste of rotten fish, meat and vegetables.

"The stench from the piled-up waste becomes unbearable for buyers," said Md. Harun, a

regular buyer at Bara Maghbazar.

When the on-duty petrol police officer that happened to pass by the Bara Maghbazar market, holding a handkerchief to his nose, was asked by this correspondent, he said: "Such unhygienic environment is common scenario of most kitchen markets in the city. Authorities neglect it because the high officials do not come to the market to buy their goods."

The kitchen markets beside the Tejgaon-Nakhla Para Rail crossing has gone beyond the shanties beside the rail lines.

"The buying and selling goes on even as the train passes by," said Rashidul Kabir, who lives near Tejgaon Nakhla Para Rail crossing.

"People, mostly from lower income families are bound to use these markets however dirty they may be," said Ruhul Kuddush, a

Nakhla Para resident.

Vendors of these unauthorised kitchen markets said that though it was illegal to set these markets up, the residents needed them.

Most sellers of Raja Bazar kitchen market said that DCC should take control of the market and set up a permanent kitchen market for them.

"There has been a demand for a kitchen market here for years. As the DCC wasn't providing it, we built it on our own," said Abdur Rahim, a seller.

"The DCC has set up only a shed here, but it has not provided any particular space for slaughtering cows and goats," said Hafiz, a seller.

Most of these unauthorised markets are controlled by the local influentials much to the annoyance of the residents, some in the area alleged.

"Some locally influential

persons have set up these markets in their own interest and take tolls everyday from sellers and no one can say a thing about it," said Afsar Uddin who has been living near Bara Maghbazar for 10 years.

DCC officials said they have abandoned their idea of an eviction drive as it failed several times before.

"We have tried at least three times to evict markets from the Tejgaon-Ramna area in the last six months. They come back as soon as we leave the place," said a senior officer of market circle asking not to be named.

"We also face problems in evacuating those illegal markets, as some local leaders have forcefully stopped our work. We can evict markets if we receive cooperation from the police department," he added.

City roads named after heroes

WAHIDA MITU

A special committee of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) officially approved, at its 8th general meeting on March 22, the naming roads after freedom fighters and sector commanders, although DCC Mayor had inaugurated the nameplates in December last year.

The committee also approved naming of intersections, parks, stages, community centres and the Mahanagar Natyamancha after those who sacrificed their lives in various democratic and political movements.

"The aim of naming these roads after freedom fighters and eminent personalities was to enable the present generation to recognise those who fought in the name of the country," said Mohammad Sirajul Islam, chief town planner. He added that it would help them to feel the patriotic spirit, encourage them to work towards the betterment of the country and know who the true heroes of the country are.

"Knowledge of our history will help to shape their future," said Sirajul.

He said the DCC has already placed some road signs bearing the new names, and the rest will gradually follow.

The road from Farmgate overbridge through Mohakhali to Tongi bridge has been named Bir Uttam Ziaur Rahman Road. The road from Science Laboratory stretching up to BDR gate and Dhanmondi road 2 is Bir Uttam M A Rob Road. The stretch of road from Nabisco factory at Tejgaon through Gulshan Shooting Complex to Gulshan-2 circle is called Bir Uttam Mir Shawkat Road, and from Mohakhali Jalkhabar to Gulshan 1 circle road is called Bir Uttam AK Khandakar Road. From the Sonargaon intersection through Panthapath up to adjoining Mirpur Road is Bir



Uttam Kaji Nuruzzaman Road, from Mouchak to Magbazar road is Shaheed Journalist Selina Parvin Road and from Katabon crossing through Hatirpool Bazar to Sonargaon Crossing road is Bir Uttam CR Dutta Road.

Many of these roads were named a few years' back, but are not officially used either by government or by the people. "The names are confined to just the nameplates rather than daily use," said one of the high officials of DCC preferring anonymity.

Apart from the roads, circles, parks, community centers and a theatre have also been named anew. Baridhara circle has become "UN Square", the intersection of Green road "Sajal

Square". The Dainik Bangla intersection is called "Jihad Square".

The Gulistan Park is named "Shaheed Motiur Park", the ward 82 community centre "Johir Raihan Stage" and the Mahanagar Theatre is named "Kazi Bashir Milanayatan (auditorium)".

A suggestion came from a member of the young generation.

"If the nameplates also carried a few lines on their lives and contributions, it would be easier for us to identify the heroes after whom the roads have been named," Nafiu Alam, a student of class eight.

13x3

13x2

10x3