

Disabled children's right for playing space

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Construction of residential building on the lone playground at Eskaton Garden is facing dispute between the executive body of Society for the Welfare of the Intellectually Disabled, Bangladesh (SWID Bangladesh) and Guardian Forum of the institution.

The Forum alleged that the intellectually challenged children are fond of outdoor games and are losing the chance to play in the open. It might slow down their physical and mental growth.

"Outdoor games and sports are necessary for these special children to improve their mental ability. So, the playground is very necessary," said Habibur Alam (not his real name), the father of a student of Society for the Care and Education of the Mentally Retarded, Bangladesh (SCEMRB), and the main branch of SWID Bangladesh.

"Playground for recreation is obligatory for all children, normal or otherwise, for their mental and

physical growth," said a mother of a mentally disabled child.

Md Saidul Huda (Dodul), an SSC student of SCEMRB said: "We want this playground unchanged and we are not interested in a deformed field."

A member of the Forum said: "We are not interested in the conflict between SWID Bangladesh and the Guardian Forum, we only want a playground, which will provide the recreation facilities for our children."

Abu Naser Khan, general secretary of Save Environment Movement said: "If a residential building is constructed in this field, these children will be deprived of the recreational facilities provided by this branch."

"It will hinder their mental growth and also restrict the facilities that should be given to these children under normal circumstances," he added.

In December 2005, an agreement between SWID Bangladesh and Domino, a developer, was signed to establish a residential multi-storeyed building on a plot of

about 34-katha.

According to the agreement, Domino will give 48 flats out of 96 flats and Tk 60 lakh to the institution.

"The decision to construct a residential building was taken unanimously. We will provide a playground in front of it and the income from the 96 flats will be spent for the children of this institute," said M A Baten, president of SWID Bangladesh.

However, the Forum opposed the decision and said that even if the playground is provided, it will be used by the flat owners, these special children will not get chance to play there freely.

"The lone playground is used mostly by outsiders and for karate practices," the Baten said.

But Rashidul Islam, a local resident said that the field was used for recreational activities. "If this field is used for residential building, we have no other field in this area to go to," he said.

When asked why does he think that the guardians are opposing the construction, which will provide a playground

in front of it, Baten said: "I think they are trying to impose their unanimous control over it. If the construction takes place, they will lose their control over it."

A member of the Guardian Forum filed a case against the construction. It cannot be started before the verdict is given by the High Court.

"As I am a father of one of these mentally challenged child, I am also conscious about the necessity of a playground," said Prof GWH Chowdhury, vice president of SWID Bangladesh.

"Even if the injunction goes in our favour, we will construct a planned playground in front of the residential building," he said. "We plan to build it without taking away the playing area," he added.

Last week, the Save Environment Movement and Guardian Forum in a bid to protest rights of the mentally challenged children formed a human chain and held a protest rally to stop the construction building in front of the Fine Arts Institute of Dhaka University.



The intellectually challenged play freely on the open grounds likely to be used to construct a residential building.

Dhaka City Museum need more items, publicity



Artefacts and items related to Dhaka city on display at the museum.

SHARMIN MEHRIBAN

Though in black and white and slightly blurred, the photographs are obvious. A dog eating off a corpse in which one leg is separated -- labelled 'Shankhari Bazar on the eve of victory'.

Another labelled -- 'A Pakistani soldier killed in retaliation by freedom fighters' shows a close up view of a man whose eyes and mouth are wide-open expressing fear and anguish.

These are just two of the elements exhibited at the Dhaka city museum located within the Nagar Bhaban premises.

Originated in 1996, the museum barely attracts visitors, partly for lack of publicity and partly for its inadequate collections.

"The museum, though originated in Nagar Bhaban, was initiated personally by Muntasir Mamun and was located elsewhere," said Nurul Alam, the museum's curator.

Private individuals who inherited from their family predecessors donated the collections, mostly depicting Dhaka as it used to be, said Bhopendranath Chokrovorty, the museum's caretaker.

He also added that individuals donated the collections after the authorities advertised a number of times.

Apart from the familiar photographs of Bangladesh's 1971 Liberation War that shows corpses and skeletons, the museum also has a collection of paintings, sketches, silverware, newspaper clippings and

pointed out, "I have informed the authorities about it," Chokrovorty said.

A particular board shows a number of named portraits, but some are without designations.

"The donors have been

smaller than that used in today's newspapers.

Another English newspaper clipping from the 'Bengal Times' dated 1876 has a section titled 'London Letter' that spoke of happenings in the then British Parliament.

A few paintings by Charles D'Oyly and Chinnery, of 19th century Dhaka, includes one of Maghbazar Road in 1827 that shows a mosque covered with thick vegetation and another of a road to Tongi in 1816 showing an elephant with what appears to be the carcass of a tiger on its back, accompanied by some herdsmen.

There is no mention of who D'Oyly and Chinnery was. Sets of coins ranging from the time of the sultans like Ghiyasuddin Bahadur Shah (1310-1323 AD) to the British Indian era from William IV to George VI are displayed on another shelf.

"If the donors give us the negatives, we could enlarge the photographs giving more clarity," Alam said.

He also added that the donors did not provide adequate information of the donations.

"We are still trying to increase our collection after which we would widely publicise the museum to attract more visitors," he said.

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household elements from various locations in Dhaka from the bygone years. The labels are handwritten and the paper -- worn out.

One blurred photograph shows a herd of deer in the midst of what appears like a forest that is actually the city's Shahbagh area in 1904, while another photograph that shows what appears to be a fortress with a number of mounted elephants. This is the Dhaka Gate although the label reads: 'Deer passing by the Dhaka Gate'. When

requested to provide more information concerning the individuals but they have not responded so far," he added.

What appears to be a printing press with 'Albion press' engraved on it has pieces of newspaper clippings displayed on either sides. These include clippings from Dhaka's first English newspaper -- 'The Dacca News' dated 1856, and its first Bengali newspaper, dated 1861.

The page-size is similar to that of a magazine with a font size

healthouting, taxicab & train timing

HEALTH

Hospitals

Anjuman-e-Mofidul Islam 9336611, 7411660
BARDEM 8616641-50
Cholera Hospital (ICDDR) 8811751-60
CMH (Dhaka) 9870011
Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital 8628612-6
Holy Family Red Crescent 8311721-5
Islamia Eye Hospital 9119315, 8112156
Lion Eye Hospital 9129127
Medinova Medical Services 8620353-4
Mirpur General Hospital (Pvt) Ltd 9007873, 8015444
Mitford Hospital 7319002-6
National Heart Foundation Hospital 8014914, 8010491, 8021399
Orthopedic Hospital 9112150

Salimullah Medical College Hospital

7319002-6
Samorita Hospital 9131901
Shahid Suhrawardi Hospital 9122560-78, 9112086, 8114856, 9130800
Shishu Hospital 8116061-2, 9119119

Clinics

Akad Clinic 8015855, 8022581
Aroggaya Niketan 9333730
BAVS Maternity 8016413-4
Dhaka Monorog Clinic 9005050
Gulshan Mother & Child Clinic 8822738, 8812992
Ibn Sina Clinic 8119513
Jahanara Clinic (Pvt) Ltd 8912929
Judi Maternity 9113322
Paltan Poly Clinic 9557385
Retina Eye Center (Clinic) 9884588, 9884566
Shishu Bekash Clinic 9351625

The Eye Clinic 9333238

Blood Bank

Red Crescent Centre- 9116563
Sandhani (DMCH)- 8624040
Sandhani (SMCH)- 7310061, 7310061, 7319022
Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital- 8626812-9

Eye Bank

Sandhani International Eye Bank- 8614040

Ambulances For

Dead Body
Anzuman Mafidul Islam (Kakrail) 9336611, Gandaria 7319808, 7318166,
Al-Markajul Islam 9127867,

MARKET CLOSED

Gulshan 1, 2 markets-Friday
 Elephant Road-Friday
 Bishal Center-Friday
 Baitual Mukarram Market-Friday
 Polwell Market-Friday
 BCS Computer City-Friday
 Isha Khan Shopping Complex-Friday.
 Rajlaxmi Complex-Friday
 Stadium Market-Friday
 Bangabazar Market-Friday
 National Museum-Thursday
 Ahsan Manzil--Thursday.
 New Market-Tuesday
 Gausia Market-Tuesday
 Mouchak Market-Sunday
 Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday
 Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday
 Eastern Plaza-Sunday
 Farmview Super Market-Sunday
 Muktiyudha Jadughar-Sunday
 Dhaka Zoo-Sunday
 Shishu Jadughar-Sunday

TAXI CAB

Passenger's Complain

01711-000990, 01711-000991, 01711-000992, DMP-999, 2627.
Cab Salida Ltd. 9344477, 01711-620888, 01711-610405
Cosmo Cab Ltd. 9112959, 8127191,
Nitol Cab Co. Ltd. 8125285, 01711-621953
JBS Cab Ltd. 0191-364575
Coal Cab Ltd 8130485, 01711-826731
Limujin Cab Ltd. 9318351, 9337204
Multi-Cab Ltd. 9666502, 9570740
Nihon Taxi Cab Ltd. 8624742,
 8624741
Orion Taxi Cab Ltd. 934727, 9347277, 01711-155144
Reliance Cab Ltd. 9339563-4
RMS Cab Ltd. 8118536
Shatarupa Taxi Cab Ltd. 731083, 01711-458740
Tinni Cab Ltd. 9662009, 01711-645257
Telex Cab Ltd. 7202201
Aliif Cab Co. Ltd. 0191-357838, 83116948
Cab One Ltd. 9563054 Ext.-3077, 3178
United Cab Ltd. 7510166, 01711-

TRAIN TIMING

Subarna Express
Mahanagar Prabhathi
Mahanagar Godhuli
Turna
Parabat Express
Joyantika Express
Upaban Express
Tista Express
Ekata Express
Upakul Express
Agnibeena Express

Leaves Dhaka at 4:30 pm
 Leaves Dhaka at 7:30 am
 Leaves Dhaka at 3:15 pm
 Leaves Dhaka at 6:40 am
 Leaves Dhaka at 6:40 am
 Leaves Dhaka at 12:45 pm
 Leaves Dhaka at 9:45 pm
 Leaves Dhaka at 7:00 am
 Leaves Dhaka at 5:00 pm
 Leaves Dhaka at 8:00 pm
 Leaves Dhaka at 9:20 pm

Reaches Chittagong at 10:35 pm
 Reaches Chittagong at 1:55 pm
 Reaches Chittagong at 10:55 pm
 Reaches Sylhet at 6:40 am
 Reaches Sylhet at 2:30 pm
 Reaches Sylhet at 9:20 am
 Reaches Sylhet at 6:40 am
 Reaches Bahadurabad at 1:05 pm
 Reaches Bahadurabad at 11:15
 Reaches Noakhali at 5:00 am
 Reaches Jagannath at 2:30 pm

LIBRARY & INFO

Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers

Central Public Library- 8626001-4,
Shishu Academy- 9564128
Shilpakala Academy- 8614673
Bangla Academy- 8619550
Islamic Foundation- 9550280, 9556407
Nazrul Institute- 9114602
Ford Foundation- 8116133
Alliance Francaise- 8611557
Information Resource Center, The American Center- 8813440-4, 9886395-9
British Council- 8618867-8, 8618905-7
Community Development Library- 8113769, 8113604
Goethe Institute Int'l- Dhaka- 9126525-6
Indian Information Centre & Cultural Library- 8850141-2
The Russian Cultural Centre- 9116314, 9118531, 9118314
Drik Photo Gallery- 9120125, 8112954, 8123412
Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) 9330081-4