

Feature Science and Technology

Old Dhaka And Existing Building Laws

THE new Dhaka and old Dhaka are separated by the Asian Highway road which was previously a railway track.

of the people involved in the informal sector live in this part of the city. It is natural that every inch of land should be very important and valuable to the old Dhakaites.

by Samia Latif Huq

Dhaka. So the usual four feet set back between boundary wall and building compels people not to abide by the rule because of the high land price and the high usability at that piece of land.

two buildings sharing one common wall and on the other side enjoying an open space of eight feet. As the old Dhaka residents are more neighbourly so for them sharing of a common wall is not a major social problem as the case may be for the residents of new Dhaka.

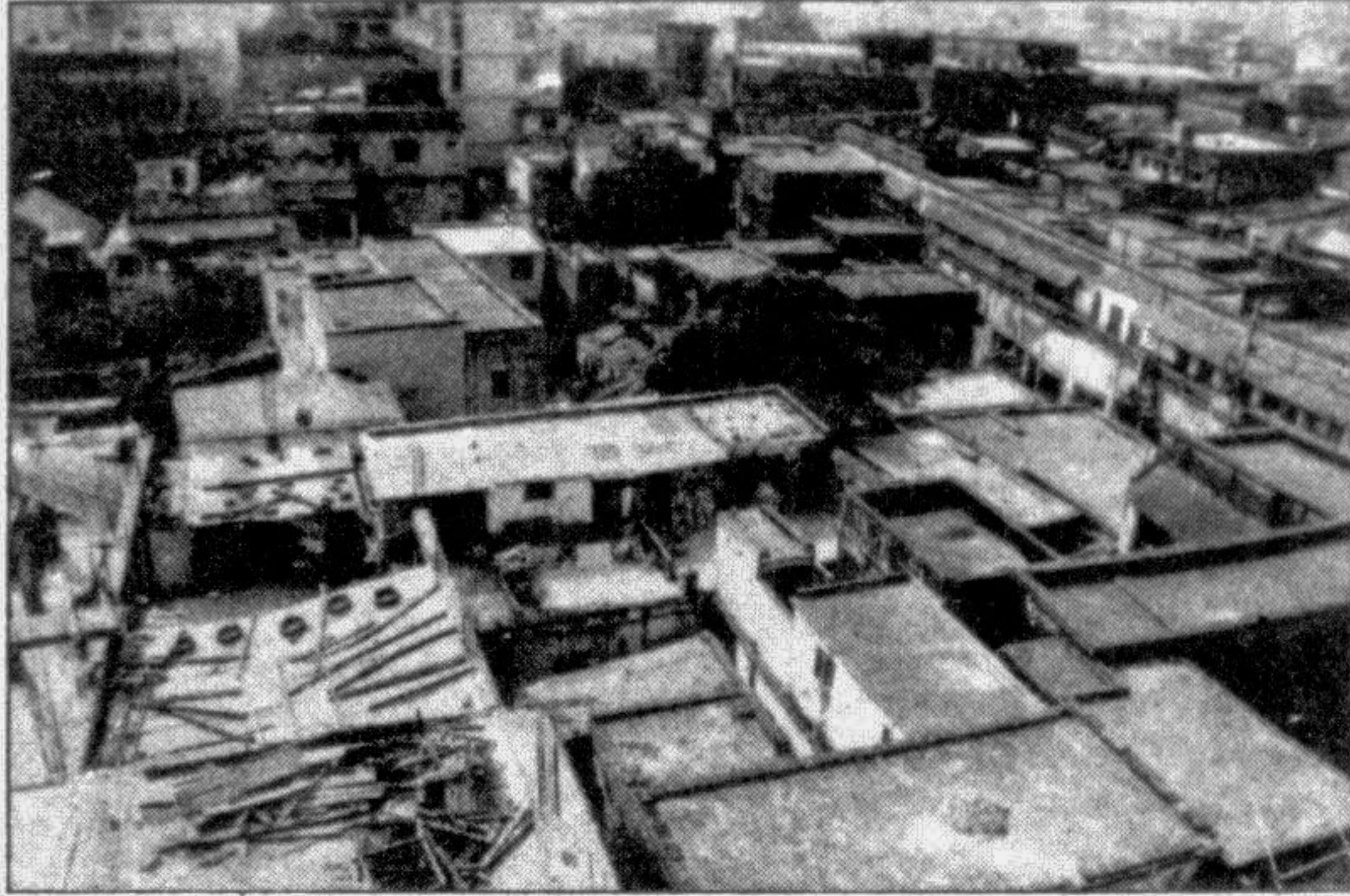
As the building of old Dhaka are characteristic of the past time, the architectural character should not be allowed to be erased. So in the spirit of conservation there can be restrictions for the height of buildings.

Like many big cities Dhaka also has a history of the past. As time changes so does the city for the betterment of the environment.

But these old buildings because of many reasons including poor maintenance, dampness, settling of earth etc. are becoming dilapidated, making the life of the users unsafe.

In case of new construction the owners usually follow the design patterns of new Dhaka and for regulations follow the Rajuk law.

As time passes the city grew towards north but now when we look at the same old Dhaka city we find a deteriorating situation. There is a tremendous pressure of urbanization and over population.



The people of old Dhaka are very enterprising, most of them are involved in some sort of small industries.

The roads of old Dhaka are too narrow because they were built for horse drawn carriages, bullock carts and pedestrians.

The conscientious in the society believe that the old part of our city must be preserved because it is our heritage.

successfully followed. Also in the United States' capital Washington, DC the highest building is the capital and all the other buildings have the traditional facades specially preserved.

Old Dhaka does not follow any zoning regulations. For example most houses have their shops in the ground floor and residential accommodations in subsequent upper floors.

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This article is contributed by the Post Graduate Centre, Architecture Department, BUET.

When a Hobby Turns into a Public Service

by Raffat Binte Rashid

"YOU sound better than you look," this is usually the first reaction of two friends meeting for the first time but regularly in touch with each other — over radio.



Network (SEANET) meet annually in a convention. This year the Seantet Convention '93 was held in Dhaka from November 19 to 21.

These meetings are extremely informal. Each year the event is organised by national amateur radio societies in various countries in the region.

Even though amateur radio in Bangladesh has been a sporadic event and the enthusiasm dates back to 1965, but the majority of them are completely unaware of this unique hobby.

Post and Telecommunication Minister Tariqul Islam on the occasion of the SEANET '93 convention held for the first time in Dhaka emphasized the need for this extraordinary hobby.

D H Rankin, Chairman International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) region III said that for some it is a hobby and for others a life long passion.

because he likes to do it, many of them are better than the professionals but they do not use the radio for money — that's the big difference," he explained.

In Bangladesh this has been slow to start, and proper promotion should be given because geographically Bangladesh is so disaster-prone.

Rankin, who has visited Dhaka for the fifth time, thinks that the decision to hold the convention in Dhaka has been a very good one.

A ham is a considerate, loyal, progressive, friendly, balanced and a patriotic person, because radio signals do not know any territorial boundaries.

The world for radio amateurs is divided into three regions, region I includes Europe, Africa and Middle East, whereas North, Central and South America is region II and the rest of the world i.e. New Zealand, Pacific Islands across to Iran, Afghanistan are all under region III.

It's a happy occasion we have done everything possible for our friends here to make their visit a memorable one, said Saif Shahid BARL president.

Many might question why give a mere hobby so much importance? But when a hobby turns into public service, why not?



Women, Science and Technology: Looking Ahead

THE world of science is traditionally not one in which women have worked, or one which has placed value on women's knowledge and skills.

many different units racing independently towards goals — drug cures for AIDS and cancer for example — that are defined principally in terms of profit potential.

Other societies have had, and still have, other ways of explaining phenomena which are valid in their own right, and which have contributions to make to solving the world's problems.

In order to explore the gender implications of science and technology decisions and actions, it is necessary to question the goals and the mode of operation of the current science and technology models.

by Helen Appleton

tional companies. These people are usually men whose priorities will be directed by company profits, by government and market pressures, by national concerns, and even by personal glory.

The way in which the dominant science and technology model operates also has implications for women. Power is concentrated in the hands of those most successful at raising money for their work and in obtaining the best financial returns.

They have no experience of, or remit to develop, scientific and technological agendas that take account of the needs of groups but the science and technology model does not encourage internal questioning of basic assumptions.



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Agricultural practices of women in land reclamation project

IN Bangladesh women are not allowed to work in open fields because of both the conservative religious beliefs in the rural areas and the belief that women are not physically strong enough to do agricultural work.

The Land Reclamation Project (LRP) is a collaboration between Bangladesh and the Dutch government, which began in 1986 an experiment to test the viability of rehabilitating destitute women through agriculture.

Although mainly successful, there are still some problems to be solved. Some of the women have to travel long distances to the farm; so accommodation close to the farm is needed.



An animal-driven ghani

but the science and technology model does not encourage internal questioning of basic assumptions, except within the terms of the model itself.

Women, who have different agendas and different ways of working, are largely unable to bring about significant changes to priorities because too few of them obtain the educational qualifications necessary for entry.

Cloned Human Embryos

Could Humans be Copied and Mass Produced?

S UDDENLY, it seemed possible to ponder the imponderable: Could humans be copied and mass-produced? Could parents one day choose designer embryos?

Fertility researcher Jerry Hall says his research — cloning human embryos — is all part of helping couples who can't have babies.

The Vatican branded his experiment "perverse."

There were calls for the 12-nation European Community to adopt a ban on cloning human embryos.

In Germany, top politicians on Tuesday denounced the idea and said it must never be allowed in their country.

At news conference Monday, the George Washington University researcher seemed puzzled that his experiments on short-lived embryos in a petri dish raised the specter of mass-producing humans.

"We did not implant these into any women; we did not intend to implant them," Hall said.

Nevertheless, some ethicists say Hall crossed a line when he conducted the first known cloning of human life.

Cynthia Cohen, head of the National Advisory Board on Ethics and Reproduction, said the research raises "chilling" possibilities for the future.

The glare of the spotlight is new for Hall, who has worked in relative obscurity for six years as director of George Washington University's in vitro fertilization lab.

The softspoken Hall admits he was surprised "a little" by the uproar after an article about his cloning work appeared Sunday in The New York Times.

Bruno Menzel, deputy chairman of the Free Democratic Party, said the "artificial production of humans is a horrific idea that must be banned around the world."

He has appeared on American and foreign TV networks; his office is swamped with interview requests.

Hall and Dr Robert Stillman, the director of the university's in vitro fertilization programme, seemed reluctant targets of the endless questions.

They emphasized scientific details and insisted the ethical questions should be left to others — their personal views weren't important, they said.

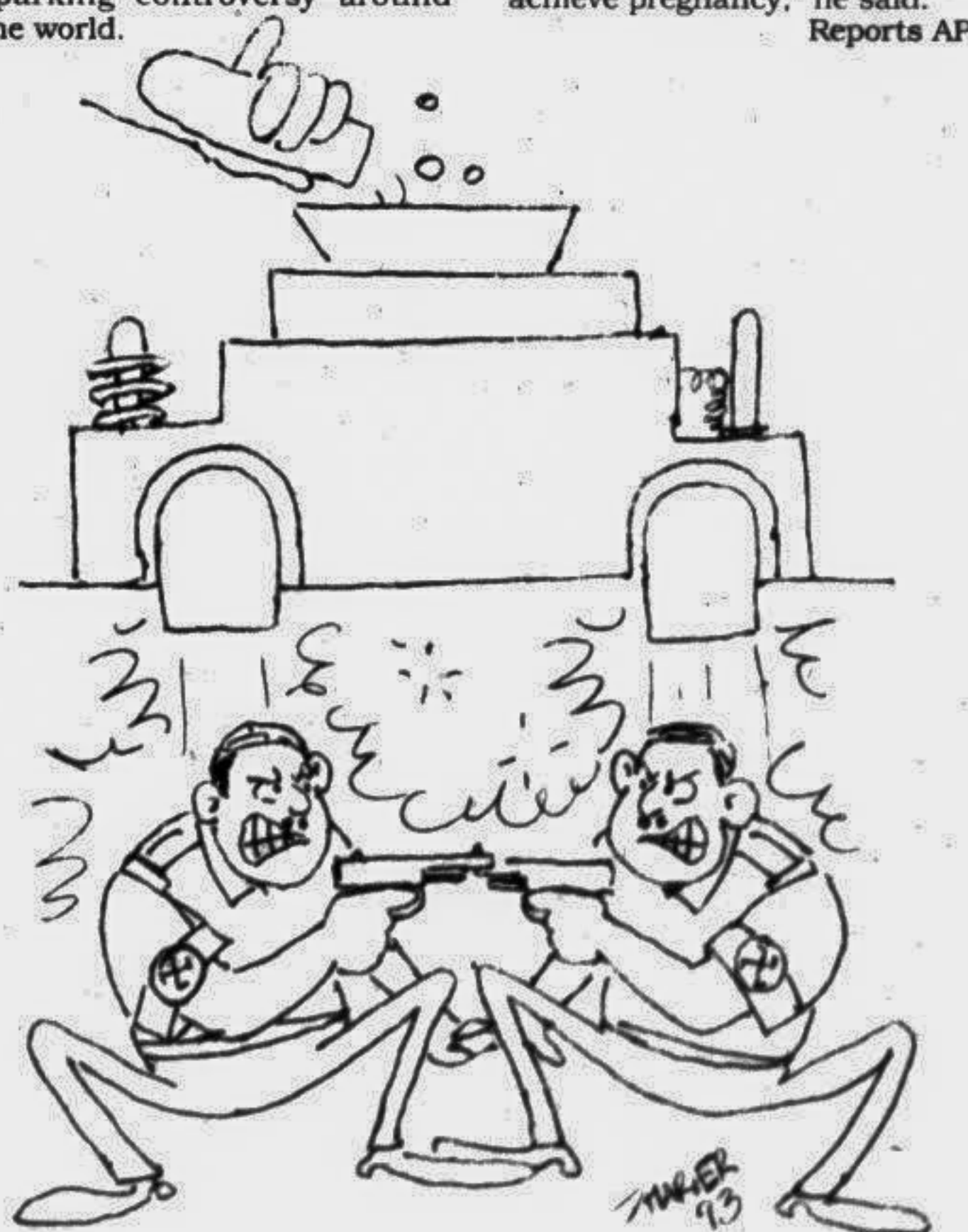
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But Hall and Stillman agreed that ethical guidelines are needed before scientists attempt cloning normal embryos, which in theory could be implanted in women and grow into babies.

Hall described the experiment as a natural outgrowth of his work to improve in vitro fertilization — or the making of so-called test tube babies — which has become a common fertility treatment.

"Our goal is to help parents achieve pregnancy," he said.



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Courtesy — Appropriate Technology