

An old market in bad shape



Shop owners at Karwan Bazar DIT Market reject DCC plan to increase rent

AVIK SANWAR RAHMAN

Shop owners at the Karwan Bazar DIT Market have rejected the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) plan to increase monthly rent.

"The DCC has decided to raise the rent to Tk. 5 per square feet which is not acceptable to us. It has done nothing to develop the market and business has gone down due to its poor condition," said Shahjahan Bhuiyan, chairman of Karwan Bazar DIT Market Committee.

The shop owners of the Market are passing their days with anxiety as a portion of the market is falling apart apparently due to the lack of maintenance of the DCC.

"There are about 286 shops and two garments industries on this three storied market. But for nine months the DCC is not accepting the rent agreed in 2001, said Bhuiyan.

"The DCC settled the rent of the Karwan Bazar DIT market at Tk. 250 per shop for 150

square feet area. Now it wants Tk. 750 for each shop," added the chairman of the market.

Bhuiyan informed that the market was established in 1964 by the DIT and handed over to the shop owners in 1966. In 1983 it was handed over to the DCC but the Corporation could not get hold of the market because of complications over the right of land. DIT used to take land tax from the shop owners at Tk. 1.50 per month but the DCC did not agree with the land right of the shopkeepers. The shop owners then went to court for legal protection.

The court asked the DCC to rent the shops on lease basis. In 2001 the DCC settled on a lease basis system and fixed a monthly rent of Tk. 250 per shop.

Till 2001, the DCC did not have the opportunity to collect rent and could not spend for the maintenance of the market. But since then, the DCC regularly received the rent but reportedly didn't spend any money for development and repairs of the market.



New life for Duronto

SABRINA KARIM MURSHED

'Duronto' at Shishu Academy premises is having final touches done to its repairs after it was hit by nor'wester bringing down the statue eight months ago.

The damage was the second to the statue, the first being an attack of vandalism in 1996.

The sight of the remnant of the statue for the last eight months reminds one of 'the trunkless legs of Ozymandias on a pedestal'.

'Duronto' the bronze-cast statue was sculpted in a lost-wax method using a wax model coated with a material with a high melting point, whereby the wax is melted and replaced by the molten metal.

The original statue is of a child running with a wheel alongside it, symbolises the exuberance and innocence of a child.

Left with only a leg and wheel on the pedestal, the torn down parts of the statue were stored on the roof of the academy building.

The Daily Star quoting the director of the academy reported in November that the

authorities were eager to repair it but needed the sculptor's supervision.

He said the academy authority hesitated at first to grant the repair cost estimated by sculptor Sultanul Islam, but later agreed and contacted him.

The sculptor denied this saying he had not received any formal letter from the academy.

With the confusion and disagreements coming to an end, Sultanul Islam started the repair work on Tuesday last.

The broken parts of the statue were welded together and washed by acid.

"Shishu Academy has a long friendly relationship with the sculpture -- a symbol of dynamism of a child," said Md. Feroz Salahuddin, Shishu Academy's director. "I feel relieved that we have repaired it now," he said.

Islam, who created 'Duronto' in 1982 said that though repair work is being done, it would not be possible to retrieve its original outlook. There will be spots visible on it.

"This is a work of art and once it is broken, you cannot expect the original effect even if you mend it," he said.



Finishing touches are being put to the repairs of 'Duronto' (above), on the left stands remnant part of the damaged statue and the ring.

Stop this nuisance

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Sidewalks reek of open-air urinals, causing discomfort to pedestrians, but squatters, drifters and roving traders are left with the lone option, as public toilets are a few.

The practice of relieving themselves anywhere along sidewalks around Shamorita Hospital in Panthapath -- just a case in point -- has made it impossible for pedestrians to walk down.

"There are no public toilets in this area. I have no choice but to use the footpath as urinal," carpenter Nakul Chandra said.

"It is all but impossible to walk the urine-swamped footpaths. The stench is unbearable leaving us to use the edge of the main roads to walk on," said Abdus Sattar, a resident. "This is a rather dangerous practice too."

"Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) took no preventive measures to fight the public nuisance," said Safat Jamil, a computer science and engineering student of Ahsan Ullah University of Science and Technology.

Farmgate, a populated area, has a public toilet, but people prefer to use the park as a place of convenience.

Ahmed Ali, a seasonal fruits vendor near the park, said: "I use any place convenient at the time. I have been selling fruits in this area for long and I am habituated to the practice."

From Gulistan's entrance to its exit, the unbearable smell of urine is in the air causing health hazards to thousands of small-

It is all but impossible to walk the urine-swamped footpaths in the city. There are no public toilets in most areas. But DCC seems indifferent to this public nuisance

time traders haunting the area every day.

Mahanagar Natya Mancha used for social, political and cultural functions seems fuming with the odour of urine. Areas surrounding high-profile buildings have not been spared either.

Another busy polluted area is Shahbagh, home to two hospitals, a museum, a library, a university, a children's park and many business establishments, but a public toilet is nowhere in sight.

"What choice do the people have? Sidewalks, open spaces or any convenient spot they could find are used as urinals. People will have to relieve themselves, after all," said a shopkeeper in Shahbagh. "What is the DCC doing about this menace?"

Footpaths to Aziz Supermarket, Elephant Road or even the long stretch from Mohammadpur to Mirpur, corners of bus-counters are contaminated with urine.

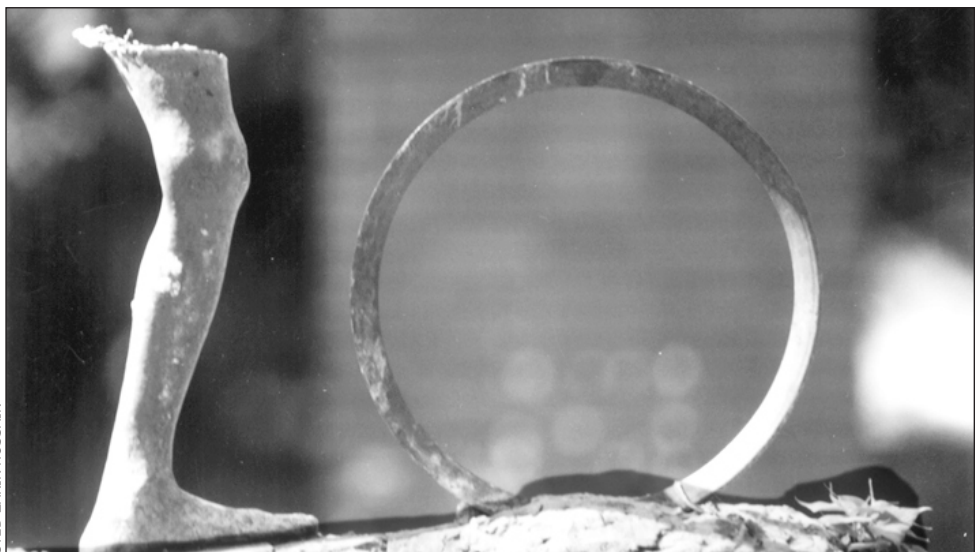
"We put up with the bad smell every day," said Mehedi Hasan Sarker, a computer operator of a private company in Mohammadpur.

The bus terminal in Sayedabad can be classified as a public latrine. The pungent smell of urine smacks the air around the bus stops in the Karwan Bazar area.

Other affected places are near the Science Laboratory bus-stop and Teacher-Student Centre (TSC). "We are sick of it," said Sanjida Noor, a City College student.

"The DCC cleans these urinals regularly. We are trying to protect sidewalks from this menace. We have taken steps to construct public toilets in busy places," Sohel Faruquee, DCC's chief conservancy officer, told Star City.

"We don't have enough manpower to ensure proper cleaning. We seek police coordination and people's awareness to make our attempts successful," he added.



useful **telephone** numbers

COURIER SERVICES

International
Air Borne Express- 9561371, 9561372, 9550724
Air Couriers Int'l (BD) Ltd.- 8815970
Aramex International Courier- 9558003, 9559582, 9565075
Airspeed Express- 9563494
Asian Courier Services Ltd.- 8313543
Baishakhi Courier Service- 9558606
Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.- 9565114
Bangladesh Courier Service- 9563989
Bengal Express- 9560642, 9552666
Bangladesh Int'l Courier- 953636
Continental Service Ltd.- 9552948, 9558425
DHL Worldwide Express- 9881703-7, 9886305-9, 9882057
Enem Express- 9330699
Fedex Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.- 9565114
Modhuban Courier Service-

9550884
Overseas Courier Service- 9352431, 8321169
Pacific Courier- 9568446
Reliance Express Service- 9558515, 7110249
Sky International service- 9660442
Skynet world Wide Express- 9558062, 9560258, 7114787, 7113184
TNT Express- 9566662, 9558239, 8618155
Union Courier Service- 9341722
United Parcel Service Air alliance Ltd- 8826429, 8810223

National
Asian courier Service Ltd.- 8313543
BAE- 9884851
Central Courier Service- 9881118
Confidence Courier Service Ltd. 9567036
Chisty Courier- 7110177-9,
Cosmopol Services- 9552793, 9557975
Dhaka Courier Services- 7236222

Dolphin Courier- 9558802
Dreamland Courier Service- 9550326, 9566975
Pioneer Courier Services- 9561727, 9569759
Probashi Courier Services- 9346359
Rainbow Express Parcel Services Ltd.- 8322773, 8315703
Reliance Express Services- 9558515, 7110249
Sundarban Courier Services- 9551984, 9556189, 9551656
Sunrise Courier Services- 9568751
World Runner Express Ltd. 9112068, Fax - 880-2-9112068

TIPS
Do you know according to Dhaka City Corporation, you must deposit your waste at the collection site between 4pm and 10pm

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
British Council- 8618867-8, 8618905-7
Community Development Library- 8113769, 8113604
Goethe Institute Int'l- Dhaka- 9126525-6
Indian Information Centre & Cultural Library- 8615096
The Russian Cultural Centre- 9116314, 9118531, 9118314
Drik Photo Gallery- 9120125, 8112954, 8123412

OUTING

Museum and Zoo

National Museum- 8619396-9
Open: 10 am 5 pm, Friday 3 pm- 8 pm, Thursday closed
Muktijuddha Jadughar- 9559091
Open: 10:30 am 6:30 pm, Sunday Closed
Bangabandhu Smiti Jadughar- 8110046
Open: 10 am 5 pm, Wednesday closed
Ahsan Manzil
Open: 10 am 5 pm, Friday: 3 pm - 7 pm, Thursday Closed
Shishu Jadughar- 9666466
Open: 10 am- 6 pm, Sunday Closed

CITY BUS ROUTE

Bus No.	Route	Starts from
1	Gulistan-Shahbagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 10, 11, 12	Golap Shah Mazar
2	Gulistan-Shahbagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 1, 2	Phoolbaria bus station
3	Gulistan-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Mahakhali-Airport-Azampur	Phoolbaria bus station
4	Shyampur-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Airport-Tongi	Shyampur
5	Sayedabad-Kamalapur-Motijheel-Airport-Joydebpur-Gazipur	Sayedabad
6 A	Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Gulistan 1, 2	Kamalapur
6 B	Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 1, 2	Kamalapur
6 C	Motijheel Shapla chattr- Malibagh- Farmgate- Gulshan 2	Motijheel Shaplachattr
7	Sadarghat-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 2	Sadarghat
8	Chittagong-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Asad Gate-Kalyanpur-Gabtoi	Chittagong Road
9	Demra Rani mahal-Motijheel-Kalbagan-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 10, 11, 12	Demra Ranimahai
10	Sadarghat-Gulistan-Kakrail-Malibagh-Rampura-Biswa Road-Tongi Bridge	Sadarghat
11	Sayedabad-Motijheel-Fakirapool-Maghbazar-Mohakhali-Tongi Bridge	Sayedabad
11/A	Sayedabad-Khilgoan-Malibagh-Rampura-Airport-Tongi Bridge	Syedabad
12	Shanir Akhra-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Asadgate-Mohammadpur	Shanir Akhra
13	Motijheel-Shahbagh-New Market-Jhigatola-Shangkar-Mohammedpur	Motijheel
14	Signboard - Motijheel-Shahbagh-New Market-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 12	Signboard (Chittagong Road)
15	Chittagong Road-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Mirpur 12	Chittagong Road
24	Gulistan-Maghbazar-Mohakhali-Airport-Uttara-Bipile	Gulistan