

DCC plans big on civic amenities

Graveyards, crematoriums, community centres on list for this fiscal

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has a massive plan to increase civic amenities including setting up of graveyards and crematoriums, community centres and developing parks this fiscal year.

Four graveyards will be set up to cope with the rising space problem under a new project titled "Mohanagar Kabarsthan Nirman Prokopa" (city graveyard construction project).

Besides, the DCC will spend Tk 1.50 crore on the development of the existing graveyards.

Some 120-140 people are buried everyday in the city's graveyards, which are now almost full. Because of space problem, same graves are used time and again.

The DCC has also allocated Tk 50 lakh for the renovation of the crematorium for the Hindus. A crematorium for the Buddhists will also be built at a cost of Tk 1 crore. Currently, there is no separate crematorium for the Buddhists in Dhaka.

The corporation has planned to evict encroachers from the children's parks and develop them at a cost of Tk 1.50 crore in the new fiscal year. Another Tk 1.50 crore will be spent on playgrounds.

Sources said the DCC has finalised a project to construct four garbage-dumping points. Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) is currently doing a study to prepare a master plan for scientific garbage disposal. Several community-cum-

cultural centres will also be built at a cost of Tk 20 crore.

The DCC has already opened five music schools at Mohanagar Mohila College, Haji Juman Community Centre, Paltan Community Centre, Afiruddin Sardar Community Centre and Mirpur Town Hall where children can learn music by paying only Tk 10 a month. Ten more such schools will be set up this fiscal year.

More kitchen markets will be built and the existing ones developed at a cost of Tk 8 crore, official sources said.

To reduce parking problems in the city's commercial hub of Motijheel and Dilkusha, the DCC has taken up a project to construct one more high-rise commercial-cum-car parking centre at

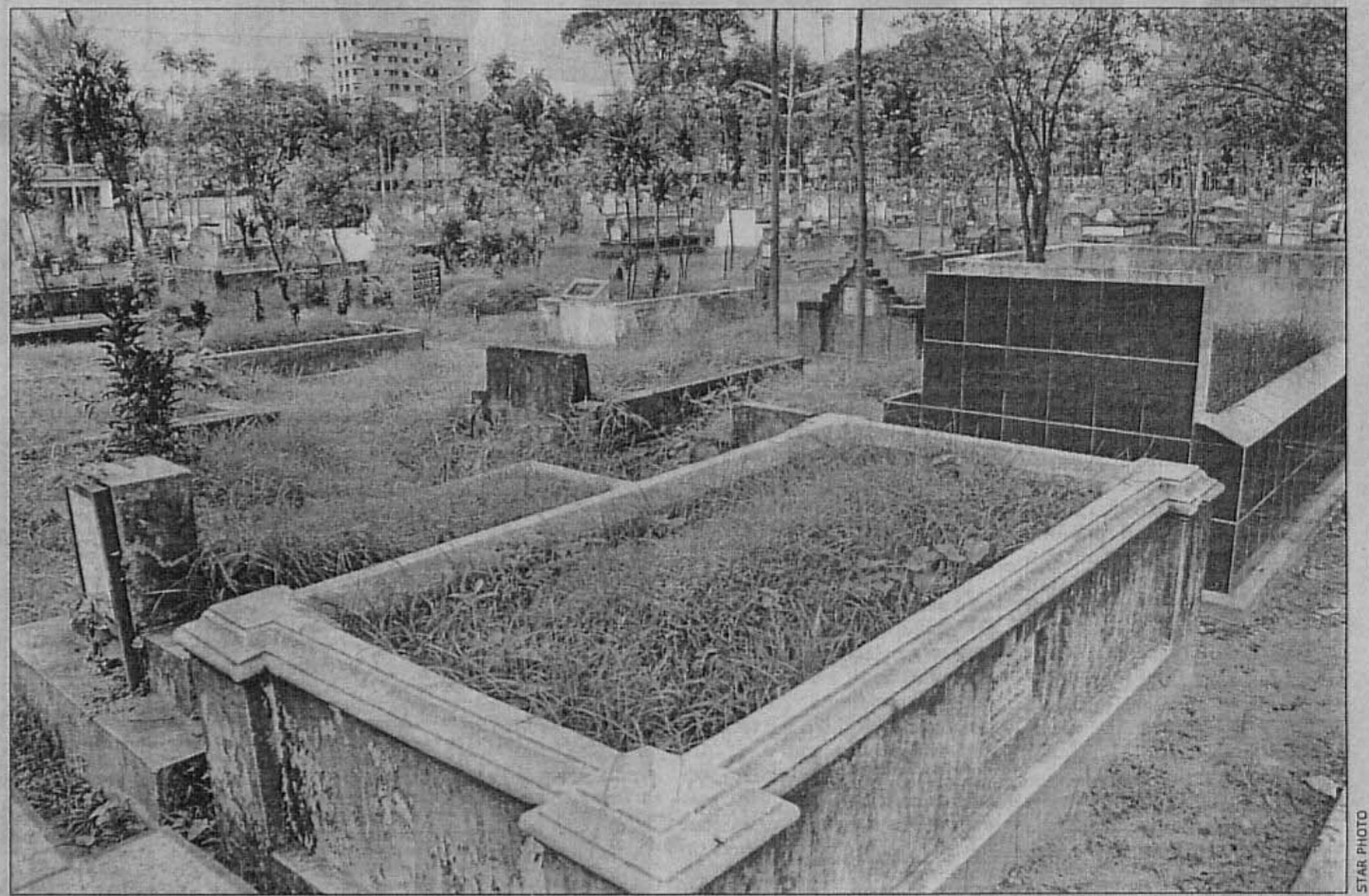
Dilkusha.

Currently, a 37-storey commercial cum parking lot is being built in Motijheel.

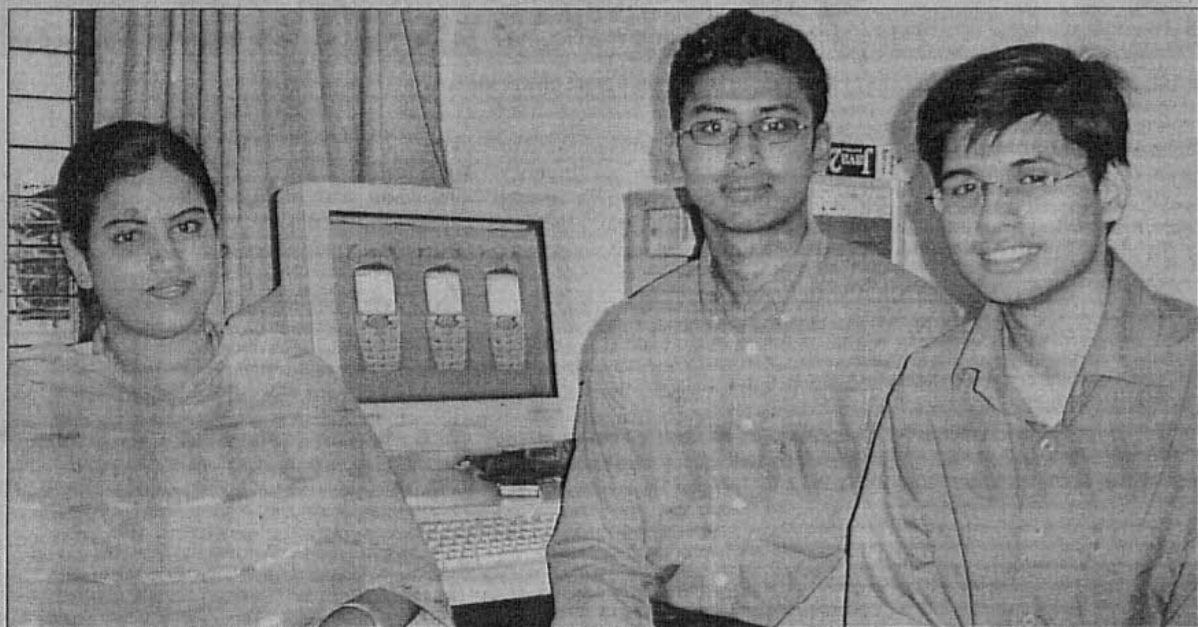
Four major roads -- Darus Salam Ansar camp to Kachukhet, Mirpur Grameen Bank to Agaogon, Zia Colony Cantonment Road and Hazaribag-Kalunagar road -- would be constructed or developed this year.

Officials said Japan has approved a Tk 190 crore project to construct a link road from Tongi Diversion Road to Rampura bridge and repair of other city roads.

DCC Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka will announce more social development programmes and new projects on July 8 when he places the DCC budget for this fiscal year, sources said.



As the old graveyards are becoming overcrowded, DCC now plans to develop new ones this year.



The trio that developed the e-mailer software through short messaging service (sms).

E-mail from your cell

SYED TASHFIN CHOWDHURY

Two third year students of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering of Dhaka University have come up with a mobile e-mailer programme that can send and receive emails directly through a cell phone using the short messaging service (sms).

Gazi Mashfiqur Rahman and Farzana Yasmeen, with help from their teacher Md. Asif Hossain Khan, have developed this mobile e-mailer.

"Through the sms emailing system, we have already received very enthusiastic response from various corners of the country," said Asif Hossain Khan.

Within twelve days of promoting the system, over 1,500 short messages had been received, converted to e-mails and sent to the addresses of desired recipients.

The latest application can send and receive emails via a servlet directly from a Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP) and Post Office Protocol (POP3) server using a Java 2 Platform Micro Edi-

tion (J2ME) technology.

"Since J2ME is being used worldwide for such purposes, we have therefore chosen this medium for better flexibility," explained Mashfiqur Rahman.

Such emailing services have not yet gained popularity in this country due to the absence of the Wireless Access Protocol (WAP) technology, which is considered the standard protocol for exchanging data over networks via portable devices like cell phones.

Most mobile service networks did not entertain the idea because of its extremely slow speed and the huge expense involved with it. But this problem can be solved with the J2ME application the students have developed.

"The application can only be implemented on Mobile Information Device Profile-2 (MIDP) supported mobile phones which are available everywhere in the city now," said Farzana Yasmeen.

"The overhead cost of sending such emails would be reduced since the

slow loading and sending of web pages like WAP would no longer be necessary," she added.

The e-mailer would provide users with the option of using a graphical interface while sending emails. Also, there will no longer be a limitation on the number of characters per mail, which was a constraint with the 160-character limit of the sms.

The application can be installed in a mobile device via a data cable linked to a computer or may be downloaded from the provider's site. The program can be easily updated or uninstalled.

The group is also working on a full-blown mobile e-mailer but are frustrated by the apathy shown by concerned quarters towards their effort.

"I have talked with officials of various mobile phone companies in the city and even though they had good words for what we were doing, they have not yet shown the willingness to formally give our programme a try in near future," lamented Khan.

OLD DHAKA PARKS

Nothing but remainder of the green

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Most parks and open spaces in Old Dhaka have virtually turned wastelands, parking spaces of pushcarts and rickshaw vans and safe havens for drug peddlers, addicts and other criminals, worsening the acute shortage of much needed open spaces for residents of the densely populated area to breathe in fresh air.

In daytime, local youths use the parks and open spaces as playgrounds or vagabonds use those as their homes. At night, drug peddlers, customers, floating sex workers and their clients roam the areas.

Locals say the drug addicts are mainly involved in mugging pedestrians and others.

The DCC owns 47 parks and open spaces, some 12 of those in the old part of the city.

At English Road Park and Bangshal Park on Wednesday night, local youths were seen taking drugs and a number of floating sex workers moving about for clients.

Makeshift tea stalls and bus counters, parking of vehicles and garbage piles have made the parks anything but places for fresh air and recreation.

Boundary fences, electric poles and facilities for children's play in most parks are either damaged or stolen. Floating people have also set up makeshift shelters in many parks to live in. They turn up at night but disappear in daytime.

Bus counters have been erected around Sirajuddowla Park and transport companies have occupied Armanitola field park vehicles. Encroachers have dumped bricks and sand in Samsabad Mahallah field.

Even the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC), custodian of the parks, dump waste materials in some of those, particularly Bahadur Shah Park and English Road Park.

Abdur Razzak Khadem, executive engineer of Zone-2 of the DCC, where the parks are situated, admitted the poor condition of 'some parks'.

He however said renovation of some of the parks will be carried out soon. About encroachment on Sirajuddowla Park and Samsabad Mahallah field, he said he would

look into it.

"No one dares to visit any park in Old Dhaka although there are very limited open spaces for a large number of people," said Nazimuddin, general secretary of Dhaka Mahanagar Samity, an organisation of more than 20 lakh residents of the area.

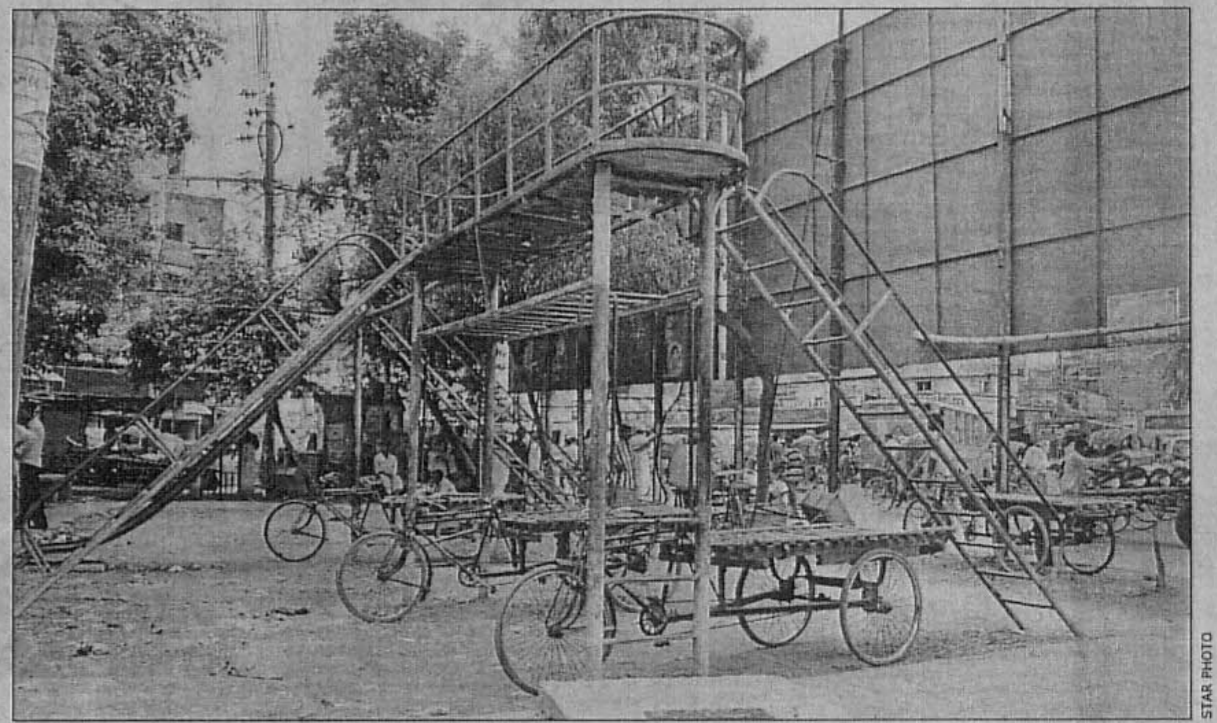
He demanded setting up a park in Dhaka Central Jail area when it is shifted elsewhere.

Meanwhile, locals have taken the responsibility to look after Bahadur Shah Park and engaged two care-

takers for the job.

"Amid increasing demand for open space, we recovered the park from encroachers, drug peddlers, addicts and muggers. Those who pay Tk 10 a month are allowed to enter the park," said Abdul Quayum, a local businessman.

DCC Chief Estate Officer Abu Taleb said, "It is the duty of zonal offices to see what is going wrong with the parks and inform us to take action." In the recent past, he did not get any such information, he added.



A children's park in Old Dhaka used for illegal parking of rickshaw vans.

healthouting, taxicab & train timing

HEALTH

Hospitals

Heart
National Institute of Cardio Vascular Diseases (NICVD),
- 9130800, 9122560-59

Burn

Dhaka Medical College Hospital
Burn Unit-8626812-6

Cancer

National Cancer Institute-8014914,
8826561-65
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib
Medical University-8612550-4,
861455-9

Diabetes

Diabetic Research Hospital
(BIRDEM)- 9661551-5,
8616641-50

Mother & Child Care

Shishu Hospital- 9119119,
8116061-62
Azimpur Mother & Child Health

Training Institute- 8624827, 8624980

Eye

Islamia Eye Hospital-9110794,
9119315
National Eye Hospital- 8117202,
8114807

Dental

Dental College -9002035

Orthopaedics

National Orthopaedics (Pangu)
Hospital- 9114075, 9112150

General

Dhaka Medical College Hospital-
8626812-6
Rushmono General Hospital-
8317819
Holy Family Hospital-
8311731-25
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib
Medical University Hospital-
8612550-4, 8614545-9
Bangladesh Medical College &
Hospital- 8115443, 9118202.

Shamarita Hospital- 9131901

Suhrawardy Hospital -- 9130800,
9122560-69

Salimullah Medical Collage
Hospital -- 7310061-4, 7319002-6
Chelera Research Hospital
(ICDDR)- 8811751-60
Monowra Hospital 8319802, 8318135

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)
9336511, 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.
Rajjalmi 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
Muktijuddha Jadugarh-Sunday
Dhaka Zoo-Sunday
Shishu Jadugarh-Sunday

TAXI CAB

Yellow Cab

Navana 9558065
Salida 9344477, 0171620881
Cosmo 9112959 and 8127191
Cab One 7113282-3
Nihon 8624741-2
Orion 9347277
Anudip 8125285 and 8127611
Capital 9352847

TRAIN TIMING

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

Union 8130485

Kool 0171826731

Black Cab

Cab Ex 9358401
Cabline 8321162
JBS Cab 019364575
Sajan 018126036
Anudip -- 8125285 and 8127611

Cab One 7113282-3

Palki 0171052500

Cab I 7113282

Jatri 0171540074

Nipun 9572277

R-Cab 8914782

Star Cab 9571919

Shihab 018202477 & 018228675

KGN 8620011

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