

DUS builds illegal kitchen at TSC

CITY CORRESPONDENT

The food shop Dhaka University Snacks (DUS) is 'illegally' constructing a permanent kitchen inside the Teacher and Student Centre (TSC) premises posing a threat to its architectural heritage and environment.

Although Dhaka University (DU) does not own DUS, its proprietor apparently managed to get permission from the authorities to build the kitchen beside the TSC branch of Janata Bank. Parts of the TSC's boundary walls too have been utilised for construction work. The place was end portion of a flower garden before.

The TSC has a glorious tradition of creative works and movements against oppression and injustice. It is also a popular place to hang out

for students. Naturally, the DUS kitchen has already raised a few eyebrows.

"The authorities have not informed me about the establishment. The proprietor of DUS also sought no permission for building the kitchen," said Amir Hossain, chief engineer of DU.

"We have already issued a notice to stop construction. We are going to take more official steps in this regard," he added.

An official concerned preferring anonymity however informed that the construction work was being done with the permission from the University's estate department.

Alamgir Hossain, director of TSC meanwhile claimed that nothing illegal was being done.

"It is not a new establishment at all. The DUS is only re-constructing.

The kitchen will not change the architectural characteristics of the TSC. We have re-arranged the internal design of the centre to ease the pressure of students," said Hossain.

The director also said that the cyber centre, main kitchen of TSC cafeteria, office of the DU Journalists Association etc. were not part of the original architectural plan of the TSC.

Sources said that the construction of the DUS kitchen has received the green signal from the top authorities. Tk 1,00,000 was reportedly deposited at first. The DUS has to pay Tk 2,000 per month as rent of the kitchen.

Some DU officials alleged that DUS' owner Takdir Hossain Jasim, a former Jatatabadi Chatra Dal (JCD) leader, had gone on to estab-

lish a permanent kitchen despite only receiving permission to build a makeshift one. Jasim could not be contacted for his comments despite repeated tries on his mobile phone.

"The kitchen had existed since the establishment of DUS in 1986. A few years ago it was shut down. We are now re-launching it with the permission of the authorities," said DUS' manager Sharif.

General students have strongly condemned the construction of the kitchen.

"We cannot encourage it. It is not acceptable as the TSC will become congested. This is the heart of the campus and a favourite spot for the students. The authorities should remove the kitchen," said Abul Kalam Azad, a student of Department of Sociology.



PHOTO STAR

Titas blames low revenue take on floods

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Revenue collection of Titas Gas has seen a slump which officials believe is a consequence of the flood in Dhaka and its adjacent areas.

"It has not been a tendency all over Dhaka but many people living in

flood-affected areas have failed to pay our bills probably because they do not have the financial ability at the moment," said a highly placed source in Titas.

Titas has more than 10,00,000 subscribers in the city. According to sources, revenue collection

decreased by nearly 20 per cent in the low-lying areas of Dhaka.

"Revenue collection in the badly affected areas like Mugdapara, Rampura, Goran, Khilgaon, Basabo etc. have fallen well short of the expected mark," said a high official of Titas Gas.

"These are densely populated places and we have a large numbers of customers there. If we have one or two subscribers inside a one bigha area in Gulshan, there are atleast 40 in Goran," he explained.

The official said in most cases, people of lower and middle-income

groups who buy gas from Titas, had to leave their homes in search of shelter during the deluge. Some tenants also left their houses without notifying the landlords.

"That is why most of the bills have remained unpaid," he said.

Titas sold gas worth Tk 240 crore to its domestic, industrial and heavy industrial customers in the month of July, according to sources. Along with current dues, Titas normally collects arrears from subscribers which at present stands at around Tk 1,000 crore.

"The current bills have not been paid entirely, let alone the arrears," said an official of Titas adding that they had targeted six per cent more revenue collection for July.

Aminur Rahman, director operations and head of the flood-monitoring cell of Titas said the company did not suffer too much during the flood.

"There have been certain damages but that did not disrupt our supply," he said.

However, Rahman added that the flood had affected a number of the 700 industrial units in Munshiganj, Narayanganj, Rugganj and Savar areas.

"We will run a check to see if there were any damages in those industries," he said.

Rahman also feared that the gas regulating and Metering Stations (RMS) that went under water might have been affected.

"We are examining them as we may need to change some parts and machinery," he said.

First int'l food fair begins in Dhaka Sept 17

Agro processed food products are of international standards but have failed to reach the global market as buyers could not be attracted.



KAUSAR ISLAM AYON

Dhaka International Food Fair-2004, organised by the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), will be held from September 17-19 at the Sheraton Hotel.

The fair, the first of its kind in Bangladesh, will aim at promoting exports of agro-processed food products of the country.

EPB Vice-Chairman Meer Shahabuddin Mohammad hopes the fair would explore new opportunities to expand sales of this potentially fast-growing sector to the global market.

"Our food products are of international standards but failed to spread as we could not attract buyers with our items," he said.

About 50 companies, including producers and exporters, are

expected to participate in the fair.

Invitations for foreign-buyer participation have gone out to different countries through all Bangladesh missions overseas.

"Foreign missions in Dhaka and Bangladesh missions abroad are being briefed to make the fair a success," the vice-chairman said.

EPB authorities said they are receiving good response from the buyers.

"We will be able to justify standards of our agro-processed food products and be able to take necessary steps to improve quality in production," said EPB official Toufiq Khan Mozlish.

The government has given agro-processed food products top priority in the export sector.

"We hope the fair will help increase worldwide export of

food products," he added.

A steering committee on the fair is working out a strategy to make the fair effective and fruitful, the EPB vice-chairman said, adding he hopes to arrange such fairs regularly depending on the response.

"Discussion sessions arranged with prospective buyers will help producers exchange views and give buyers an opportunity to measure standards of the products," he added.

Dry and processed food items like juices, jam, jelly, *chanachur*, pickles and chips will also be exhibited at the fair.

Bangladesh earned \$3.58 million from exports of agro-processed food products in the last fiscal year.

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
Bannladesh 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, 955640
The American Centre (IRC)-8813440-4,9886395
The 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

1 Gulistan-Shahbagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 10, 11, 12
2 Gulistan-Shahbagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 1, 2
3 Gulistan-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Mahakhali-Airport-Azampur
4 Shyampur-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Airport-Tongi
5 Sayedabad-Kamalapur-Motijheel-Airport-Joydebpur-Gazipur
6 A Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Gulshan 1, 2
6 B Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 1, 2
6 C Motijheel Shapla chattr- Malibagh- Farmgate- Gulshan 2
7 Sadarghat-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 2
8 Chittagong-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Asad Gate-Kalyanpur-Gabtol
9 Demra Rani mahal-Motijheel-Kalbagan-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 10, 11, 12
10 Sadarghat-Gulistan-Kakrail-Malibagh-Rampura-Biswa Road-Tongi Bridge
11 Sayedabad-Motijheel-Fakirapool-Maghbazar-Mohakhali-Tongi Bridge
11/A Sayedabad-Khilgoan-Malibagh-Rampura-Airport-Tongi Bridge
12 Shanir Akhra-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Asadgate-Mohammadpur
13 Motijheel-Shahbagh-New Market-Jhigatola-Shangkar-Mohammedpur
14 Signboard -Motijheel-Shahbagh-New Market-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 12
15 Chittagong Road-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Mirpur 12
24 Gulistan-Maghbazar-Mohakhali-Airport-Uttara-Bipile

Starts from

Golap Shah Mazar
Phoolbaria bus station
Phoolbaria bus station
Shyampur
Sayedabad
Kamalapur
Kamalapur
Motijheel Shaplachattr
Sadarghat
Chittagong Road
Demra Ranimahall
Sadarghat
Sayedabad
Syedabad
Shanir Akhra
Motijheel
Signboard (Chittagong Road)
Chittagong Road
Gulistan