The Satgumbad Mosque is situated close to the Mohammadpur colony. The former name of this place was Jafarabad. The mosque was built by Nawab Shaista Khan. The date plaque of the mosque has disappeared but stylistically it can be dated to the later half of the 17th century A.D.

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Dustbin-stench smacks air, poses health risks

MIZANUR KHAN

Dustbins set up to free the city from pollution are posing health hazards, residents of different areas said.

The stench emanating from these containers make living quite unpleasant. "Dustbins were set up to keep the city clean but they have turned into a key source of pollution," said Farzan Ahmed, a Dhanmondi housewife

"These bins do not help keep the city clean but made the surroundings dirtier and repulsive," said Shobhan Sarkar, another resident.

Health experts said trash left in the open for long cause diarrhoea, malaria, gastro-enteritis, cholera, hepatitis B and other infectious diseases. "The toxicity from the waste is so overpowering that trees surrounding the bins wither long before their life span," said Dr Mizanur Rahman of Dhaka Shishu Hospital.

and conscious when disposing of trash. Dirt is dumped anywhere, but in bins. Street urchins scatter dirt hunting for treasure strewing rubbish all around.

Residents also said Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) cleaners do not empty the dirt from these containers



Street urchins comb through dirt around a bin in Hatirpool, looking for means to get through the day. that three cleaners are needed to

on time, but dirt is left to decompose on its own -- an allegation brushed

aside by a DCC high official. Ibrahim Hossain, owner of teashop few metres from a dustbin at Farmgate, said cleaners do not collect garbage regularly. "Garbage accumulated for two to three days

affect my business as the stench keeps customers away," he said.

"It is not only our responsibility." Dwellers should dump litter in bins instead of throwing it anywhere they wish," said Sohel Farouquie, DCC's

chief conservancy officer. "We are aware of the situation and are planning to reduce these containers, as they are a hindrance to society," he added.

A traffic police officer accused DCC officials of ignoring their duties and said: "It is impossible to stand here without a mask, even for a

More than 4,000 permanent dustbins were installed at different points in the city and 400 portable metal containers were set up for effective waste management.

A study by DCC states that residents of Dhaka generate more than 3,500 tonnes of garbage a day in the dry season, of which 80 percent is organic and over 4,500 tonnes in the

DCC officials said fund constraints and labour shortages are the reason all garbage cannot be collected and the rest is left to rot.

"An international study states collect waste produced by 1,000 people. We have only 6,500 workers serving more than a million residents," Farouquie told Star City.

In February, the DCC installed wheeled containers in the New

Market area on trial to make waste management convenient and effective. "We hope to install 50 more wheeled-containers around the city within the next two months. Areas will be more clean and hygienic as these containers can hold a larger volume and disposal is convenient. Furthermore this will save time and money," the officer

The DCC now uses open containers for garbage removing. Cleaners carry garbage in wheelbarrows to roadside containers. Manual transportation makes the area around containers unclean as the garbage in wheelbarrows is dumped on the road and the hauled into containers.

The DCC has recently undertaken a pilot project in two wards as part of waste management to continue through February. "We have involved the community in the project and hope it will work," Farouquie said.

"We have to ensure scientific garbage collection and disposal system. According to the plan, garbage will be accumulated in only two or three places at a particular time a day. If the plan succeeds the city will be free of open dustbins," Farouquie added.

nearest to the bomb and what he was

In most foreign countries, the

police immediately secure the area,

invite forensic experts to see the

spot, collect strewn evidence and

take pictures of the area before

clearing the area for police and

evacuation of the bodies, experts

Bangladesh. After such fatal inci-

dents, people reach the spot before

police or experts, evacuate the dead

and injured and unknowingly

destroy evidence.

The scenario is different in

doing at the time, experts and doc-

tors said

city express

The latest crop of quotes from the city's press -- words worth repeating, we feel, for their humour, insight or sheer outrageousness. Star City does not necessarily support the opinions expressed in this column.

"There can not be any discussion with killers. What is the point in discussing with those who wanted to kill me and murdered my leaders and activists"



-- Sheikh Hasina

President of Awami League and Leader of the Opposition Told journalists in Sudha Sadan on August 26 refusing the prime Minister's proposal for dialogue. Source: The Daily Jugantor

"We have liberated the country through supreme sacrifice. We can not let the fundamentalists capture it"

-- Zillur Rahman Presidium Member of Awami League Said during funeral of his wife Ivy Rahman killed in grenade attack on AL rally



"Once I stepped down from power to establish democracy in the country, but now democracy has become hostage to terrorism"

Hussain Mohammed Ershad Chairman, Jativa Party and former Told journalists on August 27 at Bogra Circuit House expressing concern over grenade attack on opposition leader

Source: The Daily Jugantor

-- Motahar Hossain

"We keep at logger-heads during happy times. But it would not bring us any good if

we do it during moments of crisis" **Saifur Rahman** Finance Minister

after meeting with US ambassador Harry K. Thomas on August 26 Source: Prothom Alo

Told journalists commenting on Sheikh Hasin's refusal to meet Prime Minister

"All hell broke loose there, they made it look like doomsday"

> **General Secretary of Krishak League** Told journalists recalling his experience at the August 21 AL rally. Source: The Daily Star

"The attack was made by people who have a problem with Bangladesh's successful economic progress, recognition by world leaders of Bangladesh as a moderate and tolerant Muslim-majority nation and people who will benefit from Bangladesh's downfall."

-- M. Morshed Khan Told reporters at his office on August 28 giving his view Awami League rally.

FIVE YEARS INTO CPB RALLY ATTACK

Probe comes to dead end

Investigators say will correct past flaws

SULTANA RAHMAN

A group of newcomers to the Communist Party of Bangladesh masterminded the bomb attack on a CPB rally at Paltan Maidan in 2001, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) said in a preliminary investigation Five years into the incident, the

police could not end the investigation of the bomb blast that killed seven people and injured several others. "Some young workers joined the

party in a plan to attack or create panic," a CID official said, asking not to be named. "The attackers went underground. We raided some houses to arrest them but found they used false names and addresses," the official said

The CPB leaders alleged the police leaked information to two $suspects\,helping\,them\,escape\,arrest.$ The deadly explosion still remains in mystery that the CPB blames on the lack of determination of the government to nab the criminals

CPB President Manzurul Ahsan Khan recalled the tragic episode: the bomb ripped through a crowd on January 20, 2001, about 180 metres from the dais that seated leaders of 10 political groups. He believes the device was detonated by remote

Investigators say the CID is now determined to correct all past flaws the investigation, including failure to collect material evidence from the scene, conduct the inquiry on the basis of unbiased witness account and nab the real attackers.

Police arrested 13 people, 11 of them were released on bail, CID officials said. "The release of the accused made the case fragile," an official said, requesting anonymity.

At least 119 people have been killed and over 600 injured in 13 explosions in public places since March 1999, but no attackers were brought to justice. Bomb blasts have become

commonplace experience, but nobody seems to care," said Arifur Rahman, a resident of Mohammadpur. "The police investigate the blasts

but investigation reports have never been published. It makes us believe the probe reveals links of influential people to the incidents," said Ruhum Hasan Prince, a CPB central



A judicial commission, headed by Justice Abdul Bari, submitted its initial probe report to the home ministry, which was scheduled to be forwarded to the higher authorities. But the report is still pending with the ministry

Home ministry and senior CID officials said they have a bar to talk about the issue

The police and other agencies mostly ignore forensic experts, who could play a role in investigation of

Examining the dead, a forensic expert can say whether the bomb was carried in or thrown from outside. They can also say who was

DU students protest 'beautification'

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University (DU) students and cultural activists deplore Dhaka City Corporation's action in putting up concrete benches on the open space in front of DU's Teacher-Student Centre (TSC)

The action comes, as part of decorating the footpath from Shahbagh to Doyel Circle, to enable pedestrians to rest but may not serve the purpose, said students as odd places have been selected for placement.

According to students and cultural activists, TSC will lose its natural beauty because of this

construction. With its establishment in 1968, TSC turned into the busiest social, cultural and political activity centre, along with its large contribution to the country's liberation and democratic movement.

The DCC has included the construction of concrete easy chairs, benches and railings with no cover against the sun or rain and a few will be protected by the shade of trees. "How could easy chairs be made of concrete?" queried Nazrul

Islam, a resident student of Shahidullah

"Most benches will go unused in the day. How could it be possible to rest with the direct heat of the sun

falling on you? The DCC could make use of the natural shade of trees," he said.

Looking at the plan more deeply, some students feel that these structures may help those involved in drug peddling and sexual activities at night.

The structure a round bench -that occupies the front of TSC hampers the natural beauty of the centre.

We want the natural open space of the TSC for a breath of fresh air. We do not welcome a pile of concrete," said Firoz Ahmed, a public administration student and cultural activist.

inform the TSC authorities of the concrete decoration in front of its premise. Sources said Mayor Sadea

The DCC did not officially

Hossain Khoka discussed the issue with DU Vice Chancellor Professor SMA Faiz in a meeting at the VC office. The construction is a project to develop city beautification financed by the Asian Development

"DCC holds the authority to develop such beautification processes. But we request them not to build structures which may destroy the beauty of the centre," said Alamgir Hossain, director of TSC.

Concrete structures which have come up half way are a cause of concern as they block the natural beauty and scenery in front of Dhaka University's Teacher-Student centre.