

NABABPUR GOVT. HIGH SCHOOL

Pollution, hawkers pose problems

SYED TASHFIN CHOWDHURY

Students and teachers of Nababpur Government High School in Old Dhaka are suffering from various problems, including environment pollution in the school area, communication problem and hawkers sitting beside its boundary wall. Hawkers have been running their business for long sitting by the boundary wall. "They were evicted on several occasions from this spot but somehow they returned after a day or two," said Masudul Kabir, a student of Class X. A dustbin is located right beside the school's main gate. "Stench from the dustbin is

unbearable and at times garbage is even thrown over the wall into the school premises," said Fazle Azim, a student of the school established 70 years ago. The teachers said communication problem is forcing many students to leave the school through it has good academic records in SSC examinations. A year ago, the school had over 1,350 students but now the number declined to 1,300. The school administration discussed the problems with the authorities concerned but no action was taken to resolve those. "Even the mayor visited the school on several occasions and promised to us that the

dustbin will be relocated and the hawkers will be permanently evicted from the school area," said Abu Bakar, a teacher of the school. As the school is located in Captan Bazar near Gulistan, students of the school face problems due to the busy traffic in the area. Many students from Sayedabad, Jatrabari and Tikatuli left the school due to communication problem after Joykali Temple road was made one-way. "A few of my classmates of Tikatuli and Wari area have enrolled in nearby schools," said Azim, a student. Some others are also planning to leave Nababpur School.

Moreover, a few months back, Kamrun Nahar Chowdhury, headmistress of the school, was threatened by a group of miscreants who were trying to grab a portion of the school's land. The hoodlums damaged her private car, said a teacher. He said the locals want to occupy a small piece of land on the west boundary of the school. A case filed in this connection is now pending in court. Founded by local zameendar Priyonath Pal in 1935 as "Priyonath High English School", the educational institution was taken over by the government in 1951 and renamed as "Nababpur Government High School."



Hawkers pitching beside the Nababpur Govt. High School and a garbage bin alongside the boundary wall cause untold problems.

Identity crisis of the dead

IMRUL HASAN

The concerned authorities often consider unidentified dead bodies as not important enough for pursuing identity. The corpses usually lie in the morgue of a hospital for days before they are ultimately buried. Most dead persons brought to the morgue of Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) by the police are usually victims of different accidents or crime. If after a certain period no one claims them and police fail to trace the identity, the body is handed over to Anjuman Mofidul Islam and recorded as an unidentified. There have been complaints that the bodies are kept uncared for at the DMCH for days but mortuary assistant of the morgue denied that. "After getting the dead body the police identifies it and gives it to us for postmortem. After the autopsy, we keep the body in a refrigerator. It is then transferred to the Anjuman Mofidul Islam almost immediately. So there are no scopes for negligence. Proper instruments are however needed at the morgue. The air cooler has to be repaired and the drainage system needs improvement."

As it is impossible to keep a dead body at the morgue for a long time because of its lack of capacity, the Anjuman Mofidul Islam come to the morgue almost daily to receive corpses many of which are not identified. "We have no arrangements for preserving bodies for a long period. That is why we bury the dead as early as possible after receiving it," said an official of Anjuman Mofidul Islam. According to sources, almost 10 to 15 dead bodies arrive at the DMCH morgue everyday and atleast two of those are unidentified on an average. "Dead bodies from different road mishaps, suspected murder victims, bomb explosion victims and bodies of floating people who die normally are brought to the morgue and most unidentified corpses belong to those categories," an official of the morgue said. "The unidentified corpses are not treated in the same way in neighbouring countries like Sri Lanka, Pakistan and India. Proper initiative is taken by government agencies to find out the identity of the person. Photographs are published in newspapers and announcements are made on radio and television. But there are no such arrange-

ments here," he added. At present the photography section of the Detective Branch (DB) of police keeps the graphic record of unidentified dead bodies. A few have been identified through this process. Relatives or near ones of missing persons collect information from the morgue at first and then go to the concerned police station. After collecting a copy of the General Diary, they contact the DB office. Sometimes the lucky ones get the desired information after rummaging through hundreds of photos. "It is not our responsibility to inform the relatives of a dead person whose body is lying at the morgue. It is the duty of the police. If we get any address regarding the dead, only then we inform the relatives," said Brigadier General Sarker MA Matin, the director of DMCH.



The DMCH morgue runs into problems with unidentified bodies.

8x3

8x2

14x3