

Graveyards charge more than DCC rates

IMRUL HASAN

but no one follows it.

"I found no such list when I visited a graveyard recently," said a DCC official.

These graveyards consist of three sizes of graves -- the smallest meant for newborns to 10 years, medium for three to 10 years and the large ones for 10 years and above.

Burial charges are fixed at Tk 107.40 for Azimpur, Tk 267.50 for Mirpur, Tk 205 for Uttara, Tk 269.85 for Banani and Tk 386.25 for the Jurain graveyard.

"Lessees do not follow these charges," admitted a high official of DCC.

"People pay Tk 5,000 and above for burials due to ignorance of the charge fixed by the corporation," said an official of DCC zone-9 seeking anonymity.

When contacted, the leaseholders of Mirpur and Banani graveyards declined to comment on the alleged irregularities.

Meanwhile, DCC's Social Welfare Department has written to the leaseholders to place the notice of charge lists immediately at each graveyard office.

Any lapse in keeping the directive would lead to strict measures against them, said another DCC source, adding that the corporation had proposed a raise in the current burial charges in a work order for the 2005-2006 fiscal.

"The new work order is yet to be approved by the authority concerned," he further said.

According to the proposal charges are rated at Tk 598 for



Azimpur graveyard – one of the oldest graveyards in the city.

SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN

staff taking high charges," he said.

"If there is any specific written allegation against DCC officials, we suspend them after inquiry," he said adding that people can go to him directly with names of such staff members and related evidence.

"They should monitor all five graveyards in the city on monthly

basis and should take stern action against the culprits," the source added.

But Nurul Alam said that if some personnel take tips the department was not responsible for such action.

water supply properly for their domestic use although they know that it is illegal. They construct large underground tank to preserve water.

Arshad Ahmed, a sanitary service man at Rupnagar, said the house owners are deliberately violating the Wasa regulation as they know the authorities are well informed of this activity and there is hardly any possibility of taking action against them.

A Wasa inspector requesting anonymity said about 98 per cent house owners in his area use separate motor for drawing water from the main pipe. He also said Wasa can't take action against this illegal activities as the violators are large in number.

The inspector said Wasa has nothing to say on the violation as it fails to supply adequate water to the consumers. "Shortage of water supply compels the house owners to engage in a competition for lifting water and preserve more water than their daily demand."

The pond-size underground reservoir tanks in most of the apartment buildings in the capital contribute a lot to intensify the water crisis, said the inspector.

In Dhaka, the daily water demand is about 200 crore litres while the production capacity is 180 crore litres. The average supply is 164 crore litres, according to Dhaka Wasa data.

Illegal water pumps saving the day

RAIHAN SABUKTAGIN

Irregular water supply and discrimination in the distribution system are pushing the house owners in the city to violate Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) regulation that bans use of pumps to draw water from the supply pipe.

Nurul Islam, a retired government official who recently built a house in Rupnagar residential area in Pallabi, expressed frustrations over the irregular supply of water in the area and said he was compelled to use motor to lift water from the supply pipe.

"In this situation we have no alternative but to do this illegally," he admitted. "We don't get water supply regularly, so I don't feel guilty of doing this."

"After building this two-storey house I found that I was not getting water when all my neighbours were getting the same. Once my sanitary service man told me for installing another motor (small water pump) for collecting water from Wasa pipe."

Nurul Islam said he has two motors installed in his house—one for lifting water from the underground reservoir to the rooftop tank and the other for competing with other house owners for sucking water when Wasa supplies water through the pipeline.

Not only Nurul Islam, almost all house owners in the city operate two pumps to get the

Charukala students demand end to session jam

FAIZUL KHAN TANIM

quate facilities add to huge session jams", Ahmed said.

Another student from Painting department said there are a total of 11 batches (both undergraduate and graduate) running with seven classrooms where two of them are occupied by two graduate batches, leaving five classes for nine undergraduate batches.

Students complain that many teachers belong to the ruling party. They alleged that these teachers favour students who belong to the same political wing.

"If this political recruitment of teachers continues, it will not only bring disrepute to the institute but allow neutral students like us drown in quicksand," said Ahmed Sharif, another student.

Previously known as Government College of Arts and Crafts, the institute came under the University of Dhaka in 1983 and was renamed as Institute of Fine Arts. It was in the 1992/93 sessions that the full-fledged Honours program began.

When the honours program started, the existing "Pre-BFA" (pre Bachelor of Fine Arts) degree students were merged with the new system.

Students allege that the main reasons for such ghastly session jams are teachers' negligence, non-co operation from the top management, poor administration, less classrooms and resources. In spite of all these limitations, 11 batches are still studying with around 80 students in each batch or session.

Another student from the Department of Print Making requesting anonymity said: "Because of shortage in classrooms and machine rooms, classes are suspended for at least six months after a continuous three to four months in each department. The administration has not made any arrangements for extra classrooms in last eight years," he said.

"It is during this big break the frustrated students take up jobs and in a way derail themselves from studies. We hear that 300 students from the institute are currently working or involved with animation firms around Dhaka," he added.

Renowned artist and cartoonist, Prof

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Campus of Institute of Fine Arts, popularly known as Charukala.

STAR PHOTO



Authorities have constructed several speed-breakers at Shahbagh intersection, just a week after a student was seriously injured when a speeding bus hit him at the busy intersection. Students blocked the road demanding speed-breakers to check further road accidents. But now city dwellers are worried that traffic gridlock will be more frequent in the area because of the unplanned way the speed-breakers have been built.

SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN

Legacy of Ibsen celebrated

WAHIDA MITU

programmes often on other great writers as well," he added.

He believes that this kind of seminar would encourage teachers and participants to be competent in reading and writing.

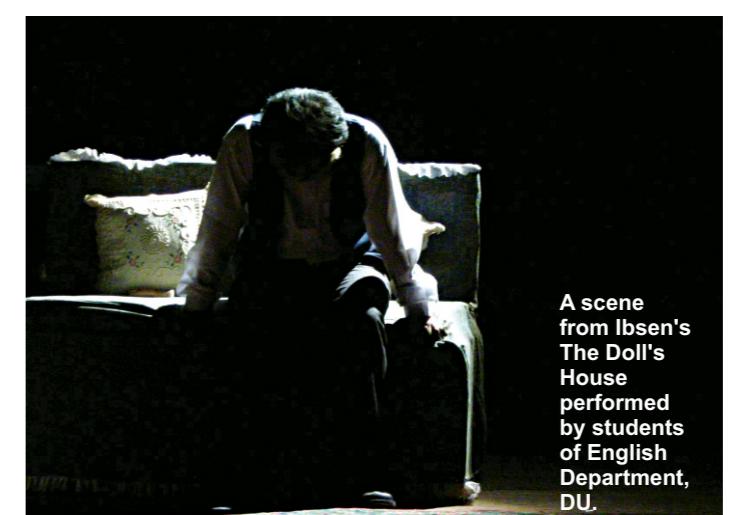
A number of discussions on Ibsen's life and works took place, including His Legacy, Feminist Constructs in Ibsen's play, The Other Terrain: Ibsen's Poetry, Power/Resistance, Chronicles of

Struggle and Ibsen: A Man of Ideas.

Professors, teachers, scholars and students of different universities both from home and abroad took part in the programmes.

Professor Dr Jon Nygaard from University of Oslo, Norway, Professor Dr K Rezaur Rahman, Professor Dr Sadru Amin, and Professor Dr Shawkat Hossain from DU presented keynote papers.

Norwegian Poet Ketil



A scene from Ibsen's The Doll's House performed by students of English Department, DU.

Jenshaugen and young poet and translator of Ibsen's poems into Bangla, Anisur Rahman read Ibsen's poems in Norwegian and Bangla respectively.

A Doll's House, written by Ibsen was presented by the students of English Department.

"The play demonstrates the pressure of social forces trying to crush the individual spirit, but the woman emerges victorious," said Tahmina Ahmed, the director of the play and associate professor.

"Ibsen shows how individuals have to fight for self-realisation and self-development. However, Ibsen was not an anarchist, who supported chaos and destruction, instead he raised questions, which guided the audience in the search for solution to social problems," she added.

Aud Lise Norheim, ambassador of Norway to Bangladesh was present as guest of honour at the seminar where Dr S M Faiz, Vice Chancellor of DU was present as the chief guest.