

DCC struggles to arrange car park at Karwan Bazar

RAIHAN SABUKTAGIN

Karwan Bazar, one of the most important commercial areas in Dhaka, becomes an example of encroaching spree of land while Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) failed to provide any parking place for the increasing number of vehicles in the area.

The corporation tried to arrange car park on the one-way roads in Karwan Bazar but Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) rejected it fearing traffic congestion. While the DCC struggles to arrange parking space in the area, a children's park and a designated place for car parking remain under the grip of the encroachers.

Karwan Bazar children's park has become a wholesale market. The 3-acre space where the existing Karwan Bazar Khudra

Kanchamal Arat Babosayi Bahumukhu Samabay Samity. The place was designated for a children's park during Ershad regime.

After the fall of Ershad government in 1990, the businessmen in the area started encroaching the park and established the market. About ten years ago the encroachers filed a case against DCC following a notice issued by it to leave the park's space. The court then issued a stay order on encroachment.

After fighting the legal battle, DCC allowed the Babosayi Bahumukhu Samabay Samity to use the land on payment.

An official of the DCC Estate Department said the market will be relocated when the park will be established as per their master plan. He however does not have any idea when they would be able to relocate the biggest kitchen

market in the city.

Just before the last Saarc Summit in Dhaka, the Babosayi Samabay Samity built a permanent structure in their encroached spot for market. There are now 104 shops with 185 square feet area and DCC gets Tk 1,850 per month from each shop.

Beside the park, another open space on the east side of the kitchen market has also remained encroached for several years. This open space was designated for a car park in the area.

The DCC and local hoodlums constructed two concrete buildings in the area earmarked for multi-storeyed car park.

During the last mayor's tenure about five years ago, the DCC secretly allocated 160 shops around the same space, which totally took the open space out of sight from the main road.

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Despite continuous protests the wholesale market at Karwan Bazar, designated for a children's park, is yet to be evacuated.

STAR PHOTO



Recent traffic congestions in the city prompted authorities to initiate new traffic rules during upcoming Ramadan.

Dhaka: Yesterday, today and tomorrow

The Daily Star (TDS): What is your first memory of Dhaka?

Zakaria Pintu (ZP): I came to Dhaka first in 1957 by train with my father to get admitted to Jagannath College. When I first arrived, it was like a dream come true. My other aim was to get admitted to Jagannath College and play and lead the college football team because at that time it was a popular game.

TDS: What was the city like when you first came to Dhaka?

ZP: The city used to be deserted at that time, which stirred up curiosity and fears in my mind. I was very curious to explore my dream city and I was afraid that I would get lost in this big, unknown city. Only rickshaws, bicycles and a few cars were seen on the roads. From Phulbari Train Station it took hardly 5 to 6 minutes on rickshaw to come to Jagannath College. At present it takes 1 hour.

TDS: What do you miss most in the city as compared to your early days in Dhaka?



Zakaria Pintu

ZP: I miss the horse carts, playgrounds and the open spaces. In Jagannath College there was a huge field where we used to practice. There was a beautiful canal beside the college, which is now occupied. Living in the dormitory I could hear the roar of a tiger. Nowadays I can hardly hear a bird's chirp let alone a tiger's roar.

TDS: How have the changes in the city affected your life?

ZP: Being a sportsman I cannot practice for the lack of playgrounds. There is no open space where I can walk and breath some fresh air. Nowadays the law and order situation has become so fragile that we have to remain vigilant all the time. I cannot move freely as I did earlier.

TDS: Which part of Dhaka in your eyes, we should be proud of?

ZP: The Jatiyo Sangsad Bhaban is a place we should all be proud of. I travelled to lots of countries but I have never seen such a

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It is painful for the veteran footballer Zakaria Pintu to witness rapid disappearance of playing fields in the city.



the city that was

The three-domed Chawk Bazar Shahi Mosque was built in 1676 by Shayesta Khan. Built on a platform almost 10 feet high, it is 94 feet in length and 80 feet in width. The platform houses commercial lots since it was built. The mosque was maintained from funds secured by renting these lots. All the Nayeb-e-Nazims of Dhaka came for special prayers to this mosque.

e-mail: starcity@thecitystar.net

“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.



“As the survey shows, most people across the country support Awami League (AL). But ignoring this huge popular support that our party enjoys, the prime minister is desperate to hold an election”

Sheikh Hasina
Leader of the opposition and AL President

Said at a view exchange meeting at her Dhanmondi office with presidents and general secretaries of Dhaka metropolitan AL and front organisations, on Thursday.

Source: The Daily Star

“The way the country is moving ahead we will reach the level of developed countries within ten years”

-- Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan
Secretary General, BNP

Said at a meeting of Diploma Agriculturists' Association at the T&T ground of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, on Monday.

Source: Prothom Alo

“Two heads are better than one. Similarly four heads are better than three”

-- MA Aziz
Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)

Told reporters defending the newly appointed CEC Mamud Hasan Mansur's visit to EC secretariat without taking the oath of office, on Sunday.

Source: The Daily Star

“Why did you not deal with the journalists by paying them Tk 100?”

-- Iqbal Hassan Mahmood
State Minister for Agriculture

Said to the project director of Bangladesh Sugarcane Research Institute at a workshop at Pabna when he was told that local reporters were publishing negative news, on Monday.

Source: Prothom Alo

“Only god knows where they [prices] will end up during the Ramadan”

-- A shopper at Karwan Bazar
Told reporters as essentials turn pricey in spite of slashing import tax on three items, on Thursday.

Source: The Daily Star

“More importance is given on marks than how much the students know, understand and learn”

-- Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury
Told reporters about the prevailing education system, on Monday.

Source: Prothom Alo