

DCC fails to widen narrow streets

SHAHNAZ PARVEEN

DCC's effort to widen narrow alleys crisscrossing the residential areas of Dhaka city so far received poor response from landowners.

An evident outcome of unplanned urbanisation, narrow alleys are one of the main reasons behind heavy traffic congestion in most parts of the city including old Dhaka, West side of Pilkhana, Jigatala, Rayer Bazar, West Dhanmondi, Kathalbagan, Bashabo, Kazipara, Shewrapara, some parts of Mohammadpur and Moghbazar.

Emergency services like ambulance and fire trucks can hardly access these areas. Narrow alleys are one of main reasons that stall damage control measures during fire or any other crisis situation in the capital.

Moreover, sewerage system cannot be improved in these areas because of the narrow alleys. As a result, water logging is getting more common in these areas -- especially during the monsoon season.

Sources from DCC Engineering Division told star city that there are narrow congested alleys in almost every residential area in Dhaka and some of those need immediate attention.

DCC announced through advertisements in newspapers that it would take the responsibility of widening the alleys if build-

Sources from DCC Engineering Division told star city that there are narrow congested alleys in almost every residential area in Dhaka and some of those need immediate attention. DCC announced through advertisements in newspapers that it would take the responsibility of widening the alleys if building owners agree to give up necessary land from their property. DCC also urged locals to inform about the condition of narrow alleys in their neighbourhood and prepare proposals about strategic points that need attention. So far the campaign received poor response

ing owners agree to give up necessary land from their property.

DCC also urged locals to inform about the condition of narrow alleys in their neighbourhood and prepare proposals about strategic points that need attention.

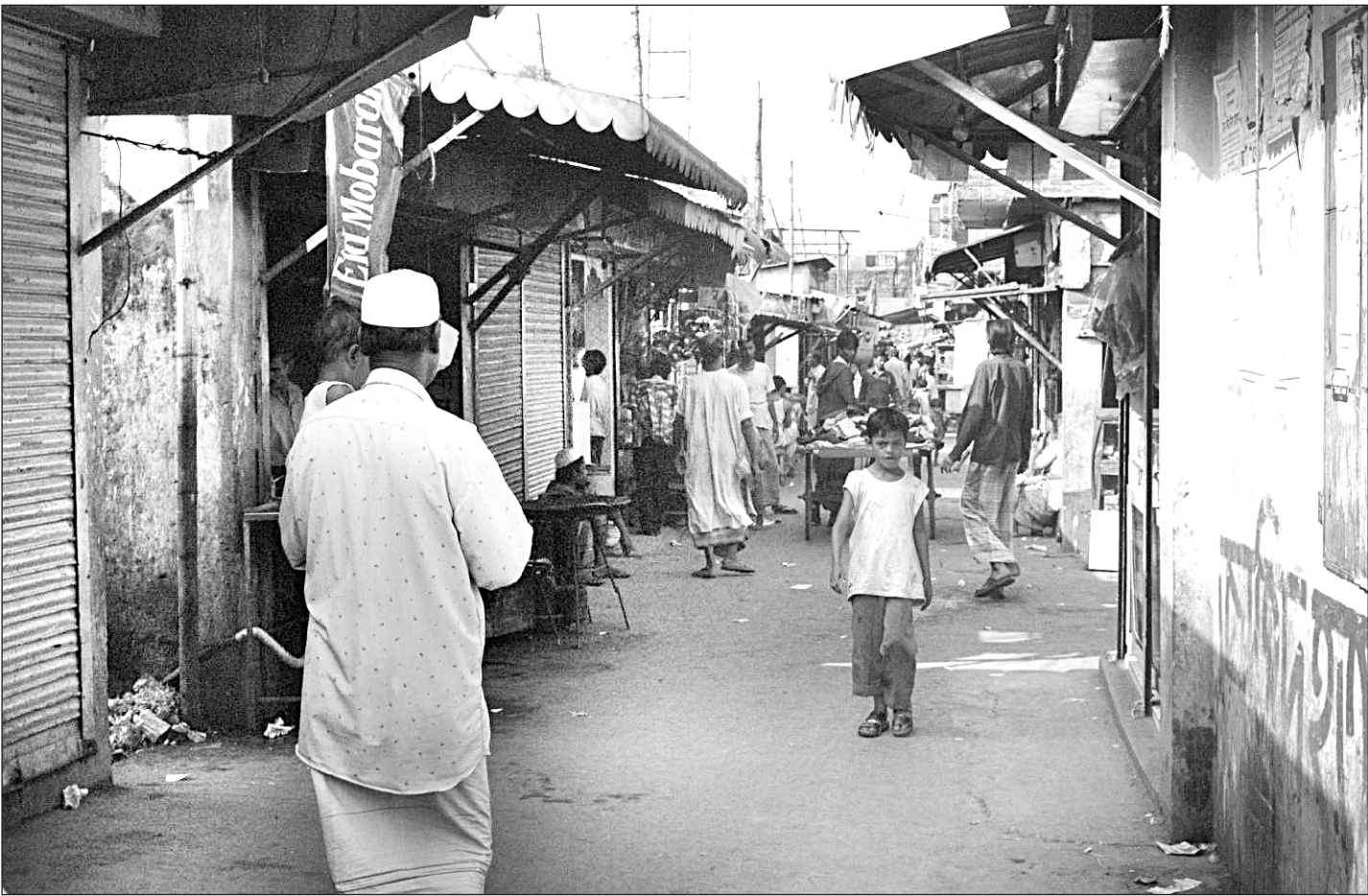
So far the campaign received poor response. Although a few homeowners in some areas provided information to DCC, rest are unwilling to give up any part of

their properties without receiving compensation from the authorities.

DCC officials said they would consider compensation for the loss to owners with financial difficulties. However, the homeowners would have to apply to the mayor and prove their case.

The situation is extremely complex where family members inherited a piece of land and they jointly own it..

Source said the situation is



A narrow street in Old Dhaka.

very complex in old part of Dhaka because of the combination of numbers of old buildings along with new high-rises crammed into

a small area without sufficient space for emergency vehicles -- let alone for car parking facilities.

One of the old roads that

needs immediate attention is the Pilkhana road from Azimpur cemetery to Nababganj police box. A source at DCC said the situation in the area could improve if the boundary wall of the BDR headquarter was moved a few feet inside BDR property.

In some parts of the city, there are quite a few examples of positive united efforts where local homeowners took the initiative and successfully widened the alleys running by their properties. As an added benefit, these landowners who already widened alleys next their properties are now enjoying higher property value as well as higher rentals from their houses or flats for rent.

A few examples of the landowners' collective efforts are Shah Alibagh Road at Mirpur, Pallabi Thana Road, Maniknagar main road at Kathalbagan, Dhanmondi roads 15 and 19 and Mitali Road at Rayer Bazar.

Residents in those areas said traffic congestion has eased after the roads were widened, landlords are enjoying almost double the house rent, business ventures increased and value of property in the entire neighbourhood increased.

STAR PHOTO

12x3

4x2

8x2

13x3