

FOLLOW-UP

BINAT BIBI MOSQUE

Vow to save historical mosque

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Residents of Narinda and Binat Bibi Jam e Mosque committee vowed on Friday to save the 600-

year old Binat Bibi mosque. They have also agreed to stop 'any construction' that may damage the structure or spoil the sanctity of the historical site. A group of conservationists and

environmentalists from Poribesh Bachao Andolon went to the mosque in Narinda on Friday to meet with the committee and the local residents to convince them about its historical value.

The architecture students of University of Asia Pacific (UAP) made 7 models to protect the original mosque and presented those to the committee and local people through multimedia pre-

sentation. Three decisions were taken in the meeting. Firstly, they will stop piling beside the old structure and build the minaret inside the new building. Secondly, the original 600-year old dome will be saved at any cost. Thirdly, the second dome, which is a replica of the first dome and a kind of distortion according to architects, will be demolished to create an open space in front of the mosque. This open space is needed, as there will be a large congregation for Jumma. Abdur Rahman Nazim, vice president of the mosque committee, said, "I am stunned to see the students hard work to build models to save our mosque. I did not know that these well-read people are so concerned about our mosque." Sohel Ahmed Chowdhury, former secretary, Ministry of Public Works, said, "The students who made the models to save this mosque will not come to say prayers to this mosque but they did all these out of their love for the mosque." Among the activists were Mubassher Hossain, president of Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB), Nahaz Ahmed Khalil, vice president of IAB, Sohel Ahmed Chowdhury, former secretary, Ministry of public Works, Abu Naser Khan, convenor, Poribesh Bachao Andolon, Dr Abu Sayeed M Ahmed, head, Department of Architecture, UAP and Ali Naqi, head, Department of Architecture, Stamford University.



Teachers and students of architecture showing their models to the mosque committee at the Binat Bibi mosque.

Rehab vice president's building under Rajuk hammer

TAWFIQUE ALI

The Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk), backed by the joint forces, on Sunday demolished illegal portions of a building that houses Advanced Development Technologies (ADT) on the Gulshan Avenue in Gulshan-2. Anwar Hossain, chairman of the real estate company ADT, and senior vice-president of the Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh (Rehab), owns the building. In clear deviation of the approved design of the building, the owner has erected an office and a warehouse in the basement meant for car parking. For ornamental work of the building, the owner also encroached upon at least five feet into the sidewalk. Rajuk labourers demolished the illegal structures in the car parking area while bulldozer was used to remove obstruction from the public space. Rajuk Authorised Officer Shamsur Rahman who was in the demolition team said, "This is a serious deviation in the use of car parking lot." A staff of the ADT, requesting anonymity, said the authorities had served notices to the building owner a number of times to rectify the aberration and encroachment. Rajuk Magistrate ASM Emdadud Dastagir who led the demolition drive said the building owner deviated from the



Illegal portions of this building belonging to a Rehab high-up were demolished on Sunday.

approved design and indulged in illegal use of car parking space. During the demolition drive, Anwar Hossain refused to talk to the representatives of mass media about the matter. He claimed that there was no deviation in his building, but said contradictorily, "We will demol-

ish anything illegal on our own." Rajuk also demolished a number of other illegal set-ups on both sides of the Gulshan Avenue stretching from circle-2 to Australian High Commission.

10x3

10x2

12x3