

RAMNA PARK CHILDREN'S PLAY ZONE

Where have all the children gone?

TAWFIQUE ALI

In the city where playgrounds and open spaces are rapidly vanishing, a small children's playing corner in Ramna Park is lying uncared for due to the authorities' utter negligence.

In absence of proper maintenance, the corner is a shabby condition with the swings, slides, seesaws and other rides either broken or worn out or stolen.

Though exclusively designated for children, not above 12 years of age, the place is seen occupied by adults and vagabonds, floating prostitutes and ruffians round-the-clock.

The park is owned by the Public Works Department (PWD) and the Arbouriculture Department is responsible for its maintenance. The Arbouriculture Department also maintains Suhrawardy Udyana, Zia Udyana and the National Mausoleum.

Sub-divisional Officer of Arbouriculture Department Md Moazzem Hossain said, "In fact, the incumbent private security guards do not discharge their

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duty properly and we are going to replace them soon with a new set."

PWD Sub-divisional Engineer (SDE) Zillur Rahman said that the security personnel are often helpless to tackle the gang of ruffians.

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A couple with their tiny tot was looking for a scope to grab any playing ride but to no avail. No security personnel came in sight in and around the corner while adults, vagrants, floating prostitutes and ruffians were found wandering around.

Two or three adult persons ride a swing at a time meant for children and abuse other equipment as well, said Rashed Hasan from Gulshan, who took his two-year-old daughter to the park in the morning of a weekend.

To his utter disappointment,



he found the children's playing equipment either broken or being roughly used by unruly adults, though there are signboards prohibiting entry of people above 12 years.

Hasan said, "This is an unacceptable and offensive situation of denying children their right to play and wasting public money."

Rawshan Ara Begum, a housewife from Fakirerepul, was another guardian who took her four-year-old son to Ramna's children corner.

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Illegal parking chokes Gulshan

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Despite the government's ongoing action against illegal parking, vehicles of business houses still occupy almost all the roads and lanes in Gulshan residential area regularly.

The residents expressed their anger and frustrations over insufferable congestion in the roads of the residential area invaded by big commercial houses like private banks, mobile telephone companies, schools and convention halls as their car parking area.

It is a daily phenomenon that vehicles belonging to commercial establishments and their clients block the roads and lanes disrupting easy movement of the people.

Shirin Shila, joint general secretary of Gulshan Society, said the situation is really deplorable from dawn to dusk causing the residents untold sufferings.

"We are facing obstructions



A residential area of the Gulshan avenue is virtually choked with illegal parking.

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An influential private bank on road no-5 has designated a part of the road as car parking area. As a result, residents of the adjoining area and general commuters suffer miserably in moving to and from their houses

and loss of time while going out and coming back home because of illegal parking in this residential area," she said.

The road network in a residential area is not supposed to be used as car parking lot by the business houses, Shirin said. "Authorities must ensure that the roads are freed from illegal uses at any cost for people's easy movement."

Road no 1, 2 and 3 in Gulshan-1 are occupied with

vehicles of different private banks and cellphone companies. Roads 1 and 3 are also occupied with construction materials.

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Ayesha Majid, a school-

teacher, said that it takes her at least 20 minutes, sometimes even longer, to get to her house on road no-2 from the main avenue, hardly 200 yards away.

"I get stuck in front of the house simply because of heavy parking on the roads 1, 2, 3 and other adjoining internal roads," she said.

An English medium school is run at the junction of road no-9 and 12. Road no-8 remains occupied with car parking by business houses like electronics company and others. Similar situation prevails on roads 4, 6 and others.

Shirin Shila said vehicles of a big mobile telephone company occupy road no- 107, 112, 113, 95, 96 and other surrounding internal roads.

Despite some legal actions taken by Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakha in recent times, it is indicative of "shamelessness" at individual level of the commercial entities that they

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LALMATIA

Potholed roads left in a rut

Thousands of residents and commuters continue to suffer as roads in Lalmatia become increasingly dilapidated with monsoon rains

FIDA-E-TASHFIA

Potholed and pebble-strewn, the roads of Lalmatia present a perilous path for pedestrians and vehicle passengers alike.

The thousands of households in the area, as well as the

hundreds who travel to the numerous offices, clinics, schools, colleges and coaching centers in Lalmatia, have been suffering daily because of the rutted roads. Apart from an occasional eyewash maintenance job, the streets of Lalmatia have

been largely neglected over the past decade.

Those seeking to traverse these thoroughfares by rickshaw or auto-rickshaw are in for a bone-shaking ride, as the rickshaw-pullers and CNG drivers try to navigate the

moonscape of potholes and half-open manholes. In many places, construction materials stacked on the streets take up precious road space, causing further hindrance to all movements.

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A CRAFTY GRABBER OF BURIGANGA



A scene from the embankment along the river Buriganga in Islambagh where an unknown yet crafty grabber of Dhaka's lifeline is dumping rubbish and earth to create a plot on the slope of the concrete flood protection embankment. At various spots of the river Buriganga, these unscrupulous individuals have embarked on filling up the river with household wastes and earth to create a space for an unknown venture. Although the BIWTA is conducting regular eviction drives along the river Buriganga, these encroachments have somehow escaped their notice.

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