

## Crimes, social nuisances haunt residents of posh Gulshan area

**TAWFIQUE ALI**  
Reckless commercialisation, mugging on streets, drug peddling and floating prostitution continue to dog the people in the city's posh Gulshan residential area, said the residents and community leaders.

The rate of petty crimes is increasing in the area despite strong vigil by the law-enforcing personnel because of presence of foreign missions in the area.

CM Shafi Sami, president of Gulshan Society and a former adviser to the caretaker government, said that social nuisances in Gulshan are annoying and disturbing.

"The streets walkers sometimes indulge in their activities in presence of the law-enforcement agency personnel," he said. "Their open presence in a residential area where we live with families is embarrassing."

Many clubs, rest houses, hotels and community centres are operating in Gulshan without licence, he said adding that the area has not only been

plagued with commercialisation but also industrialisation, especially by garment factories.

"We are dead against authorised commercialisation that is consistently increasing," said Sami. "We do not know who permitted them to operate in the residential area."

Such commercial activities and land uses should not be allowed in a core residential area. The authorities concerned must preserve designated zoning of the area, he said.

Big commercial houses, shopping malls, superstores, banks, convention halls, hotels, clubs and schools have almost taken over the main thoroughfare and internal roads of the area, causing insufferable traffic congestion every day.

The former adviser said they had many times raised the issue of social nuisance with the authorities concerned particularly with the law-enforcement agencies. "But they did not take a tough stance to stop this," he said.

Sami urged the government to remove all the



Vendors sell tea, food etc in filthy nooks of Gulshan, in stark contrast to the area's posh image.

factories immediately from the residential neighbourhood.

General residents of the area alleged that socially unethical activities go on in the unlicensed guesthouses, hotels and clubs in the area.

A resident who lives

near a club said their life, particularly of the elderly people and children, suffer badly due to loud musical concerts and dance parties till dead of night.

Expensive drug items, like Yaba tablets, are peddled in the area as most of the users of this drug are

from richer section of the people, said sources.

Yaba was recovered by the law-enforcement agencies first from the area in 2003. They made a major haul of Yaba and unearthed Yaba-producing factory last year. Gulshan Society's Joint

General Secretary Shirin Shila said floating prostitutes spare no roads in the residential area at night and it becomes difficult for the residents to move along. "We face an embarrassing situation quite often with their activities," she said.

"Mugging is a regular phenomenon on the streets while makeshift shops across the area play a major role in drug peddling," Shirin said.

M Abdul Hannan, general secretary of Gulshan Central Mosque and Eidgah Society, said that they too filed complaint to the law enforcers about social nuisances.

Asked about the complaint, Md Ataul Kibria, deputy commissioner (DC) for Gulshan Division of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said that they regularly carry out drives against nuisance by floating prostitutes.

"But there is a limitation of the relevant law," he said. "If we even produce a person to the court on charge of prostitution, he or she gets released just paying Tk 50 as fine."

"It could hardly be stopped unless the inadequacy of the law is addressed," said the DC.

"I do not deny that there are incidents of mugging in the area as it happens everywhere in the country and Gulshan is not an exception," he said. "It is impossible to stop such crimes cent percent."

He said the authorities have increased the number of mobile patrol teams, including those in plainclothes, in the area.

However, the DC said that he was not aware of the nuisance created by unauthorised rest houses, hotels, clubs and community centres.



COMMON PRACTICE: Cars often occupy pavements or discarded construction waste left on the wayside in Gulshan.



## DCC wakes up to make a good fist of managing Eid waste

**SHAHNAZ PARVEEN**

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) is gearing up activities to remove the waste generated from the sacrifice of animals as the city dwellers prepare for Eid-ul-Azha.

Cleaning the capital city during and after the Eid becomes a major challenge for the corporation every year as thousands of animals are sacrificed right on the streets during Eid-ul-Azha and waste are usually left out in the open by most people.

Chief Conservancy Officer of DCC Commander MR Chowdhury, who heads the corporation's waste management division, told Star City that Eid holidays of all the staff of the division have been cancelled to manage the waste properly.

Along with the fleet of 7,000 regular cleaning staff, DCC has employed 1,400 additional cleaners to do the job. A total of 127 garbage trucks will be engaged in the city.

Every zone of DCC will have three container carriers.

Besides, the corporation has for the first time decided to engage community waste collectors of the non-governmental

organisations to remove the waste from designated neighbourhoods. There are around 300 non-governmental organisations working in the capital to clean the garbage and domestic waste.

The community cleaners will start working from 10:00am on the Eid day.

The DCC cleaners, on

the other hand, will go to lanes and by-lanes to remove entrails and other waste. They will wash the spots with water and anti-septic liquid.

The corporation has requested Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) and the Fire Service department for water-carrying trucks, which will

be engaged to spray water in all the areas to clean the blood of the sacrificed animals.

Collected waste will be dumped at the Matuail landfill.

DCC also requested the imams of mosques and Eid congregations to create awareness among the devotees about cleanliness

and tell them how the wastes should be removed.

"We will try our best to clean the waste but most people do not discharge their responsibility. It would be a lot easier to clean the city if the devotees sacrifice the animals in a designated spot instead of spoiling the streets," Chowdhury said.

He said a mass awareness programme have already been launched by posting advertisements in newspapers, and distribution of stickers, leaflets and posters.

The corporation will open two control rooms at Nagar Bhaban and Mirpur to monitor the cleanliness activities.

Besides, the DCC cleaners will remove waste and garbage from the cattle markets every day and spray bleaching powder to remove foul odour of the waste and animal excreta.

Other than the permanent cattle market at Gabtoli, this year the corporation has given permission to set up 12 makeshift cattle markets in the city. Sale of cattle has already started and it will continue till the Eid day (December 9).

DCC will clean all the makeshift cattle markets by the next day of Eid.



Waste is already piling up at the Gabtoli cattle market.

### 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.

"Carry out non-stop drive so that terrorists and identified miscreants cannot create chaos as the election aspirants will start massive campaign soon."

-- Fakhruddin Ahmed  
Chief Advisor

Told law enforcing agencies in Rajshahi division asking them to keep strong vigilance while referring to previous activities of the extremist outfits in the region, on Friday.  
Source: The Daily Star.

"There will be no more transformational election in the world this year than the parliamentary elections scheduled for December 29 in Bangladesh."

-- James F Moriarty

US envoy to Bangladesh  
Told a panel in Washington, USA, on Friday.  
Source: The Daily Star.

"We have provisions in the Representation of People Order (RPO) to bar loan and bill defaulters from contesting poll. But difficulty arises in implementing those."

-- ATM Shamsul Huda

Chief Election Commissioner  
Told a roundtable explaining his limitations in implementing electoral laws, on Friday.  
Source: The Daily Star.

"We have received government directive. We will not do anything except for what we have been entrusted with."

-- General Moeen U Ahmed

Chief of Army  
Told media on Friday, referring to countrywide deployment of troops from Dec 20 for holding the upcoming election property.  
Source: The Daily Star.

"People of this country are now more pro-active and willing to talk about HIV and AIDS. What we need now is to harmonise our efforts for meaningful result."

-- Pornchai Suchitra

Deputy rep of UNFPA, Bangladesh  
Told a roundtable while stressing the importance of multi-sector response to prevent the disease, on Thursday.  
Source: The Daily Star.

### TIME FOR GROWING GREENS



With the water receding from the low-lying areas, the farmers in the outskirts of the city start growing winter vegetables. The first batch of items are often supplied from these areas to the city's kitchen markets and sold at quite high prices. The picture was taken from Aminbazar near Gabtoli.