



Source: MeteoWeather.com

Weekly weather forecast for the city	Today	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Low: 21 °C High: 27 °C Sunny	Low: 19 °C High: 27 °C Plenty of sunshine	Low: 19 °C High: 28 °C Abundant sunshine	Low: 18 °C High: 27 °C Partly sunny and nice	Low: 18 °C High: 27 °C Nice with periods of sun	Low: 19 °C High: 28 °C Sunny	Low: 19 °C High: 28 °C Sunny

e-mail: starcity@thedailystar.net

BIRDEM'S 'TEACHING HOSPITAL' PROJECT IN MIRPUR Construction goes on despite Rajuk's notice to stop work

TAWFIQUE ALI

Birdem authorities have started construction of a huge building in Mirpur without approval from Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) in violation of Building Construction Act and related rules, said Rajuk officials.

Construction work is

tary, and a subcommittee is examining it.

The project authorities are yet to appeal to the Nagar Unnayan Committee seeking recommendations for settlement of the matter.

The project titled 'Teaching Hospital' is being implemented by Diabetic Association of Bangladesh that runs Birdem (Bangladesh Institute of Research

consent from the higher authorities," he said.

Even if they get approval from the special committee, they are liable to pay penalty at ten times of normal approval fees to get the design approval as they had initiated construction without permission, he said.

Rajuk Member (Planning) Golam Kibria, who is

Unnayan Committee, said that the project officials should appeal formally to the Nagar Unnayan Committee.

"In any case, they have to apply for design approval in complete compliance with the latest building construction rules of 2008 and rectify any deviation whatsoever in the already-initiated construction work paying the penalty for violation of law."

"How will the government enforce the building law in case of general people if such a big institution gets exemption," he said.

President of Diabetic Association of Bangladesh, Prof AK Azad Khan said they had started construction work before obtaining building approval because the 'long procedural time would lapse the project's foreign grant'.

"I admit that it has been a violation of law, but we did the work in good faith," said Prof Khan. "We have complied with all the existing laws and building rules at all stages in undertaking the construction project."

He said that Nagar Unnayan Committee and Rajuk would examine the project to ascertain its compliance and deviation as per the law. But he said that they have not appealed formally to the committee.

"We are carrying on with the work to finish the project in time," he said.

The Tk 279million project includes a training institute and a 500-bed

Rajuk Chairman Md Shafiqul Islam said they rejected an application for acceptance of the conceptual plan of the project as construction of the building had started before obtaining design approval. "Rajuk could not accept the application," Islam said. "In case they are going on with the construction work, we have to take necessary measures."

going on despite a Rajuk notice to stop the work until settlement of plan approval issue.

Rajuk Chairman Md Shafiqul Islam said they rejected an application for acceptance of the conceptual plan of the project as construction of the building had started before obtaining design approval.

"Rajuk could not accept the application," Islam said. "In case they are going on with the construction work, we have to take necessary measures."

He further said that Rajuk has referred the case to government's Nagar Unnayan Committee, headed by the works secre-

and Rehabilitation in Diabetic Endocrinology and Metabolism) Hospital at Shahabagh.

The project authorities were required to apply to Rajuk's special committee (for large-scale building construction) for acceptance of conceptual plan and then go for land use clearance to obtain approval of design from Building Construction (BC) Committee.

Utpal Kumar Dey, Rajuk authorised officer-3, said they served three notices to the project officials. The final notice was served more than a month ago. "The next step is to go for demolition but it requires

the convenor of the special committee, said, "It is definitely a violation of the BC Act."

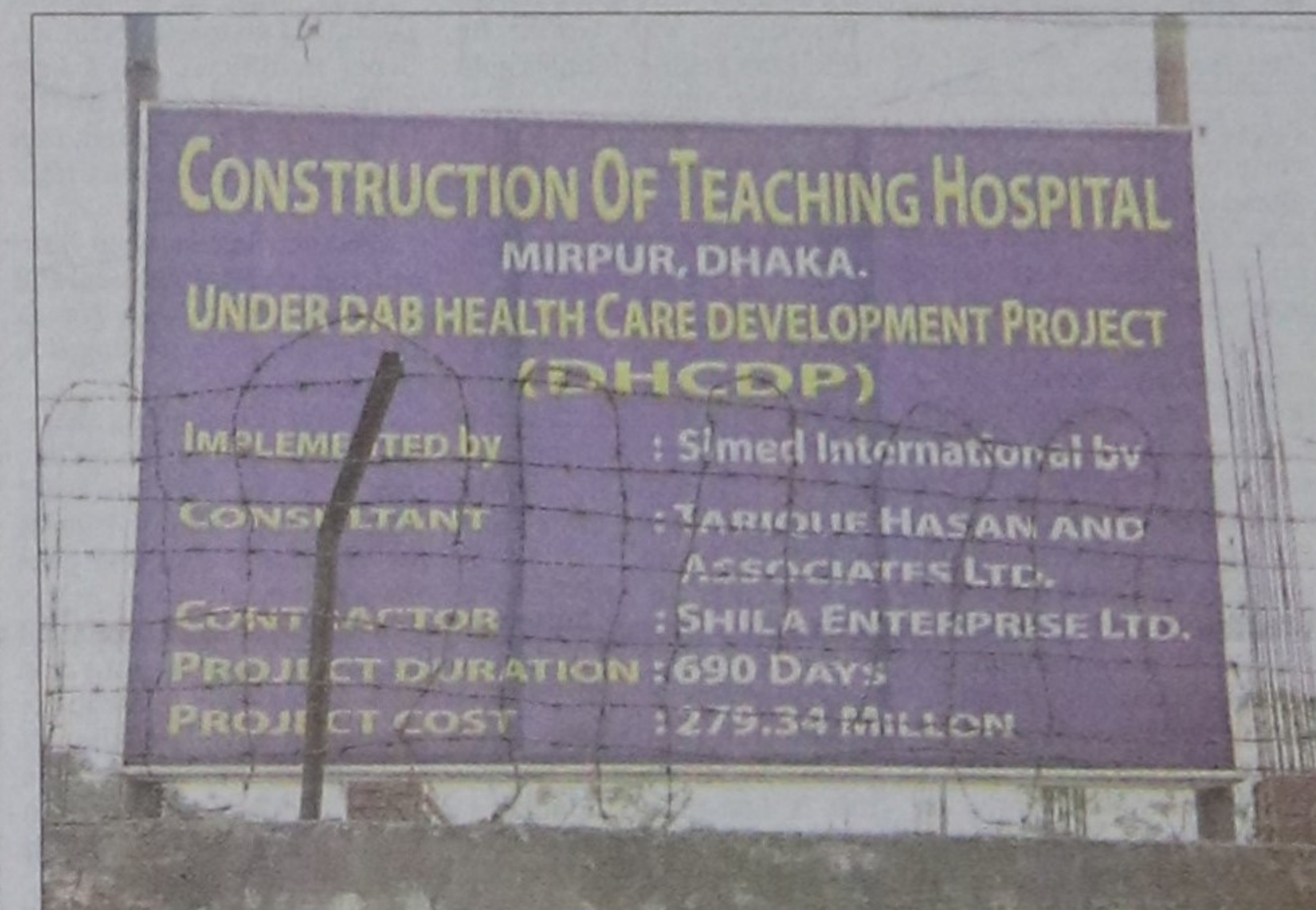
The special committee refused to consider their application on the ground that they had started construction work before they obtained approval, Kibria said. "They cannot carry on with the construction work until the matter of approval is resolved."

According to sources, many retired high officials and influential people have been lobbying for lenient clearance of the matter.

Mubasshar Hussain, president of the Institute of Architects Bangladesh and a member of Nagar



Site of the Birdem's 'Teaching Hospital' in Mirpur.

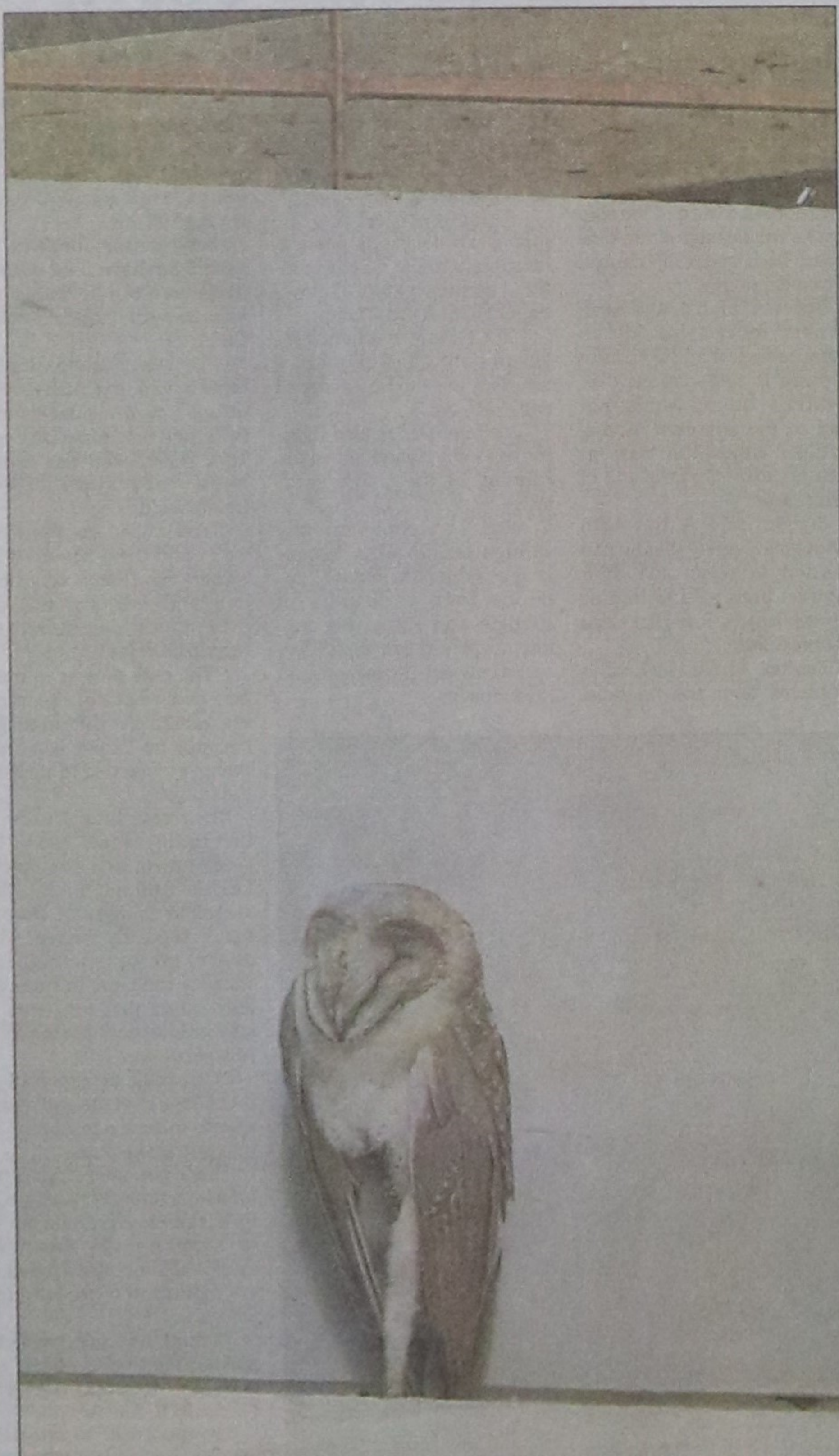


hospital. It has got a Dutch grant for the hospital component only.

During a visit to the premises of Bangladesh Housing Research Institute on January 6, this correspondent talked to site engineer Zakir Hossain. He said they started construction work in June last and 25 percent of the work has completed.

Replying to a question, another site engineer Siddiqur Rahman said the work is going on in full swing. Piling of the building had been done long back. Out of three proposed 12-storey buildings, work of two buildings is going on.

THE LONELY LONE OWL



SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN

With the depletion of trees, birds are becoming rare sights in this metropolis. However, this lone owl was found dozing off on a cornice of a building in Lalmatia in the city yesterday.

Open garbage dump polluting air in West Nakhhalpara

Although not a 'designated' dustbin, DCC trucks collect garbage from it

DURDANA GHIAS

Nine-year-old Sameera was up early in the morning to get ready for her school on Bailey Road. Within half an hour she started for school along with her mother. But as soon as the autorickshaw reached the Lucas Battery roundabout in West Nakhhalpara, they got stuck in a severe traffic jam.

An open dustbin, in fact without a bin, was occupying almost the half of the road. And that was the main reason for the traffic jam. The corner was full of garbage overflowing on the street.

After waiting for 15 minutes Sameera feared she would miss the role call of the first class. She started feeling nausea at the strong smell of garbage.

"This kind of thing happens almost every day," said Sabina, mother of the child. "Every morning we get stuck there in traffic jam. The strong smell of the dustbin is quite unbearable," she said.

People take rickshaws and autorickshaws from this place. The situation turns worse during the rainy season. Children are often forced to walk on the street full of garbage. Medical waste is also dumped there by nearby clinics.

"There is no bin at this place. It is a mystery why all the garbage vans dump trashes here and DCC trucks also collect garbage from here," said Sabina.

"Household garbage of around one lakh family of

Nakhhalpara area is dumped here. It is creating severe air pollution in the area," said MA Siddiqi, a retired joint secretary living in the area.

Wadud, a senior resident of the area, said, "Garbage should not be dumped in front of anyone's house or in any lane."

"We are ready to help DCC to shift this dumping place from here," said Sayeed Hossain, chief operating officer of Lucas Battery factory.

When asked, officials of DCC said there is no designated dustbin in that area. "There is no permanent dustbin in any of the 7 wards of zone 9 that includes

Nakhhalpara," said an officer of DCC zone 9.

"We have some selected places where garbage is dumped in the morning and collected in the evening. The same thing happens in Nakhhalpara," he said. "But we are getting objections from the residents. Sometimes we have to shut it down temporarily in the face of complaints."

The official said DCC can do nothing until and unless they have a permanent dumping point in the area. "If we cannot do this, then we will have to stop collecting garbage from those areas," he said.

Citing instances, he said

there was a dustbin on Gulshan road-104 which was demolished by the joint forces because the land was under Hatirjheel project. DCC was forced to shut another dumping place near Taltola Park in Banani in the face of complaints from the public.

"In posh areas like Gulshan, Banani and Baridhara DCC collects garbage under community service. But in areas like Nakhhalpara there is no such service. So it is difficult to collect garbage this way," he said.

"DCC has some limitations because these areas are acquired by Rajuk and

they are not providing land for dumping garbage. We have sent several proposals to Rajuk. But nothing has been done till now," he added.

The official said they are trying to manage small plots of 2-4 katha in a corner of any open space like parks, playgrounds or graveyards.

Rajuk's town planner Mortaza said it is not Rajuk's job to set up dustbins. Right now Rajuk's main concern is the Bijoy Sarani extension to Tejgaon Link Road. If they have to demolish any dustbin in the area, then they will allocate a suitable place after discussing with the DCC.



A DCC truck collects garbage from the dump in West Nakhhalpara.