



## WHOLESALE KITCHEN MARKETS

# Construction of all but one at Mahakhali hits snag

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Construction of the proposed wholesale kitchen markets by Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) in the city faces further delay, as land acquisition in three locations could not be completed yet for multiple reasons.

Land preparation work of the Jatrabari, Lalbagh and Aminbazar wholesale markets could not begin even one and half years after the project approval, sources in the DCC said.

The construction work of the markets was expected to start in December 2007.

The four markets were planned to set up at Mahakhali, Aminbazar, Jatrabari and Lalbagh with a view to introducing improved market monitoring system and ensuring better supply and distribution of agro-products to the city kitchen markets.

It was decided in November 2007 that the wholesalers and retailers of Karwan Bazar, the largest kitchen market in the country, would be relocated to Mahakhali to free the second most important commercial zone of the city from unwanted chaos.

The construction of the markets and the shifting of Karwan Bazar wholesale market is scheduled to be completed by December 2010.

Among the locations, work of the Mahakhali



Construction of the kitchen market in progress at Mahakhali.

wholesale market near the inter-district bus terminal saw some progress. Land development work has been completed. Currently piling work is going on, DCC officials informed.

The Jatrabari plan to acquire private land hit major snags, said an official of the DCC requesting anonymity. A writ petition in the High Court was lodged over the ownership of a part of the land planned for the

market. The proposed khas land for Lalbagh market near Buriganga River is still occupied by slums. DCC officials cited the complication in land acquisition process due to 'confusing' land record as the main cause of setback. Flaws in drawing of the respective holding nos are delaying acquisition, they added.

Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation

(BADCO) is yet to handover part of the land at Aminbazar delaying the project there.

The BNP-led government in 2004 decided to construct four kitchen markets in the capital to speed up supply and marketing of agro products and reduce price gaps in different kitchen markets. It was planned to introduce a monitoring system to protect consumers' interest.

In October 2006 the

Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Ecne) approved a Tk 206-crore project to construct the four markets and move the traders from Karwan Bazar.

The budget was later revised and increased to Tk. 330 crore.

Mahakhali market will be set up on 7 acres of land acquired from Roads and Highway Department while the one at Aminbazar will be built on 12 acres, Lalbagh on 9 acres and Jatrabari on 5.27 acres.

The DCC is planning to house about 2,500 shops in the four wholesale markets.

The largest market at Aminbazar to have 1100 shops while the other three markets at Jatrabari, Mahakhali and Lalbagh to contain around 450 shops each. There will be multistoried buildings in the markets. Floors of these buildings will be distributed after categorising the merchandise, officials said.

Currently, there is a total number of 1,782 shops at Karwan Bazar. The authorities plan to rehabilitate all of them almost free of charge.

DCC Chief Engineer Colonel Md Ashfaqul Islam told the Star City, "Before the writ petition is resolved we cannot do anything at the Jatrabari spot. The Lalbagh land will be acquired soon and the matter of mapping flaws is almost removed."

## POOR, BUT NOT POOR AT HEART



Although confining and torturing a wild animal is prohibited by laws, a section of poor people still finds it a way to earn their livelihood by becoming monkey charmers. Here, a 'proud' street boy, one of the audiences at a show near Mirpur Goh Chakkar yesterday, was so amused by the feat that he gave Tk 8 to the monkey while others were giving only Tk 2.

SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN



# Revivifying wall magazines

## Colourful show concludes at Bangla Academy

DURDANA GHILAS

Wall magazines with stories, poems, cartoons, paintings, science fictions and other articles with beautiful illustrations adorned the walls of the Bangla Academy as a national competition on wall magazines has just ended there.

Students of many schools that took part in the three-day competition said they have learnt many things while writing or making a wall magazine.

"For seven days we worked for six hours at our teacher's house till midnight. We enjoyed the work a lot," said Shubho Chakrabarty, a student of St Gregory's High School that published three magazines titled 'Chetona', 'Shikor' and 'Shejuti'.

"I came to know about designs and illustrations from my friends. They also learnt from me. We fixed each other's mistakes and helped improve our work. It was a wonderful teamwork," said Jisan Mahmud, student of the same school.

"Every year we publish wall magazines. This time I was happy to see their creativity and work," said their Bangla teacher Ataur Rahman.

Schools from outside Dhaka have made equally beautiful pieces of art hanging on the wall.

"We first came to know about wall magazines in a theatre workshop in Dinajpur a couple of years ago. There we were taught how to make a wall magazine. After that we made two wall magazines on the Victory Day and Pahela Baishakh. From that time we continued to publish wall magazines," said Shafayez Hossain Sumit from Azimuddin High School, Kishoreganj.

Asked about the difference between a wall magazine and a school magazine, Sumit said, "In school magazine we write and then those are composed in computer and that's all. But in a wall magazine we write, we paint, we illustrate, we create new designs and learn a lot more things besides writing."

In the past bringing out wall magazine was a regular event in schools. Many renowned writers and artists of today started writing and painting through wall magazines of their schools.

"There was a time when wall magazines were widely seen in villages and small towns. Most of them were school-based. Many children organisations and libraries in the urban areas also published wall maga-

zines.

"This practice was quite widespread and it was a part of our culture. Then gradually we started losing this culture with the aggression of other cultures. Now I feel happy to see this move to bring the wall magazines back to our cultural life," said artist Hashem Khan.

"This is a significant tool for encouraging children to teamwork, writing, drawing, illustration and management," he said.

"Our children should practise making wall magazines because it is a part of our culture. Social and cultural organisations can also publish their own wall magazines to maintain this culture," Khan suggested.

The renowned artist said, "Wall magazine is not something simple. It is something

to enjoy. The reader will enjoy its beauty while reading the content. It is a matter of nice presentation and beautiful handwriting.

"I remember that I first started painting in the wall magazine of my school. I did not have any brush and I made one with cotton."

Deval Patrika Parishad, organiser of the competition, said that schools from around 16 districts took part in the first national wall magazine competition in January last year. But this time the number is 18.

"We sent invitations to 650 schools in 64 districts but all of them could not respond due to the election and winter vacation. But we think next time we will get more response," said Jagannoy Paul, member of the parishad.



Visitors look at a bright wall magazine at the show at Bangla Academy.

## 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.

*"It is not clear why such violent incidents are taking place in educational institutes despite our instruction to law enforcers to take drastic actions against the trouble makers."*

-- Shahara Khatun  
Home Minister

Told a reporter as BCL, the ruling party's students wing, has been clashing among themselves and with rival student organizations on campuses across the country since the recent parliamentary election, on Saturday. Source: The Daily Star

*"The main source of income of a khatib is the gifts and in most cases he receives those in cash."*

-- An official of Islamic Foundation

Told a reporter while explaining the cause of disputes centering the post, on Saturday. Source: The Daily Star

*"If someone presents you something out of love then there is nothing wrong in it."*

-- Prof Abdul Kuddus  
MP, Awami League

Told reporters regarding 80 gold boats given to him as gifts by the teachers of Shaheed Shamsuzzoha Degree College at Gurudaspur of Natore, on Wednesday. Source: Prothom Alo

*"The children of this country are growing up like broiler chickens as if they will lay eggs after a few days and then those will be sold."*

-- Hasan Azizul Haque  
Litterateur

Said at the launching ceremony of the book 'Kishore Bela', on Sunday. Source: Prothom Alo

*"Local residents are exaggerating the problem."*

-- Mir Mozaffar Ali

Former MD, Jamuna Fertiliser Factory, Tangail  
Told reporters in reply to allegations that ammonia mixed toxic gas and urea dust emitting from the factory harming humans, crops, trees, livestock, poultry and fish resources for the last 17 years at Tarandani in the district, on Saturday. Source: The Daily Star