

# AGENTS OF CHANGE

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## Are plans to demolish Dhaka University's TSC justified?

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entertainment. However, its significance lies beyond that. It is a free space where people can indulge in intellectual discourse. Co-curricular clubs of the university operate from there. Moreover, various cultural programmes with Dhaka University students and people from all over the country are organised from the TSC all year round. Like many other architectural landmarks of Dhaka city that have stood the test of time, the TSC has witnessed the spirit and determination of the youth who played a significant role in Bangladesh's independence. Every corner of the TSC has a story to tell. This cultural, social and political hub for commoners and members of the Dhaka University family alike is under the threat of destruction now. The revolutions that sparked inside the TSC, the historical events, emotions

and memories associated with it are all being neglected in the name of development.

It is true that everything withers with time, and development is necessary. The TSC we have now may eventually be inadequate for the 40,000 students and teachers of Dhaka University. However, does that truly justify tearing apart the historic establishment?

According to the PWD authorities, the new plan for the TSC was due on December 10, 2020, but it is yet to be submitted. The plan includes a new auditorium, a gymnasium, a new swimming pool and a parking lot, among other things. To many in the Dhaka University family, it seems like the philosophy that had driven the construction of the TSC is completely missing from the new structure. The TSC has been around for so long that anything else in its place, no matter how new or fancy it may be, will not



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

The TSC is an architectural icon not only inside the Dhaka University campus, but also in the broader cityscape of Dhaka.



PHOTO: RASHED SUMON

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