

*In view of the rampant commercialisation of Dhanmondi Lake Park in Dhaka, architect and designer **Iqbal Habib** speaks to **Afia Jahin** of **The Daily Star** regarding the initial plan for the park versus what remains of it.*



PHOTO: STAR

During all of this, we also discovered an element of protection for water bodies: walkways. The Dhanmondi Lake Park was the pioneer in this regard.

For the city corporation to commercialise the Dhanmondi Lake Park this way is a serious offence. A city corporation is not a business organisation; it is simply a provider of services. As such, even a greening, hydro-ecological, biodiversityification project like the Dhanmondi Lake Park has now been handed over to business organisations.

Now, even a greening, hydro-ecological, biodiversification project like the Dhanmondi Lake Park has been handed over to business organisations. On top of that, the park

What has happened with the Dhanmondi Lake Park causes me pain. If you look at the original masterplan, you will see that nothing outside of what people and nature would require was included. What kind of perspective is this, where one only thinks of commercialising everything? At a minimum, shouldn't our children be able to see greenery? Now, there is only uncontrolled concretisation.



FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

San Thai Shin
is a Rohingya refugee in Bangladesh who is a community-based researcher and freelance journalist.

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China's involvement in the repatriation process has raised suspicions and concerns among the Rohingya population. China, known for its controversial policies towards its own Muslim minority, the Uyghurs, has consistently used its veto power to prevent international resolutions on the Rohingya refugee crisis. This has fuelled speculations that China's engagement in the repatriation process is driven by political motivations, rather than a genuine concern for the welfare of the Rohingya people.

The Rohingya people, who have faced systemic discrimination and persecution in Myanmar for decades, have been denied basic human rights and subjected to propagandistic campaigns that label them as foreigners and potential threats to the country's stability. The 1982 constitution stripped them of their citizenship and rendered them stateless, effectively erasing their identity.

In light of these challenges, it is evident that the repatriation process is fraught with obstacles and uncertainties. The Rohingya people, already traumatised by decades of persecution, fear that returning to Myanmar under the current circumstances would subject them to further violence and oppression. The international community must prioritise the safety and well-being of the Rohingya people, ensuring that any repatriation efforts are accompanied by guarantees of their rights, security, and justice.

BY THOMAS JOSEPH

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