



The six-storey New DNCC Market building, located beside Paris Road in Mirpur, has remained abandoned for the past 18 years. The structure was erected in 2007 under the then Dhaka City Corporation. Following the city corporation's split in 2013, the market's ownership was transferred to DNCC, but no further work has been carried out since.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

UNDER-CONSTRUCTION NEW DNCC MARKET Left abandoned for 18 yrs

Traders say they are 'trapped' with no refunds; building now hub for crime, drugs

DIPAN NANDY

Construction of a six-story building beside Paris Road in Mirpur, locally known as Paris Market, began in 1996 and was erected by 2007. Since then, 18 years have passed, but no further work has been done on the structure.

The building was originally owned by the undivided Dhaka City Corporation. After the corporation was split in 2013, ownership was transferred to the Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC).

On paper, the market is named New DNCC Market.

According to DNCC sources, construction began with plans to build a six-story market on six bighas of land. The roof and structural framework were completed, but in 2007 the city corporation halted construction, leaving walls and other finishing work unfinished.

DNCC sources said work stopped because contractors demanded additional payment. Since then, the building has remained abandoned.

The market building contains 2,363 shops. To allocate these shops, the city corporation initially collected around Tk 14 crore through three local associations, of which Tk 12.32 crore was collected during the time of the undivided Dhaka City Corporation.

A recent visit to the building revealed a Secondary Transfer Station (STS) for household waste on the west side, while some people living at the front. As a result, construction began by excluding this portion from the original design.

DNCC engineering officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said in 2017 a delegation from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology was appointed to assess the building's condition.

In 2020, Buet submitted a technical evaluation report recommending

retrofitting at an estimated cost of Tk 23 crore.

Engineers explained that retrofitting involves reinforcing weakened columns, beams, or roofs with additional rods or construction materials to make them strong and usable again.

Some businesspeople who deposited money for shop allocations have died. Those still alive say they have suffered financial losses and remain trapped. Imtiaz Alam, who deposited money for a shop, told The Daily Star, "We're completely trapped after depositing money. The city

Administrator Mohammad Azaz told The Daily Star, "We've decided to conduct tests through Buet to assess the current condition of the building. Once we get the results, we'll know whether retrofitting is possible. If it is, we'll quickly hand over the shops to those who were previously selected."

Meanwhile, locals say the city corporation has not maintained or supervised the building, causing it to deteriorate. After dark, the building has become a site for drug use and various criminal activities, including murders.

The market building contains 2,363 shops. To allocate these shops, the city corporation initially collected around Tk 14 crore through three local associations, of which Tk 12.32 crore was collected during the time of the undivided Dhaka City Corporation.

corporation doesn't care about the future of the building. Even though we paid for the shops, they neither give us the shops nor refunded our money. Many of the original allottees have died. Some have grown old and become bedridden."

He said the city corporation first advertised shop allocations in 1984. Since then, senior members of his family deposited amounts ranging from two to three thousand taka. He himself does not know the full account of those payments. Most recently, he deposited Tk 90,000 for a shop.

Regarding the overall situation, DNCC



Local resident Zulkar Nain said, "This building has become a haunted place for us. We're afraid to even walk near it. Local youths take drugs here, muggers take shelter, and even bodies have been recovered from here. The city corporation should arrange for its maintenance and supervision."

Pallabi Police Station Officer-in-Charge Shaiful Alam said, "It's true that a crime zone has developed around the building. Since taking charge here, I've arranged for regular block raids and patrols. I'm doing my best to eliminate crime from the area."

DENGUE SURGE

Delayed diagnosis putting children at greater risk

HELEMUL ALAM

Six-year-old Omar had been suffering from a fever for 10 days before his condition worsened on Thursday. His uncle, Saddam Hossain, then admitted him to Mugda Medical College Hospital.

"He stopped eating on Wednesday, and after tests, doctors confirmed it was dengue. That's when we rushed him to the hospital," said Saddam, a resident of Razarbagh. "We didn't realise earlier that it was dengue, as his condition seemed stable until Tuesday."

Another patient is 11-year-old Shahed from Jurain. He had a fever for five days, but his parents did not get him tested until his condition

worsened.

"My son was diagnosed with dengue on Thursday night and we admitted him immediately," said his mother, Mukta. "We didn't know it was dengue."

Shahed, who is suffering from dengue for the second time, is now in a slightly better condition, she added.

Another child admitted to the hospital had a similar story. Four-year-old Anas from Khilgaon was diagnosed with dengue six days ago and was treated at home. "I admitted him to the hospital on Friday after his condition worsened," said his mother, Rabeya Begum.

Meanwhile, the condition of six-year-old Yasen Arafat is even more critical. Alongside dengue, he is also suffering from pneumonia and anaemia.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Police stop minority conference
Say organisers did not take permission from DMP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police did not allow the National Minority Conference to be held in Dhaka yesterday at the Krishibid Institution Bangladesh, saying the organisers had not obtained permission from the Dhaka Metropolitan Police for the event.

"They could not apply to the DMP in time and get approval. For this reason, the programme could not be allowed here," said Md Mobarak Hossain, officer-in-charge of Tejgaon Police Station.

Asked why permission was needed to hold an indoor

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Ensure justice for Rohingyas

Demand 58 rights groups marking 8 years of Myanmar military atrocities

STAR REPORT

Ahead of the eighth anniversary of the atrocities of the Myanmar military against the Rohingyas, 58 rights organisations have called for urgent international action to end impunity and ensure accountability.

"Since August 2017, Myanmar's security forces have razed hundreds of Rohingya villages, killing men, women, and children and forcing more than 700,000 people to flee to Bangladesh. Yet, eight years later, not a single perpetrator has been held accountable," said the organisations.

August 25 marks eight years since the Myanmar military launched atrocities against the Rohingya in Rakhine state.

In a joint statement released yesterday, they recalled that an independent international fact-finding mission had found evidence of genocide and crimes against humanity in Myanmar's Rakhine State.

The statement also highlighted ongoing persecution of Rohingyas who remain in Myanmar, including movement restrictions, food

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4



CUCSU POLLS Voter list yet to be finalised

Inclusion of MPhil, PhD students as voters, candidates sparks criticism

CU CORRESPONDENT

Despite publishing guidelines for the long-awaited Chittagong University Central Students' Union (Cucusu) election on August 1, the process has made little progress, with the voter list yet to be finalised and no schedule announced.

Cucusu Election Commission Chairman Prof. Monir Uddin said changes in

the committee and the absence of a permanent office had slowed down their work as meetings were being held at different venues.

"We have so far received voter lists from 36 out of 54 departments and institutes. A final decision regarding the voter list and schedule may come in our meeting next Monday (August 25)," he said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



Rice mill workers in Rajshahi's Paba upazila rush to gather dried paddy with shovels as rain clouds loom overhead. The paddy is then covered with polythene sheets until the sun reappears. Workers said frequent rainfall has severely disrupted the boiling and drying process, which normally takes two to three days but has remained incomplete even after 13 days. The photo was taken in Nowhata area yesterday.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN