

Fund crisis clogs sewerage network expansion plan

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Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) is running short of funds to expand and improve the sewerage network of the city.

This is creating uncertainty regarding the plan to bring 80 per cent of the city's population under the sewerage network by 2015. The scheme was supposed to be completed in phases between 2003 and 2015.

At present only 30 per cent of the city's area and 20 per cent of the population have sewerage facilities.

Central Dhaka, which includes Motijheel to old Dhaka and Shyamoli to Mohakhali, is now under Wasa's sewerage network.

But major areas including Uttara, Mirpur, Gulshan, Baridhara, Khilgaon and parts of Banani are still without proper sewerage facilities.

According to the Wasa, three projects under the plan amounting to some 21,582 million Taka was shelved due to financial constraint.

"We are trying to encourage the donors to

invest but have not received any encouraging responses as yet," said SM Mahfuzur Rahman, public relations officer of the Wasa.

Rahman added that as there was no network, so the high-capacity Pagla sewerage treatment plant, which could have dealt with nearly 90 per cent of the city's daily waste, could not be utilised.

The capacity of Pagla sewerage treatment plant is 130000 metrication a day while the total daily effluent volume of the city is 120000 metrication.

Now, 23 lift stations are struggling with the huge volume of sewage as Dhaka's population has increased ten times since Wasa established the present network.

Also, mushroom growth of high rises and an ever-climbing number of people living in those buildings are putting extreme pressure on the limited-capacity sewerage lines claimed officials of the Wasa.

Four ongoing projects of Wasa including an urgent sewerage rehabilitation and expansion project are mainly based on sewerage improve-

ment system and will cost Tk 2,965 million.

"Non government efforts on sewerage system is basically dependent on improvement and rehabilitation. But at this moment we need investment in network building. But both the government and private organisations are rather silent on the issue," said an official of the Wasa.

The plans adopted for 2015 include building North Dhaka-East, North Dhaka Tongi and North Dhaka West sewerage treatment plants. But they might only remain on paper, as the Wasa could not manage funds to implement those projects.

ANH Akhter Hossain, Managing Director of Wasa told the Star City that he would prepare an assessment report at end of this year and submit it to the Wasa board. The report will consider the fund crisis for the sewerage network.

"The existing plans were made in the early 90s and some of the features were not up to date and are not feasible under present reality," said Hossain.

"If we are to make a plan, it has to be done keeping the next 25 years in mind," he added.



Logs of the five trees chopped down lie around the graves at Wari Cemetery in Old Dhaka.

Leave the rest out, please

Five trees already felled at Wari cemetery

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Five rain trees have already been felled at the century old cemetery at Wari and more will follow, said Joseph Amond, its supervisor.

Dhaka Christian Cemetery Board (DCCB) which maintains the cemetery took the decision to cut down 14 trees "as the small trees planted earlier are not growing according to our expectation," he said citing it as a reason for the felling.

Padma Timbers has been hired to cut down these trees.

"It is our property and we have every right to do whatever we want," said Amond when he was approached by phone.

"In the first place, 14 trees will be cut down. If our board thinks that more tree needs to be chopped we can do that," Amond added.

Local people and Bangladesh Paribesh

Andolon (Bapa) are opposing this move by the cemetery board.

"The cemetery authorities are unnecessarily chopping these trees. Why?" questioned Sudir Babu a local resident.

"Concrete structures have already sprung up in old Dhaka in a way leaving little space for trees. If the existing trees are wiped out then we and our next generation will not be able to breathe fresh air," said Babu.

"Why should a cemetery needs its trees felled? Dhaka's environment has had enough setbacks. Now we should not do anything which could harm the environment," Bapa's General Secretary Abu Naser Khan.

"It is not a question of trees and is a question of environment. In the West, if one wants to hack a branch of tree it needs permission from the government. The environmental concern should come above many mundane

things," said Khan.

Responding to the complaints of local people and Bapa, Amond said, "We are facing multiple problems with the cemetery, but no one seemed to be concerned about them. Now they are only talking about 14 trees which are being cut among 300 trees."

"The sanctity of the cemetery is lost as residents around to the cemetery connect their sewerage lines to its ditch during the rainy season," Amond added. "We appealed to the locals to refrain from this kind of action, but our appeal fell on deaf ears."

"The sweepers' colony adjacent to the cemetery dumps waste in the graves daily. An under construction hospital and a community centre around the area are serious threats," Amond said.

Amond appealed to the local people 'to be considerate about our problems'.

WHO RULES THIS ROAD?



Dhanmondi Road No 14/A has been turned into a one-way street without authorisation of Dhaka Metropolitan Traffic Department. Privately employed Ansar and security guards enforce the illegally placed one-way signboard prohibiting regular movement of vehicles.

Fogger machines on auction

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) is considering to auction 125 fogger machines only after two years of purchase as all of them have gone out of order.

The Urban Primary Health Care Project under the Ministry of Local (UPHCP) and Rural Government (LGRD) purchased the South Korean fogger machines in 2001 with a Tk 76 lakh Asian Development Bank (ADB) loan.

These machines were acquired to strengthen the mosquito control programme of the DCC following the outbreak of dengue fever in the city in 2001.

"As there is no fund available for repairing the machines, we may have to auction them. I have also been informed that these machines are not in a condition to be repaired," said DCC's Chief Health Officer

Colonel Azizul Haque.

"I have sent a proposal to the relevant authorities to auction them," added Haque.

The Dhaka Mosquito Control Directorate, which coordinates with the DCC, wrote a letter on November 1 to the UPHCP about the present situation. The letter mentioned that these machines went out of order just a few months after procurement.

The letter also requested the UPHCP to ask the suppliers to arrange for its repair or allocate funds for the purpose.

"We just gave those machines to the DCC because they were struggling to control the dengue outbreak in 2001. We are not responsible for repairing those," said UPHCP's Project Director Dr Nurul Islam.

"The fogger machines invariably stop after 15 minutes. We cannot operate them again before 24 hours," said assistant director of Dhaka Mosquito Control Department

Dr Farid Uddin Ahmed.

"I would have tried to repair the machines if the money had been arranged. I have talked to one of my technicians regarding fixing those and he suggested that changing a gadget in the machines might do the trick," said Ahmed.

With the dengue striking back in its supposed 'off-season', the DCC is now feeling the absence of these machines.

"The dengue has already taken its toll on the city dwellers with two persons dying of it. As the DCC has no adequate preparation, the city dwellers have to combat the aedes mosquito on their own," said a DCC official seeking anonymity.

565 hand sprays, 343 foggers, 45 wheel and 15 ULV machines are working to control the mosquito in ten zones of the city while 500 hands sprays, 290 fogger sprays and 47 ULV machines are lying out of order.

marketprice

Dhaka New Market, Dhaka

- CEREALS**
- Rice(HYV) Aman Medium kgs, 19.00
- Rice coarse(HYV) kgs 14.83
- Rice Chiniquri (Aromatic) kgs 36.00
- Wheat Grain (Local White) kgs 11.33
- PULSES**
- Masuri Dal (Desahi) kgs 44.67
- Masuri Dal (Imported) kgs 39.33
- Khesari Dal (Desahi) kgs 23.00
- SPICES**
- Onion (Desahi) kgs 29.00
- Onion (India big) kgs 23.67
- Garlic Deshi (common) kgs 37.00
- Garlic Big (Imported) 33
- Ginger (Imported) kgs 42.67
- Turmeric kgs 82.67
- Chili Green kgs 45.00
- Chili Dried (Desahi Bogra) kgs 87.33
- Chili Dried (Imported) kgs 97.33
- VEGETABLES**
- Potato (Holand) kgs 13.33
- Bitter Gourd kgs 25.00
- Barbati Green (Long bean) kgs 22.00
- Cauliflower Average Size kgs 11.33
- Cabbage Average Size kgs 10.67
- Local Bean Green kgs 36.00
- Lau (Water Gourd) kgs 17.67
- Patal kgs 16.67
- Brinjal (Long purple) kgs 19.00
- Pumpkin (Sweet) kgs 13.00
- Papaya Green kgs 7.00
- Radish White kgs 13.00
- FRUITS**
- Banana Sagar (Medium) 4 PCS 10.00

- Pineapple pcs 12.00
- Apple (Australia) kgs 65.00
- Cocunut pcs 16.00
- FISH**
- Ruhi (Desahi) kgs 118.33
- Hilsha kgs 175.00
- Mesua Bazar, Mymensingh**
- CEREALS**
- Rice(HYV) Aman Medium kgs 14.15
- Rice coarse(HYV) kgs 13.50
- Rice Chiniquri (Aromatic) kgs 31.75
- PULSES**
- Masuri Dal (Imported) kgs 40.10
- Khesari Dal (Desahi) kgs 21.00
- OIL & OIL SEEDS**
- Mustard seeds kgs 59.50
- SPICES**
- Onion (Desahi) kgs 85.00
- Onion (India big) kgs 27.00
- Garlic Big (Imported) kgs 29.00
- Ginger (Imported) kgs 27.00
- Turmeric (India) kgs 75.00
- Chili Green kgs 47.33
- VEGETABLES**
- Potato (Holand) kgs 11.50
- Bitter Gourd kgs 24.00
- Barbati Green (Long bean) kgs 21.00
- Patal kgs 16.25
- Brinjal (Long purple) kgs 20.00
- Papaya Green kgs 6.50
- FRUITS**
- Banana Sagar (Medium) 4 pcs 8.00
- Apple (India) 4 pcs 69.50
- FISH**
- Ruhi (Desahi) kgs 178.00

- FERTILIZER**
- Urea (Local) kgs 5.95
- Rangpur Municipal Market, Rangpur**
- CEREALS**
- Rice coarse(HYV) kgs 13.20
- Rice Chiniquri (Aromatic) kgs 34.40
- PULSES**
- Masuri Dal (Imported) kgs 42.80
- Khesari Dal (Desahi) kgs 21.40
- SPICES**
- Onion (India big) kgs 25.40
- Garlic Deshi (common) kgs 37.60
- Garlic Big (Imported) kgs 26.80
- Ginger (Desahi) kgs 22.80
- Turmeric kgs 67.00
- Chili Green kgs 10.80
- Chili Dried (Desahi Bogra) kgs 87.00
- VEGETABLES**
- Potato (Holand) kgs 10.40
- Bitter Gourd kgs 14.80
- Barbati Green (Long bean) kgs 10.80
- Cauliflower Average Size kgs 15.40
- Ginger (Desahi) kgs 22.80
- Tomato Ripen (Imported) kgs 37.60
- Patal kgs 9.60
- Brinjal (Long purple) kgs 14.80
- Pumpkin (Sweet) kgs 35.40
- Papaya Green kgs 5.40
- Radish White kgs 8.80
- FRUITS**
- Banana Sagar (Medium) 4 pcs 4.40
- Apple (Australia) kgs 60.80
- Apple (Pakistan) kgs 67.00
- Orange (India) 4 pcs 28.80
- FISH**

- Ruhi (Desahi) kgs 144.00
- Hilsha kgs 154.00
- Chingri Small kgs 108.00
- FERTILIZER**
- Urea (Local) kgs 6.00
- TSP (Imported) kgs 13.00
- Reazuddin Bazar, Chittagong**
- CEREALS**
- Rice(HYV) Aman Medium kgs 16.65
- Rice coarse(HYV) kgs 14.65
- Rice Chiniquri (Aromatic) kgs 33.40
- Wheat Grain (Local White) kgs 10.50
- PULSES**
- Masuri Dal (Desahi) kgs 43.60
- Masuri Dal (Imported) kgs 40.60
- Khesari Dal (Desahi) kgs 25.60
- SPICES**
- Onion (India big) kgs 23.40
- Garlic Deshi (common) kgs 58.40
- Garlic Big (Imported) kgs 25.00
- Ginger (Desahi) kgs 23.20
- Ginger (Imported) kgs 39.00
- Turmeric kgs 59.00
- Turmeric (India) kgs 73.20
- Chili Green kgs 32.60
- Chili Dried (Desahi Bogra) kgs 76.60
- Chili Dried (Imported) kgs 69.00
- VEGETABLES**
- Potato (Holand) kgs 11.60
- Bitter Gourd kgs 25.60
- Barbati Green (Long bean) kgs 19.00
- Barbati Green (Long bean) kgs 19.00
- Tomato Ripen (Imported) kgs 35.00
- Carrot Medium Size kgs 39.00
- Lau (Water Gourd) kgs 7.60
- Patal kgs 15.00

- Brinjal (Long purple) kgs 19.00
- Pumpkin (Sweet) kgs 11.60
- Papaya Green kgs 7.60
- Radish White kgs 15.00
- FRUITS**
- Banana Sagar (Medium) 4 pcs 9.60
- Pineapple 4 pcs 45.00
- Apple (Australia) kgs 60.60
- FISH**
- Ruhi (Desahi) kgs 137.00
- Hilsha kgs 139.00
- FERTILIZER**
- Urea (Local) kgs 5.98
- TSP (Imported) kgs 11.76
- Comilla Chaka Bazar, Comilla**
- PULSES**
- Masuri Dal (Desahi) kgs 45.00
- Masuri Dal (Imported) kgs 38.00
- Khesari Dal (Desahi) kgs 17.00
- SPICES**
- Onion (India big) kgs 22.40
- Garlic Deshi (common) kgs 36.80
- Garlic Big (Imported) kgs 27.40
- Ginger (Desahi) kgs 36.40
- Ginger (Imported) kgs 47.20
- Turmeric kgs 96.00
- Turmeric (India) kgs 64.00
- Rajganj Bazar, Comilla**
- SPICES**
- Chili Green kgs 47.00
- Chili Dried (Desahi Bogra) kgs 94.00
- VEGETABLES**
- Potato (Holand) kgs 13.00
- Okra kgs 21.20
- Barbati Green (Long bean) kgs 20.80

- Cauliflower Average Size kgs 38.00
- Cabbage Average Size kgs 28.40
- Patal kgs 21.20
- Brinjal (Long purple) kgs 22.40
- Pumpkin (Sweet) kgs 17.20
- FRUITS**
- Banana Sagar (Medium) 4 pcs 9.60
- Apple (Australia) kgs 68.00
- Apple (India) kgs 47.00
- Apple (Pakistan) kgs 68.20
- Cocunut pcs 9.00
- FISH**
- Ruhi (Desahi) kgs 150.00
- Hilsha kgs 198.00
- Chingri Small kgs 142.00
- Khulna Sadar Bara Bazar, Khulna**
- CEREALS**
- Rice coarse(HYV) kgs 13.30
- Rice Chiniquri (Aromatic) kgs 34.80
- PULSES**
- Masuri Dal (Desahi) kgs 44.60
- Masuri Dal (Imported) kgs 43.40
- Khesari Dal (Desahi) kgs 22.80
- SPICES**
- Onion (Desahi) kgs 28.40
- Onion (India big) kgs 22.80
- Garlic Deshi (common) kgs 38.00
- Garlic Big (Imported) kgs 30.40
- Ginger (Desahi) kgs 31.60
- Turmeric kgs 72.80
- Chili Green kgs 56.60
- Chili Dried (Desahi Bogra) kgs 84.00
- Chili Dried (Imported) kgs 93.00
- VEGETABLES**
- Potato (Holand) kgs 12.40

- Bitter Gourd kgs 28.80
- Okra kgs 16.00
- Barbati Green (Long bean) kgs 15.20
- Lau (Water Gourd) kgs 9.40
- Patal kgs 12.40
- Brinjal (Long purple) kgs 14.80
- Pumpkin (Sweet) kgs 12.80
- Papaya Green kgs 5.40
- FRUITS**
- Banana Sagar (Medium) 4 pcs 8.80
- Apple (Australia) kgs 67.00
- Apple (India) kgs 62.00
- Cocunut kgs 10.80
- FISH**
- Ruhi (Desahi) kgs 134.00
- Hilsha kgs 186.00
- FERTILIZER**
- Urea (Local) kgs 6.25
- TSP (Imported) kgs 13.40
- Ghop Market, Jessore**
- FERTILIZER**
- Urea (Local) kgs 6.00
- TSP (Imported) kgs 14.60
- Jessore Sadar Bazar, Jessore**
- CEREALS**
- Rice coarse(HYV) kgs 12.75
- Rice Chiniquri (Aromatic) kgs 34.60
- PULSES**
- Masuri Dal (Desahi) kgs 45.00
- Masuri Dal (Imported) kgs 43.20
- Khesari Dal (Desahi) kgs 22.40
- SPICES**
- Onion (Desahi) kgs 27.20
- Onion (India big) kgs 22.40
- Garlic Deshi (common) kgs 39.20

- Garlic Big (Imported) kgs 31.20
- Ginger (Desahi) kgs 38.20
- Turmeric kgs 70.00
- Chili Green kgs 49.20
- Chili Dried (Imported) kgs 100.00
- VEGETABLES**
- Potato (Holand) kgs 12.00
- Bitter Gourd kgs 30.80
- Barbati Green (Long bean) kgs 16.80
- Local Bean Green kgs 38.00
- Lau (Water Gourd) kgs 11.60
- Patal kgs 11.60
- Brinjal (Long purple) kgs 12.60
- Pumpkin (Sweet) kgs 12.00
- Papaya Green kgs 5.40
- Radish White kgs 12.00
- FRUITS**
- Banana Sagar (Medium) 4 pcs 7.40
- Apple (Australia) kgs 62.00
- Apple (India) kgs 56.60
- Orange (India) 4 pcs 22.00
- Cocunut pcs 9.60
- FISH**
- Ruhi (Desahi) kgs 131.00
- Hilsha kgs 155.00
- Islamia Bazar, Sylhet**
- SPICES**
- Onion (India big) kgs 24.40
- Garlic Big (Imported) kgs 27.20
- Ginger (Desahi) kgs 25.60
- Ginger (Imported) kgs 45.60
- Turmeric kgs 72.00

Source: Agricultural Marketing Department.