

Steps for safer waste disposal underway

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Development of an eco-friendly and sanitary waste disposal means, a joint initiative of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) is currently in progress, said Sohail Farouque, DCC's chief conservancy officer.

"Waste is at present dumped openly at dumping sites in Aminbazar and Matuail, creating stench in the area, but under the new system waste would be covered by a layer of soil to prevent the stench and ensure a cleaner environment," he said.

According to DCC's website, around 7,500 cleaners are manually involved in cleaning streets and collecting waste.

Waste is collected in uncovered dustbins at various locations in the city, while mobile purchasers collect recyclable elements like glass, plastic and paper from houses and another section of poor people collect similar items from dustbins.

The left-out garbage is discarded in open spaces around residential areas and on the streets, in drains and also dents along footpaths, leading to water logging and stench.

Uncovered garbage trucks that collect waste from dustbins for final disposal at the dumping sites also contribute to this situation, as a certain amount of garbage falls off the trucks during transportation.

Removal of recyclable elements, in addition to widespread consumption of unprocessed items like live chicken and fresh vegetables, shows that most waste in dustbins are organic containing a significant amount of moisture and can retain more rainwater.

"Moisture in the waste combined with retained rainwater is hazardous," said Farouque, adding that under the new system the water in the waste would be drained out by special pipes to a nearby pond that would be specifically made for the collection of waste water.

Water would be treated in a manner to normalise its pH level for reuse at the dumping sites,

but not available for public use.

Methane, the gas emitted from garbage, would be extracted in a similar manner and burnt.

Recycling methane would not be cost effective so we are currently looking for donors for this purpose," Farouque added.

Responding to a question, he said that mobile purchasers who collect recyclable items from houses are not persons registered with DCC. When asked about the possibility of such purchasers using these items to make adulterated products, he said that the DCC does not have adequate manpower to control such activities.

Even the collection and treatment of industrial waste to prevent environmental pollution is not within the DCC's agenda and Farouque said he was not certain if local industries have their own waste treatment facilities, which they should.

When asked about the possibility of converting organic waste into compost, he said that the DCC has signed an

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agreement with the Netherlands-based World Wide Recycling that would collect waste from the local dumping sites and convert them into compost for the local market.

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year and this would be a continuous process," Farouque added.

When asked about opening

recycle centres in city wards, he said that the DCC is organising communities at ward nos. 60 and 65 in Mirpur and Old Dhaka

for this purpose. "The communities will take decisions regarding the recycle centres and hiring of people

who would collect the recycle elements from houses in the locality," he said.



DCC men at work in Madhubagh using spray guns to diffuse smoke in a bid to reduce the mosquito menace. This initiative was taken by DCC in the wake of the recent outbreak of dengue in the city.

Swiss artefacts at National Museum

CITY CORRESPONDENT

To mark the 35 years of friendly relations with Bangladesh, Switzerland has donated some Swiss 'Arts and Crafts' to Bangladesh National Museum recently.

Swiss Ambassador in Dhaka Dora Rapold formally handed over some 150 items to Prof Mahmudul Haque, director general of the National Museum.

A special space named 'Switzerland Corner' has been set up in the International Floor of the museum to display the Swiss crafts.

Officials of the museum said that the third floor of the museum was reserved for World Civilisation naming 'International Corner' where Arts of Crafts from different countries across the world would be displayed.

"We already have items from different countries, including Iran, South Korea and China, and will collect the same from other countries for this corner," said Prof Haque.

"The museum was enriched through the opening of the new corner, paving ways for the people to know about European culture," he added.

According to the Swiss embassy in Bangladesh, the items donated from Switzerland exhibition consist of a collection

of arts and crafts developed through centuries from various regions within Switzerland.

The idea of showcasing traditional items to other countries was initiated by Federal

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Department of Foreign Affairs' Cultural Service of Switzerland in 1998.

"The aim of this initiative was to facilitate intercultural dialogues in the countries where it would be exhibited," said Dora Rapold.

"The exhibition of these items has travelled to over 20 countries and now has

found its final abode in the Bangladesh National Museum," she added.

The 'Arts and Crafts' from the Switzerland exhibition consists of both rural and urban objects. The objects of the rural art had evolved from the peasant way of life in Switzerland, often under the influence of different cultures from all over Europe.

Among the exhibits, one can find ceramics and pewter figures, fabrics, masks and toys. In addition, the exhibition has some objects of daily use, some of which are still in use in today's Switzerland, such as the cowbells and the fancy potteries.

Visitors to the exhibition were trying to guess the utility of some ceramic artefacts in the shape of small statues on display. Moreover, they seemed more interested in some lithograph prints, or small tapestries resembling the showpieces.

Officials of the National Museum said that the 'Arts and Crafts from Switzerland' was exhibited at the Bangladesh National Museum in July and August, 2004, drawing huge interest among the visitors. Around 25,000 people visited the exhibition at that time.

To celebrate 35 years of close and friendly relations between Bangladesh and Switzerland, a 'Swiss Week' will be organised in November this year.

healthouting, taxicab & train timing

HEALTH

Hospitals

Anjuman-e-Mofidul Islam 9336611, 7411660
BARDEM 8616641-50
Cholera Hospital (ICDDR) 8811751-60
CMH (Dhaka) 9870011
Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital 8628612-6
Holy Family Red Crescent 8311721-5
Islamia Eye Hospital 9119315, 8112156
Lion Eye Hospital 9129127
Medinova Medical Services 8620353-4
Mirpur General Hospital (Pvt) Ltd 9007873, 8015444
Mitford Hospital 7319002-6
National Heart Foundation Hospital 8014914, 8010491, 8021399
Orthopedic Hospital 9112150

Salimullah Medical College Hospital

7319002-6
Samorita Hospital 9131901
Shahid Suhrawardi Hospital 9122560-78, 9112086, 8114856, 9130800
Shishu Hospital 8116061-2, 9119119

Clinics

Akad Clinic 8015855, 8022581
Aroggaya Niketan 9333730
BAVS Maternity 8016413-4
Dhaka Monorog Clinic 9005050
Gulshan Mother & Child Clinic 8822738, 8812992
Ibn Sina Clinic 8119513
Jahanara Clinic (Pvt) Ltd 8912929
Judi Maternity 9113322
Paltan Poly Clinic 9557385
Retina Eye Center (Clinic) 9884588, 9884566
Shishu Bekash Clinic 9351625

The Eye Clinic 9333238

Blood Bank

Red Crescent Centre- 9116563
Sandhani (DMCH)- 8624040
Sandhani (SMCH)- 7310061, 7310061, 7319022
Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital- 8626812-9

Eye Bank

Sandhani International Eye Bank- 8614040

Ambulances For

Dead Body
Anzuman Mafidul Islam (Kakrail) 9336611, Gandaria 7319808, 7318166,
Al-Markajul Islam 9127867,

MARKET CLOSED

Gulshan 1, 2 markets-Friday
 Elephant Road-Friday
 Bishal Center-Friday
 Baitual Mukarram Market-Friday
 Polwell Market-Friday
 BCS Computer City-Friday
 Isha Khan Shopping Complex-Friday.
 Rajlaxmi Complex-Friday
 Stadium Market-Friday
 Bangabazar Market-Friday
 National Museum-Thurseday
 Ahsan Manzil-Thurseday.
 New Market-Tuesday
 Gausia Market-Tuesday
 Mouchak Market-Sunday
 Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday
 Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday
 Eastern Plaza-Sunday
 Farmview Super Market-Sunday
 Muktiyudha Jadughar-Sunday
 Dhaka Zoo-Sunday
 Shishu Jadughar-Sunday

TAXI CAB

Passenger's Complaint

01711-000990, 01711-000991, 01711-000992, DMP-999, 2627.
Cab Salida Ltd. 9344477, 01711-620888, 01711-610405
Cosmo Cab Ltd. 9112959, 8127191,
Nitol Cab Co. Ltd. 8125285, 01711-621953
JBS Cab Ltd. 0191-364575
Coal Cab Ltd 8130485, 01711-826731
Limujin Cab Ltd. 9318351, 9337204
Multi-Cab Ltd. 9666502, 9570740
Nihon Taxi Cab Ltd. 8624742,
 8624741
Orion Taxi Cab Ltd. 934727, 9347277, 01711-155144
Reliance Cab Ltd. 9339563-4
RMS Cab Ltd. 8118536
Shatarupa Taxi Cab Ltd. 731083, 01711-458740
Tinni Cab Ltd. 9662009, 01711-645257
Teletax Cab Ltd. 7202201
Aliif Cab Co. Ltd. 0191-357838, 83116948
Cab One Ltd. 9563054 Ext.-3077, 3178
United Cab Ltd. 7510166, 01711-

TRAIN TIMING

Subarna Express
Mahanagar Prabhathi Mahanagar Godhuli Turna
Parabat Express
Joyantika Express
Upaban Express
Tista Express
Ekata Express
Upakul Express
Agnibeena Express

Leaves Dhaka at 4:30 pm
 Leaves Dhaka at 7:30 am
 Leaves Dhaka at 3:15 pm
 Leaves Dhaka at 11:00 pm
 Leaves Dhaka at 6:40 am
 Leaves Dhaka at 12:45 pm
 Leaves Dhaka at 9:45 pm
 Leaves Dhaka at 7:00 am
 Leaves Dhaka at 5:00 pm
 Leaves Dhaka at 8:00 pm
 Leaves Dhaka at 9:20 pm

348474
Ulka Express Ltd. 9359885, 01711-313554
Cab Bangla Ltd. 9563077 Ext.-3054, 3178, 01711-622644
Cab i Ltd. 9563054, 9563077, 01711-629585
Cab line Ltd. 8321162
Capital Cab Co. Ltd. 9352847-9
Classic Cab Ltd. 200825, 01711-233851, 01711-812415
Comport Cab Ltd. 8817610-4
Cab Express Ltd. 9341369, 9339337, 9348401 Ext.-111

Reaches Chittagong at 10:35 pm
 Reaches Chittagong at 1:55 pm
 Reaches Chittagong at 10:55 pm
 Reaches Chittagong at 6:40 am
 Reaches Sylhet at 2:30 pm
 Reaches Sylhet at 9:20 pm
 Reaches Sylhet at 6:40 am
 Reaches Bahadurabad at 1:05 pm
 Reaches Bahadurabad at 11:15
 Reaches Noakhali at 5:00 am
 Reaches Jagannath at 2:30 pm

LIBRARY & INFO

Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers

Central Public Library- 8626001-4,
Shishu Academy- 9564128
Shilpakala Academy- 8614673
Bangla Academy- 8619550
Islamic Foundation- 9550280, 9556407
Nazrul Institute- 9114602
Ford Foundation- 8116133
Alliance Francaise- 8611557
Information Resource Center, The American Center- 8813440-4, 9886395-9
British Council- 8618867-8, 8618905-7
Community Development Library- 8113769, 8113604
Goethe Institute Int'l- Dhaka- 9126525-6
Indian Information Centre & Cultural Library- 8850141-2
The Russian Cultural Centre- 9116314, 9118531, 9118314
Drik Photo Gallery- 9120125, 8112954, 8123412
Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) 9330081-4