

Dhaka Day by Day

Mapping the Ecology

by Fayza Haq

Joern Welsch, who was a guest at a workshop on environmental mapping, recently held at the Goethe Institut, has published an atlas on ecological mapping from Berlin. "We brought in ecological mapping in every medium ranging from soil to ground and surface water, climate to traffic noise. About ten people worked on it but we had external experts in various institutions and universities, for whom we had an additional budget. This was first published in '87 and since '90 we are continuously working to improve on it," Mr. Welsch said.



Joern Welsch

Dwelling on pollution problem in Germany, specially Berlin, Mr. Welsch informed that there were problems of waste deposits, specially in the industrial areas. There was degradation of soil, pollution of ground water in Berlin, where most of the drinking water comes from the ground and must be treated before drinking, as there are catchments of water only in certain parts of the city. He added, "The air quality is also affected despite the technical ways to treat the emission from the vehicles. The use of pesticides in the rural areas adds to the pollution, while there is forest degradation due to the sulphur dioxide which comes from the atmosphere. Ground level ozone is another problem."

Discussing pollution in Germany due to traffic and industrial reasons, Mr. Welsch said that since Germany was a connecting point between eastern and western Europe, the country has greater problems than say England. "There is a legislation to handle air pollution but this is difficult to implement. In general, Germany's ecological problem is being handled better than in most other parts of Europe, I believe," he added. When asked about the Green Party, he said that at one time it was very much involved in environmental problems, but since the 80's the party has not been very active about ecological situations.

Speaking about Bangladesh, the mapping expert said, "The greatest hazards in Bangladesh, its floods, cyclonic storms, deforestation, salinity and water logging is because it is a delta between two rivers." He said that there was a lot of data available in Bangladesh for mapping in local institutes and private organisations. "What must be done is that you must come together and glean the information for the decision makers. Bangladeshi technical experts are there to decide the ways of solving the ecological problems."

When asked if there was more pollution in the West than in the East, Mr. Welsch said, "In the Sub-continent and in S.E. Asia there was not so much pollution as there was degradation, deforestation, soil erosion and extinction of animal and bird species such as the Royal Bengal tiger. In a place like Germany there are other problems like noise and air pollution. The causes for pollution problems in European countries differ vastly from those in the east."

Talking about the Farakka problem, the mapping expert said, "Worldwide, neighbours should have to share their resources. If one country uses water without regarding the necessity of the neighbour, this is not a healthy situation at all."

Asked if the recycling of wastes, as is being done in the West, could be applied to the East, Mr. Welsch said, "In the West they are keen to export their technology as it means money to them. One can apply western expertise to combat pollution and ecological problem after consulting with the local experts."

Speaking about how the deforestation problem in the East could be checked he said, "Solar energy could be the answer and you could tap your gas resources more. The public will have to accept the change in the nature of the source of energy."

BCS (Admin) body warns against Prokichi actions

By Staff Correspondent

The association of the administrative government officials (BCS-Admin) Thursday demanded that the activities of the central action committee of the non-administrative government officials including engineers, agriculturists and doctors be immediately declared illegal.

The non-administrative officials have been struggling for implementation of a 17-point charter of demands for administrative and judicial reforms.

The association of the administrative officials at a meeting held Thursday, observed that the activities of the non-administrative government cadres and the professionals were 'provocative and violative' of the service rules.

The association of the administrative officials observed that the government should strongly deal with the activities of the non-administrative officials and professionals.

The association also suggested strong legal actions against those indulging in provocative activities designed to jeopardise the administration of the country.

The association meeting resolved that the demands of the non-administrative officials, if implemented, would jeopardise the whole administrative system and create anarchy in the administrative order.

The association has called upon its members working at different tiers of the administration to peacefully perform their respective duties.



- 5.00 Opening announcement
- Al-Quran
- Programme summary
- 5.10 News in Bangla
- 5.25 Cartoon: Tom and Jerry
- Kid's Show
- 5.50 Sports programme:
- Wrestling
- 6.25 Sangbad Parikrama
- 6.50 Open University
- 7.15 Tagore songs
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 8.30 A special programme on the occasion of United Nations Day
- 9.05 Film show: The Sword of Tipu Sultan
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.30 Special programme on the occasion of Durga Puja, Anandamayer Agomonec
- 11.30 Khabar/The News
- 11.40 Tomorrow's Programme summary

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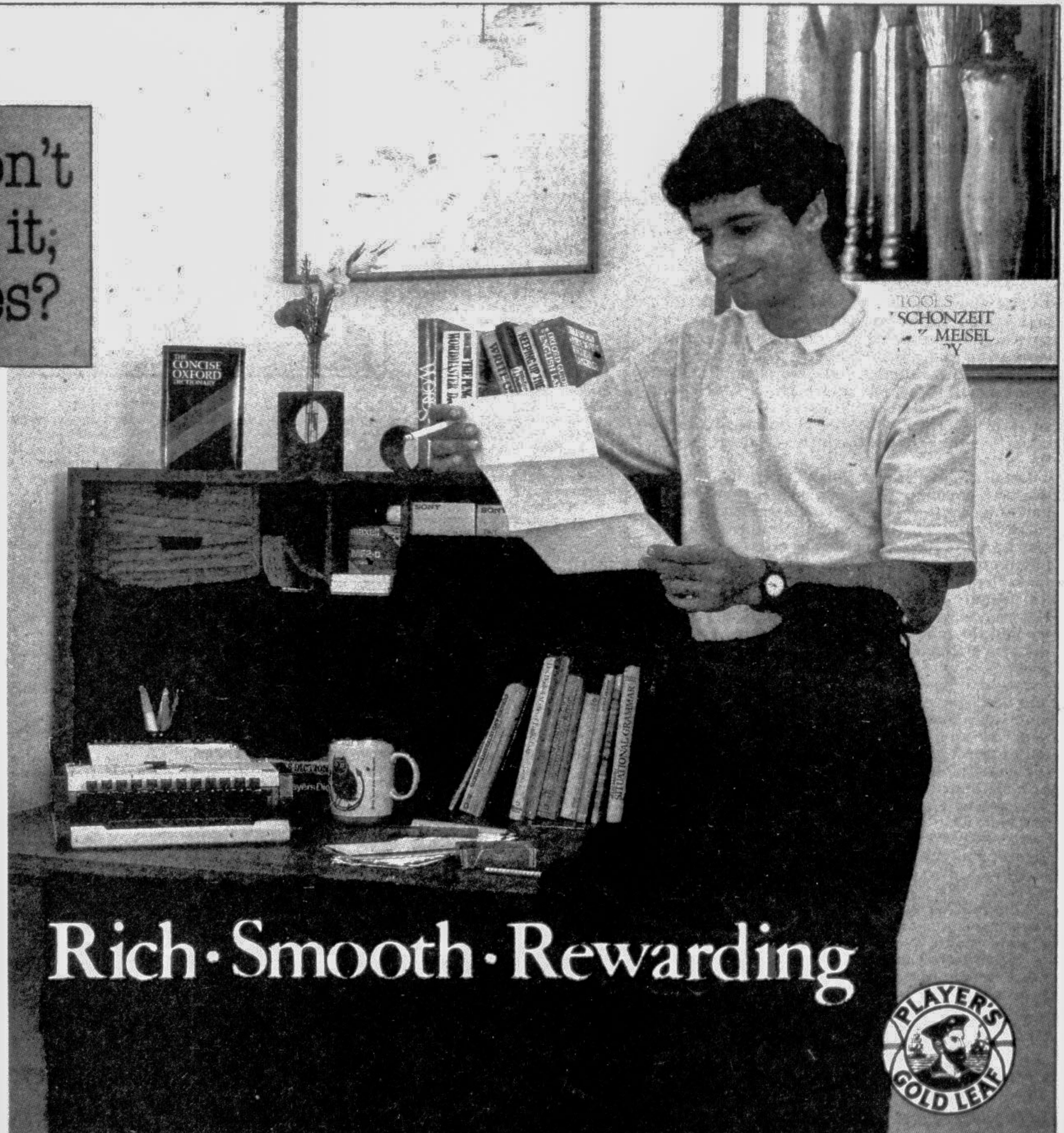
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