

Dhaka Day by Day

Industrial Wastes in Dhaka

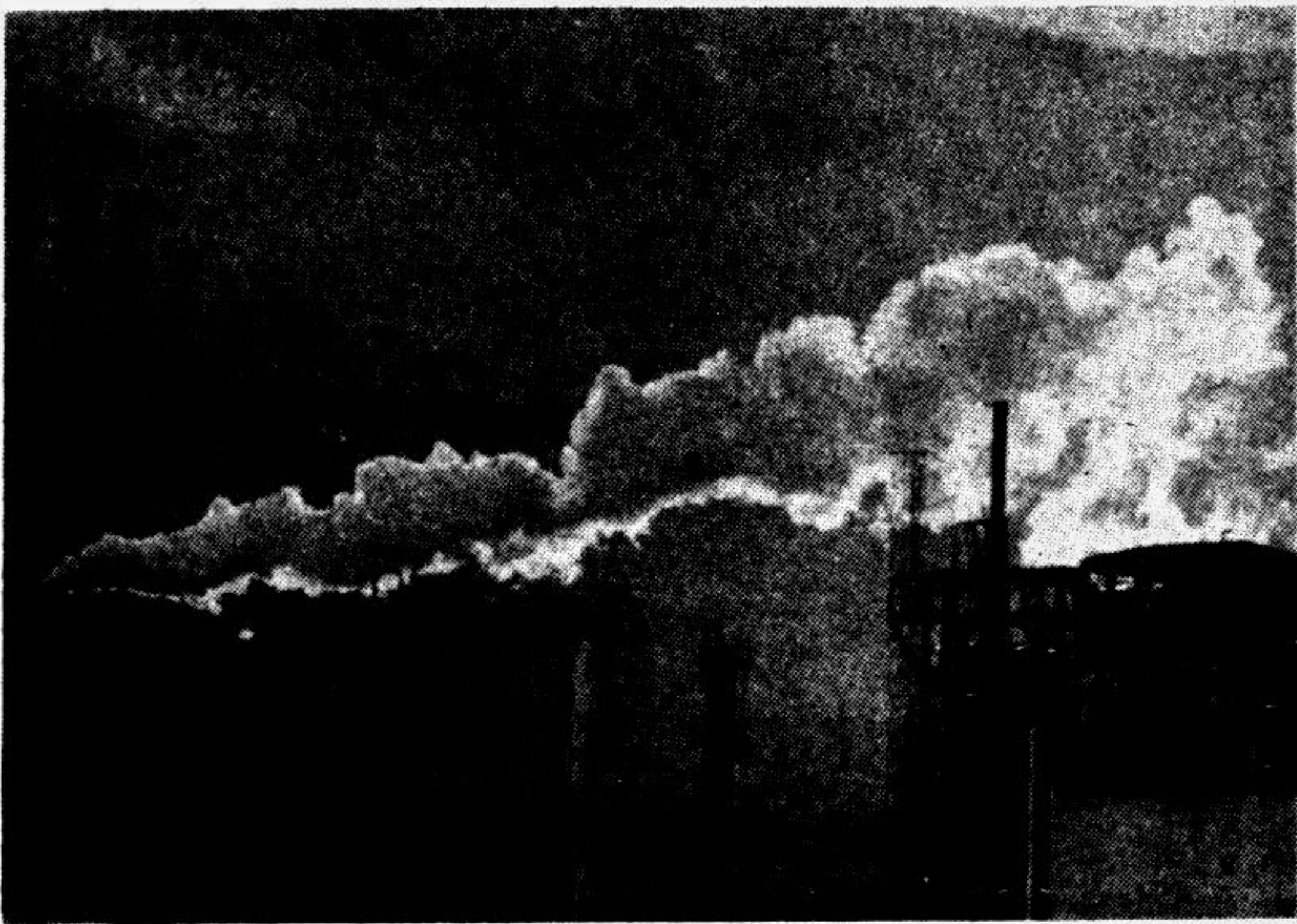
by Syed Ainul Yaqeen

Global concern for the growing environmental pollution is increasing day by day. The rapid growth of population and urbanization has witnessed depletion of non-renewable energy and the dumping of sewage effluents and toxic industrial wastes in water bodies are some of the major environmental issues posing threat to the existence of human beings. The effects of environmental pollution are already visible in Bangladesh. Overloading of natural surface waters with pollutants from landfills, sewage disposal or drainage of industrial effluents has resulted from indiscriminate and unplanned urbanization and industrialization.

Dhaka city has become a lucrative place for garment's industries, dyeing factories, tanneries and pharmaceutical industries. Tanneries of Hazaribagh and factories in Tejgaon are all within the very neighbourhood of residential areas. There are also many large and small factories in the old Dhaka. All these factories are causing great problems. More than 200 screen dyeing factories are scattered around the city. Most of which are in residential areas. All these screen dyeing factories are situated on the banks of different rivers and lakes. These factories are giving off their liquid wastes which consist of dye-stuffs, few of them are also carcinogenic (cancer producing sub-

stance). More than 170 tanneries of Hazaribagh are a great source of pollution. Main chemical effluents of the tanneries are chromium, sodium sulphide, nitrocellulose, different dyes and preservatives. The liquid wastes are dumped into blocked drains which overflow on the roads. The solid wastes are left on the road for days. The soil of the surrounding areas are already contaminated, the atmosphere is horrible. In the year 1991-92 Bangladesh earned Tk 700 crore (US\$ 175 million) by exporting finished, and partly processed leather goods, most of them processed in Hazaribagh tanneries. The leather processing zone at Hazaribagh does not have any waste treatment facility. It was found that, to establish a central waste treatment plant with instruments and facilities, which will benefit 200,000 families for 25 to 30 years, will cost only US\$ 30 million. This is only 16 per cent of the total yearly earning in this sector. The best thing will be to remove all the tanneries from Hazaribagh and take them to Savar or other distant places. They will build the factories with their own waste treatment plants.

To bring some changes and improve the situation every one should participate in environment saving activities. We should think globally and act locally.



How city's environment gets polluted.

1000 unions brought under Food for Edn Programme

Government had taken 1000 of the 4000 unions of the country under Food for Education Programme to make literacy programme a success, reports UNB.

Rest of the unions would be brought under the programme 'literacy for all by the year 2000' soon.

Education Minister Jamiruddin Sirker said this yesterday while inaugurating a 10-day UNESCO co-action World Terakoya Movement Bangladesh country meeting jointly organised by National Federation of UNESCO Association in Japan (NFUAJ) and Bangladesh Terakoya Committee at a city hotel.

He said government was determined to eradicate illiteracy from the country by the year 2000.

NFUAJ provides support for literacy programme specially in the third world countries to ensure literacy for all by the year 2000.

An eight-member delegation of National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan (NFUAJ) arrived in the city on Sunday to attend the meeting.

The inaugural function was addressed, among others, by Chairman of NFUAJ Prof Akihiro Chiba and General Secretary of Bangladesh Terakoya Committee M A Matin.

DCC's mosquito control drive

By Staff Correspondent

Health Division of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) conducted a mosquito control drive in all wards under Zone-6 of the corporation yesterday, says a DCC press release.

The drive was conducted under a ward-based integrated mosquito control programme.

A task force, formed earlier in this purpose, supervised the works of cleaning waterbodies, spraying larvicide, fogging and spraying by vehicle mounted sprayers to kill flying mosquitoes.

Under this drive guppy fishes were released in ditches and material oil-B used at mosquito breeding spots.

DAM gets ESCAP award

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) has been selected by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) as the winner of the 1994 ESCAP Human Resources Development Award, a DAM press release said in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

The international jury of distinguished experts particularly mentioned the organisation's contribution to non-formal education for women, which had a marked impact not only within Bangladesh but also in neighbouring countries and has set an example for others to follow.

The award will be presented to Dhaka Ahsania Mission at an award presentation ceremony in Bangkok in the last week of April.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission was established in 1958 by a renowned educationist and a saint of the sub-continent Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah with the prime objective of divine and humanitarian service.

Date changed

The date of viva-voce for two posts of College of Textile Technology under Education Ministry has been changed for unavoidable circumstances, reports UNB.

As per new timing, the viva-voce for Assistant Professor (Tech) and Lecturer (Tech) posts of the college will be held at 9:00 am on March 16 (Thursday) instead of March 8 (Wednesday).

However, the interview date for the Instructor (Tech) post will be same which is scheduled to be held at 9:00 am on March 14 and 15.

All the interviews will be taken at main office of Commission Secretariat.

SPGRC submits memo to Pak High Commission

A faction of stranded Pakistanis yesterday submitted a memorandum to the Pakistan High Commission highlighting their problems, reports UNB.

A four member team of Stranded Pakistanis General Repatriation Committee (SPGRC) led by Ejaz Ahmed Siddiqi handed over the memorandum to the Second Secretary of Pakistan High Commission.

The secretary assured the Pakistanis that they were continuing negotiation with the government of Bangladesh to solve the problems of the stranded Pakistanis.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia presiding over the weekly cabinet meeting at Bangabhaban yesterday. — PID photo

Malarial death increases in most parts of the country

Malaria, which staged a comeback in most parts of the country in recent years, appears to have grown ever more resistant to once-curative drugs — raising death tolls in the malaria-prone districts, reports UNB.

According to official sources, nearly a thousand people died and more than half a million were attacked by malaria in last one year in those districts, including the Chittagong Hill Tracts, Sylhet, Sunamganj and the northern tip of the country.

Health officials in the Hill Tracts confirmed 603 deaths in hospitals and more than 5 lakh 44 thousand treated after being infected by malarial parasite as the primeval scourge intensified during the last couple of years.

Khagrachhari, one of the most malaria-prone districts, had as many as 1,69,466 malarial cases last year, of which 379 were fatal.

Bandarban had more than 20 thousand clinical cases, of which 156 patients died. Some 3,54,693 malarial patients reported in different hospitals and clinics in Rangamati where 68 people reportedly died.

Intensity of malaria was reported in Sylhet, Moulvibazar, Sunamganj, Netrakona, Dinajpur, Faridpur, Shariatpur and Narayanganj districts. But health officials had no statistics for specific number of malarial cases in those districts.

Unofficial sources, however, claimed the number of deaths and the people attacked by the

disease to be much larger as many of the cases are not reported in the hospitals.

According to WHO estimates, there are nearly 300-500 million clinical cases of malaria worldwide every year leading to 1.5 to 2.7 million malarial deaths.

The WHO in 1955 had declared that malaria would soon be eradicated from the face of the earth. And only a decade ago, WHO was almost sure of having triumphed over malaria, which was once considered a top killer disease.

But in recent years, when malaria reappeared with full vengeance all over the world, it also made an inroad into Bangladesh.

The disease is caused by parasite-infected female Anopheles mosquitoes.

Malarial parasites now infect nearly 300 million people every year, killing more than two million and causing at least 100 million cases of acute illness.

Easy prey of the killer disease are children who, after being infected with a virulent strain, can die within hours of the first symptoms as ravaged blood cells clog capillaries and deprive the brain of oxygen.

Milder cases are marked by drenching sweats and shaking chills, followed by months or even years of anemia and periodic fevers.

Among women, the effects are particularly dire during pregnancy, for anemia can both slow the growth of a fetus and cause premature delivery.

The WHO estimates that in heavily-infected areas, up to 80

per cent of first-time mothers are anemic and 40 per cent of their babies are born dangerously underweight.

Local health officials, admitting the alarming increase of malarial patients, said no programme to contain the disease had been taken in the Hill Tracts although WHO increased its commitment to malaria control.

Experts said the major problem complicating malaria treatment and thereby contributing to malarial mortality is the continuous intensification and spread of parasite resistant to anti-malarial drugs.

Eid reunion

By Staff Correspondent

An Eid reunion was held at Police Headquarters in the city yesterday, says a press release.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) A S M Shahjahan attended the function and exchanged pleasantries and Eid greetings with other members of the police force.

Additional IGPs and other high ranking police officials also attended the reunion programme.

Tuition

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S-137

OBITUARY



I and my family members inform with regret that my only son Neaz Ahmed (8) died (Inna... ..) of blood cancer (AML) at 2:25 PM on Ramadan 29, 1415 Hizri (March 2, 1995) at the Monwara Hospital (Pvt) Ltd after suffering for long two years. We shall always remember with gratitude the sincere sympathy and cooperation extended by our relatives, colleagues, friends, doctors and well-wishers during Neaz's treatment at home and abroad. Sollicit blessings from

all for the salvation of his departed soul. Ameen!
Bashir Ahmed
Managing Director
Mark Industries (Pvt) Ltd.
348/1, Dilu Road,
Dhaka-1000
Phone - 404445 (R) B35629(Off)

INTERNATIONAL TENDER

USAID PROJECT NO. 888-0070

Sealed tenders are hereby invited by Rural Electrification Board, Bangladesh, in the following descriptions:

- Bid Package No 10**
Description of Materials/Equipment
Conductor (# 3 ACSR), Transformer, Dist. (5 & 10 KVA), Single Phase Meter, Oil Centrifusing Machine, Replacement Parts (Voltage Regulator, Motorola Wireless, Philips Wireless, Transformer Oil Centrifusing Machine, Power Transformer, Three Phase & Single Phase OCR, Quantum Meter, Portable Standard Multi-Amp Corporation, Single Phase Meter).

2. Schedule of selling of tender document, and receiving/opening of tender:

| Bid Package No. | Tender Document Sale Date | | Tender Receiving | | Tender Opening | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|
| | From | To | Date | Time | Date | Time |
| 10 | 09 March 1995 | 24 April 1995 | 25 April 1995 | Upto 11.00 A.m. | 25 April 1995 | At 11.10 A.m. |

(Sale will be on and during working days and office hours only; time mentioned will be Bangladesh Standard Time indicated by time signals on Radio Bangladesh).

- Price of Tender Document** : Tk. 2500/- in Bangladesh (Payable in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft favouring 'Rural Electrification Board') and US\$ 65/- abroad for each copy.
- Bid Bond** : At least equal to 5% (five percent) of the offered value.
- Tender Documents are available at** :
(i) Directorate of Procurement Rural Electrification Board, House No. 823, Road No. 19 (Old) Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1209, Bangladesh.
(through an application along with a Pay Order/Bank Draft of appropriate amount).
(ii) NRECA International Ltd, 1800, Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036, U. S. A.
- Tenders will be opened in presence of the bidders or their representatives (if any) in the office of the undersigned.
- No document will be sent by REB to any purchaser by mail or courier service.
- Mode of Payment** : Through Letter (s) of Commitment to be issued by USAID.
- Selection of Bidder** : Evaluation of Financial and total responsiveness of the bid and the responsibility of bidder.
- One bid package cannot be used for submission of bid proposal (s) by more than one bidder. One bidder may, however, submit any number of bids included in the bid package by purchasing only one copy of the concerned bid package.
- Source and Origin of materials and equipment: Eligible in USAID Geographic Code 941 and Bangladesh.
- The offer of material and equipment must be quoted on C&F basis. Offers must be submitted as per terms and conditions set forth in the bid document (s). Enquiries, if any, must reach the undersigned at least one month before the tender opening date.

(Md. Rezaul Hoque Bhuiyan)
Director (Procurement)
Rural Electrification Board
House No. 823, Road No. 19 (Old)
Dhanmondi Residential Area
Dhaka-1209, Bangladesh
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