

SAVE DHAKA

CIVIC AMENITIES: Part -2

WASA's 'booming' water trade

By Krishna P Roy



JOSTLING FOR A JUGFUL: A daily chore for thousands of people in this city which lacks a proper water supply system.

— Star photo

100 and 50 respectively.

Meanwhile, the WASA has taken up an interim project to immediately increase supply of water by 35 crore litres a day. Some 40 deep tubewells would be installed under the project, expected to be implemented

shortly.

Many consumers and even WASA officials feel that by increasing the number of water-carrying vehicles, the sufferings of the city dwellers for scarcity of water, could be reduced to a great extent.

— Star photo

For 2200 or 1600 gallons of water carried by a truck, a subscriber has to pay Tk 150 and for 1200 gallons Tk 100. For 800, 400 and 250 gallons of water carried by trolley, subscribers have to pay Tk 150.

The WASA is supposed to reach water to those who ask for it at its zonal offices. An WASA official said they gave priority to those who call first. "We do not go for any discrimination in selecting persons to offer emergency water service," he said.

When his attention was drawn to the allegations, he said, "It is difficult to catch the drivers of vehicles since they deal with the subscribers directly."

If requests were received from five consumers for emergency water supply, the drivers had the scope to decide as to whom they would offer services first, the official explained.

"But these people have no right to choose who would get water from the emergency supply system," he said. "Services must be offered on first come first serve basis."

Some residents of Moghbar area alleged that they had to pay two or three times the original rate.

"We are compelled to do this because we cannot afford to go without water," one of the sufferers said.

Next budget to focus on rural development: Saifur

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday said poverty alleviation and rural development would be the 'focal point' in the next budget and Annual Development Programme, reported UNB.

"Poverty alleviation is essential for the sustenance of democracy because democracy and intolerable poverty cannot go side by side," Rahman said talking to MPs at the NEC Bhaban in the city.

The meeting was part of the ongoing pre-budget policy dialogue with public representatives, manufacturers, members of the business community, economists, and intellectuals to elicit their opinion on the forthcoming 1995-96 budget and Annual Development Programme.

State Minister for Planning Dr A Moyeen Khan, State Minister for Finance Md Jibur Rahman and a number of MPs, including Ebadur Rahman, Abdul Majid and Sharuddin Khasru who recently joined BNP from Jatiya Party, took part in the

dialogue.

As some MPs suggested additional taxes on certain importable consumer items to protect local industries, the Finance Minister said efforts would be made in the next budget to harmonise the interest of the local manufacturers and importers.

"In a free market economy, market force would decide everything and we must not ignore consumers' interest. But at the same time the government is not also ignoring its obligations towards genuine indigenous industries," he told the lawmakers.

"We have to bring a balance among various conflicting interest groups in the present socio-economic condition of the country," he said.

Participating in the dialogue, the ruling party MPs suggested more allocation in education, agriculture, poverty alleviation, rural development, and social infrastructure sectors.

They also urged the Finance Minister to formulate a wel-

fare-oriented budget from the political point of view.

The MPs appreciated the girls' stipend and food for education programme of the government which, they observed, is a unique education expansion cum poverty alleviation programme.

Also they stressed linking macro stability with achievements at micro level for long-term economic development of the nation.

About maintaining the stability of the price of rice, the Finance Minister said the food price should be contained to such extend where consumers enjoy and affordable price and farmers are also encouraged to grow rice.

To another suggestion by some MPs, the Finance Minister said the government would always try to contain inflation to a certain limit. Because, he argued, inflation is the invisible huge tax imposed on the people which cannot be allowed to rise in a free market economy.

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Asia's environment likely to suffer further damage

MANILA, May 29: Asia's environment is likely to suffer further damage before incomes in the world's most populous region rise to levels that would enable countries to take corrective action, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said today, reports AFP.

"With the high growth rates that have come to be considered common among a number of Asian economies, those economies may reach the improving environment stage sooner than they would with slower growth," said ADB economist Douglas Brooks.

Speaking at an international trade conference here, Brooks cited South Korean, Taiwanese and Thai utilities which have switched to burning fuel oil containing less sulphur.

However, "most of Asia and the Pacific can expect things to get worse, environmentally, before they get better."

He cited a study which showed that environmental quality deteriorates until a per capita income level of roughly 5,000 US dollars develops, after which the environmental outlook tends to improve.

Under that model, only four of the ADB's 35 developing

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3 killed in city incidents

By DMCH Correspondent

Three persons were killed and four others injured in separate incidents in the city yesterday.

One Wazi Ahmed, 32, who received serious injuries in his chest and legs near the Dhaka Central Jail late Friday, died at the DMCH yesterday morning.

A group of three muggers

stabbed Wazi Ahmed at Sidibadi Bazar when he was returning home by a rickshaw at about 10:45 pm.

In another incident, one Khalilur Rahman, 60, was killed as he jumped from the fourth floor of an eight-storey building.

Sources said, Khalil, caretaker of a building at 30 BK Ganguli lane, Gnaaktuli, was behaving abnormally for the last few days. He was employed at the building for the last seven years, police said.

A rickshawpuller Farhad, 20, succumbed to his injuries at the DMCH early yesterday. He was seriously injured when a minibus hit him at Tejgaon on Sunday night.

Meanwhile, unidentified gunmen shot a Jatiyatabadi

Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader, Golum Mustafa Pappu, 22, near the T&T office at Maghbazar yesterday afternoon.

Pappu was admitted to the DMCH in a critical condition.

Sources said, gunmen from a jeep fired on Pappu when he was crossing the area in a motor bike.

Dharmundo police arrested

Ripon, Musa Harun and Nurul Alam in this connection.

Barisal Medical

From Page 1

On July 10 last year, the Academic Council of this college had decided not to allow students' politics in the college for the next three years and the students agreed to that.

Three people were arrested in the city for allegedly torturing and beating up a young domestic servant.

Nizam, an 11-year-old boy who used to work at a house in Madhubazar area, was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday with grievous injuries. He also bore signs of burns all over his back, hospital sources said.

According to Dhanmandi police, Nizam was severely assaulted by his master, Ripon, 25, and two other inmates of the house on suspicion of being a servant.

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Computer firms say Voters' ID cards can be prepared in 6 months

By Staff Correspondent

A consortium of some 25 computer firms yesterday said they would be able to prepare identity (ID) cards to all the 60 million voters before the next general elections, due early next year.

"We want to assure that we are capable of preparing ID cards for all the voters within six months from the time we get work order. Nurul Islam told a press conference on behalf of the consortium.

Nurul Islam, who is also managing director of Flora Limited, said, "over 5,000 engineers and thousands of people would be employed in the process."

The EC had invited prequalification bids in March and wanted to know whether we could prepare ID cards within six months and most of us said we could. But there is no progress in this regard so far," he said.

Saif Shahid of CITECH Co Limited said if the EC did not take any immediate decision in this regard, it would put them in to a difficult situation.

Faults in Mirpur sub-station

Power disruption in some city areas to continue

Star Report

Frequent power disruptions in different areas in the new part of the city may persist for a couple of weeks due to major faults developed in the 132/33 KV sub-station at Mirpur.

Sources in the Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) told The Daily Star that DESA had already approached the Power Development Board (PDB) for providing it with a 50 mw transformer immediately to overcome the current power crisis.

Following the collapse of a 50 mw transformer in Mirpur Grid Saturday night, Dharmundo, Mirpur, Banani, Cantonment, Badda and Baridhara areas, said Khan Lodhi Saiful Haq, Executive Engineer of DESA's High-Voltage Substation Division in Gulshan.

Problems of electricity supply in Mirpur area would be resolved to a great extent after the installation of a sub-station at Kallyanpur by June 30, he added.

According to a DESA source, there is a remote plan to link the Kabirpur Grid in Manikganj to the Mirpur Grid and once it is done, there will be an end to power disruptions in the new part of the city.

Besides the domestic consumers, the industries, particularly, a large number of export-led garment factories situated in Mirpur area, have been badly affected by the latest power failures.

Owners of garment factories in Mirpur area alleged that timely shipment of their products to the foreign buyers could not be ensured due to power disruptions for hours together everyday.

"It may take even three weeks to restore the Mirpur sub-station and the inconvenience to the consumers for such a long time is regretted", said a DESA source, expressing unwillingness to be named.

DESA sources said it has gone for power rationing in the areas concerned from yesterday as an interim arrangement and it will continue till the transformer, that went out of order, is replaced by a fresh one.

"It may take even three weeks to restore the Mirpur sub-station and the inconvenience to the consumers for such a long time is regretted", said a DESA source, expressing unwillingness to be named.

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Asked about the Indian Foreign Secretary's visit to Dhaka to discuss the water-sharing issue, Farooq Sobhan said: "We are still waiting for a date from the Indian side."

About Pakistani special envoy Prof ND Khan's current visit, he said the envoy has come to discuss the situation in Kashmir and also share their concern about the Charar-i-Sharif incident.

He said that Bangladesh has already condemned the destruction of the Muslim shrine.

The Foreign Secretary refused to comment on the Indian move for holding elections in Kashmir.

Hyundai had also been asked to consider investing in other heavy industrial sectors, including steel and engineering and the government has offered to enter into a management contract with it for the running of the Chittagong Steel Mills.

Besides, there had been fruitful meetings with South Korean business leaders and investment groups on investments in shoe, leather, railways and telecommunications sectors. Investors also showed interest in pulp manufacturing from green jute.

During the Prime Minister's visit, three accords were signed on scientific cooperation, cultural exchange programme and for setting up a friendship hospital near Savar.

Bangladesh had also been

invited to participate in the

inauguration of the UN resolution on Kashmir," which calls for allowing the Kashmiris to determine their own destiny, Professor Khan said.

Begum Zia made Bangladesh's stand clear reminding that Bangladesh had already condemned the destruction of the holy Charar-i-Sharif shrine and expressed deep concern over the violation of human rights.

The lawyer also referred to Serial or Item 11 of the voter registration form No 2 which allowed a voter an option to cast his vote from an area his choice.

But a later directive of the Election Commission said a voter will have to fill up the registration form from the place where he intends to cast his vote.

This latest directive is contrary to Serial 11 of the registration form No 2, inconsistent with the rule and violative of a voter's choice to exercise his right of franchise, Advocate Islam said.

The petitioner sought a rule from the court.

After hearing the petitioner's lawyer, the High Court bench comprising Justice Ismail Uddin Sarkar and Justice Abu Sayeed Ahmad, asked the Attorney General to make his submission today.

The court is expected to give its decision after hearing the Attorney General.

Advocate Nurul Islam was assisted by Maudud Ahmed, Rabeyn Bhuiyan, K S Nabi, Habibul Islam Bhuiyan, Amin Mahfuzur Rahman, Abdus Salam Mandal, Alauddin Khalid and Farah Mahmud.

Convinced that poverty has

to be overcome by the poor

themselves, he created a bank

for the common people, making mini-loans available particularly to women, in order to increase the opportunities for work, prosperity and greater dignity.

The Midnight File

Delhi to extend president's rule in Kashmir

NEW DELHI, May 29: The union government tonight decided to extend president's rule in Jammu and Kashmir beyond July 17. The union cabinet, which met here under the chairmanship of prime minister, P V Narasimha Rao, is understood to have decided that the extension for the time being shall be only for six months beyond July 17 when the present term of the president's rule expires, reports PTI.

ing made by a section of NGOs against the garment industry on the issue of child labour.

The BGSKS leaders said the garment sector in Bangladesh had already earned a good name in the international market and alleged that a section