

City's second water treatment plant

The second phase of the Saidabad Water Treatment Plant will be built to meet the demand for water supply in the city, which is increasing at a rate of five per cent every year

SOHEL ISLAM

Faced with an increased demand for water in Dhaka city, the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) is planning to construct an additional water treatment plant at Sharulia under Demra thana.

The second phase of the Saidabad Water Treatment Plant will be built to aim at meeting the demand of water supply of the city, which is increasing at a rate of five per cent every year.

The estimated cost of the proposed project is Tk 265 cr which is much less than the Saidabad Water Treatment Plant because this one will use many of its existing facilities.

The Saidabad Water Treatment Plant (Phase-one) which was constructed at the cost of Tk 584 was inaugurated on July 27, 2002. After commencement, this plant injected 22.5 cr litres into the pipeline of Dhaka WASA.

The World Bank, the government of France and the government of Bangladesh jointly financed the Saidabad

Water Treatment Plant.

The demand of water is 160 crore litres a day for the city. WASA, which produce 145 crore litres a day, can barely meet the demand of the city.

"Even if the construction of phase-2 begins now it will take at least three to put its water into our existing pipeline," said another source at WASA on condition of anonymity.

Meanwhile, the project proposal of second phase Saidabad Water Treatment Plant was submitted to the Pre-ECNEC (Executive Committee of the National Economic Council) meeting for the approval last year. Then the meeting of pre-ECNEC in a resolution informed the WASA to look for fund of the project.

"Following this instruction, we approached several foreign countries and donor agencies," said an authoritative source at WASA.

"The Danish government has already shown interest to finance the project. Now they are at the end of a feasibility study of the project. I hope they will inform us of the matter within two or three months," added the

source.

The phase-2 project does not need to construct raw water intake pumping station and twin culverts which are mandatory for a water treatment plant because during the phase-1 construction, a number of facilities had been built for the second one. This project will also be able to use the canal at DND (Dhaka Narayanganj Demra) embankment of Saidabad Water Treatment Plant for its easy movement.

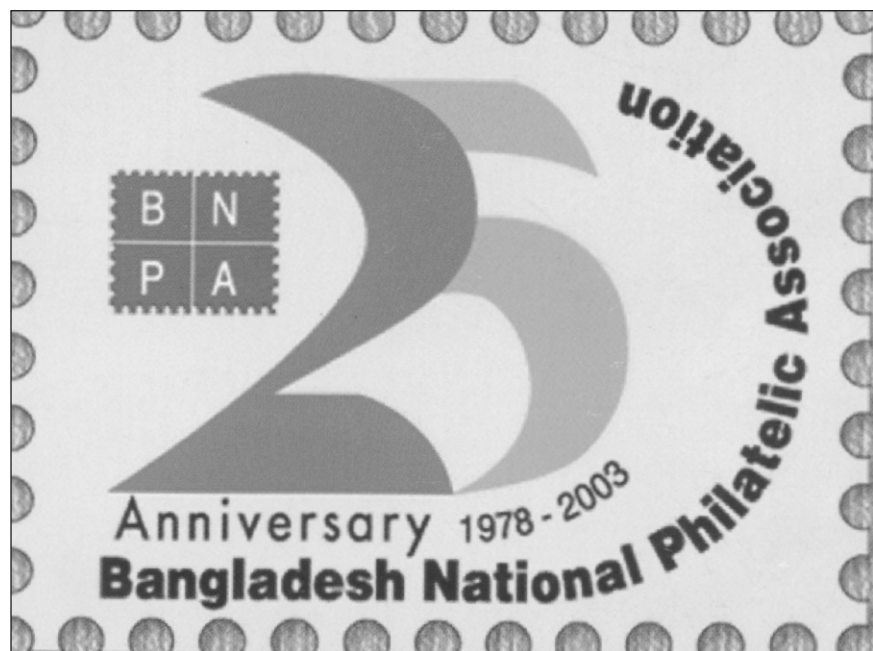
"If we construct Saidabad phase-2 water treatment plant we only need to lay pipelines for eight kilometres. The encouraging aspect is that we will be able to use 36 existing pipelines of the Saidabad phase-1 treatment plant," said a high official of WASA who preferred to be anonymous.

Once implemented, the phase-2 project will add 22.5 litres of water to the WASA's pipeline. The central part of the city old Dhaka, Shantinagar, Motijheel, Elephant Road, Tejgaon, part of Dhanmondi and Lalmatia will immensely be benefited from this plant.



The Saidabad Water Treatment Plant (1st Phase) was completed in July 2002, but is not sufficient to meet the city's demands.

Philatelists commemorate their own silver jubilee



The country's philatelists, better known as stamp collectors, celebrated their silver jubilee with a week-long stamp festival.

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Philately Week ended today, organised by Bangladesh National Philatelic Association (BNPA). BNPA celebrated its silver jubilee at the auditorium of the General Post Office (GPO) from July 21, 2003 to July 27, 2003. Its aim was to exhibit various special stamps from around the world, encourage young philatelists and to expand the exciting hobby. This eventful week covered workshops, auctions, receptions, tours and quizzes.

BNPA began rolling from 1978, and

already has arranged 20 programmes to introduce, to make popular and to make available the necessary accessories to all sorts of stamp collectors throughout the country. It covers programmes like exhibitions, orientation courses, seminars, auctions and get-togethers. It also publishes a monthly bulletin.

In its silver jubilee observation, 37 exhibiting boards of 20 junior and 30 senior philatelists are presented covering various themes. The philatelists studying in schools are considered juniors and the others who are older than them are

seniors.

"We could not afford many other philatelists for the lack of boards," said Aminul Haque Mallick, general secretary of BNPA. "These are the only assets we have had from 1984 provided by the GPO."

The Bangladesh Post Office has a board exhibiting different 'first day covers' inaugurated in different programs with Prime Minister's autographs. Princess Diana was in stamps, collected by Abdus Samad. Late legendary batsman Bradman was in the collection of Mallick. History was also in interest of AKM Zubair and Noorul Islam, who exhibited The British India, covering few centuries of Britain in India. Kayser Habib exhibited the complete collection of coronation.

There were also a good amount of collections depicting error stamps (specially print errors) and error seals on stamps. A collection of phone cards printed from Singapore and Bangladesh took attention of some of the viewers. The exhibition had a good collection of Martyr intellectuals killed in 1971, rare envelopes printed during the war (Mukti Fauz Issues). Art and architecture of Dhaka, 5th Cub Jamboree and sports were attractive collections of the philatelists.

"BNPA is planning to encourage collectors at the grass-root level, and it has already negotiated with 122 schools to make it popular with the youngsters," said Mallick. "We welcome all in our monthly philately gathering which takes place on the first Friday of every month. Our membership fee is Tk. 100 per year."

But number of visitors at the exhibition was not very encouraging though. Visitor Rafiqul Islam inquired how he could encourage his 12-year old daughter to become a philatelist.

FOLLOW UP

Multi-storey parking in limbo

CITY CORRESPONDENT

A major multi-storey car-parking project in the city's Dilkusha area, proposed by Dhaka City Corporation (DCC), is in limbo due to hesitancy on the part of one of the two landowners.

The proposed 18-storey building comprising office and car-parking facilities will be built on a four-bigha* plot of land. Car-parking will take up eight storeys above ground and an additional three floors will be reserved underground for basement parking. The remaining ten storeys above ground will be rented out as office space.

The land in question is owned by Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) and the Sadharan Bima Corporation, a government owned insurance company, who each own two bigha of land.

"The BJMC has agreed to provide its land to us provided we give them two floors of parking. But Sadharan Bima Corporation, under the commerce ministry, is still in a dilemma about offering the land to us," said a source from the Dhaka Urban Transport Project (DUTP).

"In fact, the concerned officials of DCC are not really making a great effort to procure the two bigha of land from the commerce ministry. Their idle attitude is therefore delaying the start of this car parking project. Had they tried honestly the project would have been underway," claimed a source from the Dhaka City Corporation itself.

The Dhaka Urban Transport

Project, under the DCC, invited tenders from interested parties in June this year and was supposed to open the offers on July 20.

"We will have to inform the interested parties about the rescheduled date for the opening of offers through the newspapers," said the DCC source.

Meanwhile, the DCC sent a letter of intent to Belhas Accom, a Dubai-based construction firm, last month, awarding it the contract to build another multi-storey car park in the city's Motijheel commercial area. This car-

parking-cum-office-building will be a total of 33 storeys.

Yet a third multi-storey car park, of RAJUK's, is also not progressing according to plan. RAJUK is currently being forced to rethink procedures for financing the project.

"Initially we wanted to finance this car park ourselves. Now we are thinking twice, and may go for Build-Own-Transfer (BOT)," said a highly placed source of RAJUK.

Finding a parking space in Motijheel, the city's commercial hub, can be a serious difficulty on

office days.

Although commercialisation has spread very rapidly here, the provision for parking has continually been neglected in the past by the concerned authorities.

Most of the high-rise buildings in the area do not have any parking facilities on site. Naturally, vehicles are forced to park on the streets, which invariably results in serious traffic congestion and jams.

(*three bighas = approximately one acre)



Motijheel's parking problems continue as multi-storey car-parking projects suffer setbacks.

utility taxicab & city bus route

UTILITY

Electricity

Electricity Complex- PDB- 9566061-5, 9560170-9
Electricity Complex (DESA)- 8616737-43, 8617626
DESCO- 8123138-40
Complaints (Rural Electrification Board, Dhaka)- 8916424-8

Gas

Titas Gas Exchange (Emergency)- 9563667-8
Kawrnbarar-8112135-42
Mirpur- 8014132-3
Mohammadpur- 9117215,9113903
Mohakhali- 9884741, 9885922, 8824993
Motijheel-9667612

WASA

WASA (PABX)- 8117829-31
Mirpur- 9000519
Mohammadpur- 8120192
Fakirapool-9115343
Asad Gate- 8917492
Uttara- 9559142,
Segunbagicha- 7316348
Pagla- 8113900-39

Fire Services

Siddique Bazar (HQ)- 9556667
Mohammadpur- 9112078
Khilgaon- 7218329
Mirpur- 9001055
Tongi- 9801070
Demra-7400111
Postagola- 7410771
Sadarghat- 7119759
Mirpur 10 Circle- 9002269, 9001055
Mirpur TVG Complex- 9001189

DO YOU KNOW

Fire services provide cheap, fast and efficient ambulance service too?



TAXI CAB

Yellow Cab

Navana 9558065
Salida 9344477, 0171620881
Cosmo 9112959 and 8127191
Cab One 7113282-3
Nihon 8624741-2
Orion 9347277
Anudip 8125285 and 8127611
Capital 9352847

TRAIN TIMING

Subarna Express	Leaves Dhaka at 4:00 pm
Mahanagar Prabhati	Leaves Dhaka at 7:30 am
Mahanagar Godhuli	Leaves Dhaka at 3:05 pm
Turna	Leaves Dhaka at 11:00 pm
Parabat Express	Leaves Dhaka at 6:30 am
Joyantika Express	Leaves Dhaka at 12:30 pm
Upaban Express	Leaves Dhaka at 9:30 pm
Tista Express	Leaves Dhaka at 7:00 am
Ekata Express	Leaves Dhaka at 5:00 pm
Upakul Express	Leaves Dhaka at 6:00 am
Padma Express	Leaves Dhaka at 9:20 pm

Union 8130485

Kool 0171826731

Black Cab

Cab Ex 9358401
Cabline 8321162
JBS Cab 019364575
Sajan 018126036
Anudip -- 8125285 and 8127611

Cab One 7113282-3

Palki 0171052500
Cab I 7113282
Jatri 0171540074
Nipun 9572277
R-Cab 8914782
Star Cab 9571919
Shihab 018202477 & 018228675
KGN 8620011

CITY BUS ROUTE

Bus No. Route

1	Gulistan-Shahbagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 10, 11, 12	Golap Shah Mazar
2	Gulistan-Shahbagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 1, 2	Phoolbaria bus station
3	Gulistan-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Mahakhali-Airport-Azampur	Phoolbaria bus station
4	Shyampur-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Airport-Tongi	Shyampur
5	Sayedabad-Kamalapur-Motijheel-Airport-Joydebpur-Gazipur	Sayedabad
6A	Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Gulistan 1, 2	Kamalapur
6B	Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 1, 2	Kamalapur
6C	Motijheel Shapla chattr- Malibagh- Farmgate- Gulshan 2	Motijheel Shaplachatter
7	Sadarghat-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 2	Sadarghat
8	Chittagong-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Asad Gate-Kalyanpur-Gabtoi	Chittagong Road
9	Demra Rani mahal-Motijheel-Kalagan-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 10, 11, 12	Demra Ranimahar
10	Sadarghat-Gulistan-Kakrail-Malibagh-Rampura-Biwa Road-Tongi Bridge	Sadarghat
11	Sayedabad-Motijheel-Fakirapool-Maghbazar-Mohakhali-Tongi Bridge	Sayedabad
11/A	Sayedabad-Khilgaon-Malibagh-Rampura-Airport-Tongi Bridge	Syedabad
12	Shanir Akhra-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Asadgate-Mohammadpur	Shanir Akhra
13	Motijheel-Shahbagh-New Market-Jhigatola-Shangkar-Mohammedpur	Motijheel
14	Signboard -Motijheel-Shahbagh-New Market-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 12	Signboard (Chittagong Road)
15	Chittagong Road-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Mirpur 12	Chittagong Road
24	Gulistan-Maghbazar-Mohakhali-Airport-Uttara-Bipile	Gulistan

