

# Activitists place plan to get rid of environment ills

**CITY CORRESPONDENT**

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) has recently announced 113 recommendations from the Bangladesh Environment Conference 2002 for protecting the environment of the country from further degradation. Apart from international and regional difficulties, the Dhaka declaration also touched upon issues that required action at national, community and individual levels.

Among its general issues, Bapa emphasised that the national budget should reflect the goal of environmental protection. If necessary, Green Tax may be imposed on polluting consumption and production activities.

Teachers, religious leaders and grass-root social leaders have made important components in the national effort to save the environment. Bapa feels that the government should provide more resources for research on environmental issues.

The recommendations have called upon the government to improve the quality of governance so that policies and projects related to environment are also better imple-

mented.

On under ground water contamination and arsenic poisoning, Bapa observed that progress made in the past in confronting the arsenic challenges have been insignificant.

It was recommended that the donors' money should be utilised for meaningful, low cost and indigenous solution of the arsenic problem. Regarding protection of rivers and other water bodies, the government should adopt ecology and environment friendly Open Approach. Also, the campaign to free rivers and water bodies from encroachment should spread all over the country.

Bapa noted that the Export Processing Zones set up across the country are seriously apathetic to the problems of surface water pollution. It recommended that steps should be taken to prevent industrial effluents from polluting water of the surrounding surface water bodies.

Sulphuric emissions from diesel-run vehicles are a major source of air pollution. There are proposals for a mass transportation system like rail-transit, ring road, circular waterway for etc. in Dhaka for reduction of traffic congestion.

Bapa felt that certain types of poly-thene/plastic bags should be banned which would ultimately lead to the rejection of all types of plastic bags. It also recommended that community involvement in primary collection of waste should be encouraged and municipalities should be given incentives for proper waste collection, recovery and reuse.

Bapa stressed on the need to have an integrated system for safe separate disposal of medical waste, as it is fast becoming a major threat to environment and public health in Bangladesh.

Protection of natural resources and use of renewable energy is another concern of Bapa. Forming of a Renewable Energy Policy for promoting the use of renewable energy sources was recommended.

Management of Dhaka city and other urban areas also came under focus. The declaration said that the Dhaka Metropolitan Development Plan (DMDP) should be implemented properly reviewed and regularly updated.

FOLLOW-UP

## Defying the directives

Construction of CNG stations on lowland continues



Constructors continue land-filling for CNG station 'by night' ignoring directives from a JS body and Prime Minister's Office.

**SOHEL ISLAM**

The construction of two CNG filling stations on the lowland west of Tongi Diversion Road continues despite an order from a parliamentary sub-committee for an end to further work.

A September 28 meeting at the Prime Minister's Office also ordered suspension of the gas-station construction, but the directive went ignored.

"During daytime it looks deserted, but

trucks laden with sands come at night," Dulal, a near-by resident said.

The order by the sub-committee of the Jatiya Sangsad Public Accounts Committee came after a complaint from Rajuk that blamed Bangladesh Railway (BR) for allowing Khondoker and Navana filling stations on the lowland.

Rajuk complained that the CNG stations were being built in violation of environmental and town planning acts.

The lowland is the outlet through which waste and rainwater from Dhanmondi, Kalabagan, Shahbagh, Moghbazar and Karwan Bazar stream into Begunbari and Hatirjheel.

Rajuk in a letter to the BR on November 20 expressed concern over its noncompliance with the Town Planning Act 1953, Building Construction Act 1952 and the wetland protection act 2000 in approving the CNG stations.

The letter mentioned that Rajuk's integrated plan does not allow the filling-up of lowlands around Tongi Diversion Road near Hatirjheel.

Despite repeated attempts, the BR director-general could not be reached for comments.

"Although the owner of the lowland is Bangladesh Railway, the communications ministry took the decision to allocate the land. We have nothing to do with that," a senior BR official said, requesting anonymity.

"We informed the ministry about the sub-committee's decision a few days back," the BR official said.

But State Minister for Communications Salauddin Ahmed told Star City that he was in the dark about the parliamentary sub-committee's order.

"If the construction of the CNG stations cannot be stopped, it will have an adverse impact on the surrounding areas," a Rajuk official said.

## TERRIBLE TRAFFIC TAILBACK



STED ZAKIR HOSSAIN

Traffic jams have increased since Ramadan began, but the situation has worsened in the last few days. The government took several steps to streamline traffic during the month of Ramadan, but these have fallen flat. Yesterday afternoon gridlocked traffic on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue keeps commuters from reaching home in time for iftar, forcing them to break fast on the way.

# Freeing Dhanmondi from waste dumping spots

House owners will have to ensure that both containers are covered. The vans will take these containers to dumping spots. DCC's trucks will collect them at set times.

**CITY CORRESPONDENT**

Dirt and household waste littered along some of the roads in Dhanmondi makes the air intense with bad odour. Waste pickers popularly known as *tokais*, stray animals and crows aggravate the problem digging into the waste.

Dhanmondi Paribesh Unnayan Jote (DPUJ) and Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon with the help of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) are planning to streamline household waste disposal management in

the area.

"We would like to reduce the number of waste dumping spots in Dhanmondi. This will help us to control waste dumping efficiently," said General Secretary of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) Abu Naser Khan.

Rickshaw vans now collect waste from houses and transfer it to some dumping spots. "Waste is collected from all around; recyclable and non-recyclable together. As the vans transport the waste it contaminates the environment,"

Khan said.

"We hope to introduce two containers for each house. One for recyclable and the other for non-recyclable."

House owners will have to ensure that both containers are covered. The vans will take these containers to dumping spots. DCC's trucks will collect them at set times.

"Waste Concern, an NGO has pledged that they will take care of the degradable wastes," added Khan.

In 1995, Waste Concern came up with an idea to convert the organic part of waste into compost, which is ultimately used to produce environment-friendly fertiliser.


"We are thinking of setting up a permanent dumping ground for Dhanmondi's waste at Rayerbazar. The DCC's trucks can then transport the waste from here. If this plan is implemented Dhanmondi can entirely be free of waste dumping spots," Khan said.

"We have welcomed the DPUJ's initiative and are waiting for it to be implemented. Once done, the waste will not be left on the streets. Our trucks will have a set timetable and collect the waste accordingly," said DCC's Chief Conservancy Officer Sohel Faruqi.

Khan hinted that the proposed waste disposal system is likely to kick off by January.

## useful telephone numbers

COURIER SERVICES



International

Air Borne Express- 9561371, 9561372, 9550724  
Air Couriers Intl (BD) Ltd.- 8815970  
Aramex International Courier- 9558003, 9559582, 9565075  
Airspeed Express- 9563494  
Asian Courier Services Ltd.- 8313543  
Baishakhi Courier Service- 9558606  
Banmgladesh Express Co. Ltd.- 9565114  
Bangladesh Courier Sercive- 9563989  
Bengal Express- 9560642, 9552666  
Bangladesh Int'l Courier- 953636  
Continental Service Ltd.- 9552948, 9558425  
DHL Worldwide Express- 9881703-7, 9886305-9, 9882057  
Enem Express- 9330699  
Fedex Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd- 9565114  
Modhuban Courier Service-

9550884  
Overseas Courier Service- 9352431, 8321169  
Pacific Courier- 9568446  
Reliance Express Service- 9558515, 7110249  
Sky International service- 9660442  
Skynet world Wide Express- 9558062,9560258, 7114787, 7113184  
TNT Express- 9566662, 9558239, 8618155  
Union Courier Service- 9341722  
United Parcel Service Air alliance Ltd- 8826429, 8810223

National  
Asian courier Service Ltd- 8313543  
BAE- 9884851  
Central Courier Service- 9881118  
Confidence Courier Service Ltd. 9567036  
Chisty Courier- 7110177-9, 7100842-4  
Cosmopol Services- 9552793, 9557975

Dhaka Courier Services- 7236222  
Dolphin Courier- 9558802  
Dreamland Courier Service- 9550326, 9566975  
Pioneer Courier Services- 9561727, 9569759  
Probashi Courier Services- 9346359  
Rainbow Express Parcel Services Ltd.- 8322773, 8315703  
Reliance Express Services- 9558515, 7110249  
Sundarban Courier Services- 9551984, 9556189, 9551656  
Sunrise Courier Services- 9568751


TIPS

Do you know according to Dhaka City Corporation, you must deposit your waste at the collection site between 4pm and 10pm


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  
British Council- 8618867-8, 8618905-7  
Community Development Library- 8113769, 8113604  
Goethe Institute Int'l- Dhaka- 9126525-6  
Indian Information Centre & Cultural Library- 8615096  
The Russian Cultural Centre- 9116314, 9118531, 9118314  
Drik Photo Gallery- 9120125, 8112954, 8123412

OUTING



CITY BUS ROUTE



Museum and Zoo

National Museum- 8619396-9  
Open: 10 am 5 pm, Friday 3 pm- 8 pm, Thursday closed  
Muktijuddha Jadughar- 9559091  
Open: 10:30 am 6:30 pm, Sunday Closed  
Bangabandhu Smiti Jadughar- 8110046  
Open: 10 am 5 pm, Wednesday closed  
Ahsan Manzil  
Open: 10 am 5 pm, Friday: 3 pm - 7 pm, Thursday Closed  
Shishu Jadughar- 9666466  
Open: 10 am- 6 pm, Sunday Closed  
Sonargoan Jadugha

Bus No. Route

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

Starts from

Golap Shah Mazar  
Phoolbaria bus station  
Phoolbaria bus station  
Shyampur  
Sayedabad  
Kamalapur  
Kamalapur  
Motijheel Shaplachattr  
Sadarghat  
Chittagong Road  
Demra Ranimahal  
Sadarghat  
Sayedabad  
Syedabad  
Shanir Akhra  
Motijheel  
Signboard (Chittagong Road)  
Chittagong Road  
Gulistan