

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 polythene/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 sand 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 Hatinjheel.

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 Hatinjheel.

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.

useful telephone numbers

COURIER SERVICES

International
Air Borne Express- 9561371, 9561372, 9550724
Air Couriers Int'l (BD) Ltd.- 8815970
Aramex International Courier- 9558003, 9559582, 9565075
Airspeed Express- 9563494
Asian Courier Services Ltd.- 8313543
Baishakhi Courier Service- 9558606
Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.- 9565114
Bangladesh Courier Service- 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- 9557975

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



LIBRARY & INFO-

Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers
Central Public Library- 8626001-4, 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



OUTING

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
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
Sonargaon Jaduga

CITY BUS ROUTE

Bus No. Route
1 Gulistan-Shahbagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 10, 11, 12
2 Gulistan-Shahbagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 1, 2
3 Gulistan-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Mahakali-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 chattar 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-Mohakali-Tongi Bridge
11/A Sayedabad-Khilgoan-Malibagh-Rampura-Airport-Tongi Bridge
12 Shanir Akhra-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Asadgate-Mohammedpur
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-Mohakali-Airport-Uttara-Bipole

Starts from

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

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.

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the area.

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

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.

SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN



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