



The water treatment plant at Sayedabad. The Pagla plant will be very big if it comes into being.

# Drawbacks in deal delay water plant

AVIK SANWAR RAHMAN

Drawbacks in the government supplier's credit policy have delayed the awarding of contract on the Pagla water treatment plant.

The Water and Sewage Authority (Wasa) spotted that one of the conditions in the policy was that the government won't be giving any guarantees and it will be Wasa's responsibility. But this is apparently not acceptable to any prospective foreign bidder.

However, the memorandum of understanding (MOU) had already been signed between China and Bangladesh regarding the construction of this plant.

"Foreign countries need the government's guarantee on principle and therefore this particular clause has created problems within the ERD regulation of supplier's credit," said several sources.

"We have requested the ERD of plan-

ning commission to verify the supplier's credit conditions and clauses so that it justifies all interest," said Md. Abdullah, the deputy chief of Local Government Engineering Department's planning commission.

There are also problems with the conditions for supplier's credit imposed by the foreign companies.

"Suppliers credit comes as hard loan which includes machinery and material as per the supplier's wish. Therefore we can't choose anything for ourselves. The interest rate is also much higher than the normal credits," said a reliable source in the Wasa.

There are other apprehensions too about supplier's credit. Many think that projects under this type of credit take more time to be implemented.

The cost of Pagla water treatment plant has been estimated at about Tk. 1700 crore. Water from Padma River pumped at Maoa point will be supplied to the Pagla plant, which would then

treat it for use of Dhaka's residents.

The plant is extremely important for the city as the quality of water from the Rivers Sitalakhya and Buriganga, which has been used for the Sayedabad water treatment plant and Chadni Ghat plant, has deteriorated due to indiscriminate dumping of wastes. Therefore, a new source of clean water supply has become a necessity.

Once completed, the Pagla water treatment plant will provide 450 million litres of water a day. The demand of water in the city is 2000 million litres. Current supply from tubewells and treatment plants is 1500 million litres. The Sayedabad plant provides 225 million litres of water and Chadni Ghat about 40 million litres. The main source of water, approximately 875 million litres a day, comes from beneath the surface through tubewells.

The surface water of Pagla water treatment plant will reduce the pressure on predominant underground water sources in the city.

## Cheaper garment items set to elbow out seconds

SABRINA KARIM MURSHED

The demand for imported cast-off clothes is gradually declining with the rise in garment factories, said importers and retailers of seconds.

The policy allows Tk 15 crore in cash-off import a year and 3,000 importers selected from 64 districts by lottery are given permits to import seconds.

But the import curve has sloped downwards over the years with Tk 13.93 crore allowed in

fiscal 1998-1999, Tk 6 crore in fiscal 2000-2001 and Tk 62 lakh this year, said sources in the Office of Chief Controller of Import and Export.

The seconds are mostly winter clothes imported from the US, Japan, the UK and South

Korea and sold in wayside shops at prices affordable to the low-income group.

The policy limited the import volume to four tons of each of the categories such as sweaters, ladies' cardigans, gents' zipper jackets and trousers.

The importers have to pay at least 60 percent in tax on imported clothes --

importers blamed the slack demand for seconds on a glut of new clothes from garment factories, now available at affordable prices on the market.

The importers have to pay at least 60 percent in tax on imported clothes --

a barrier that pushes the prices up.

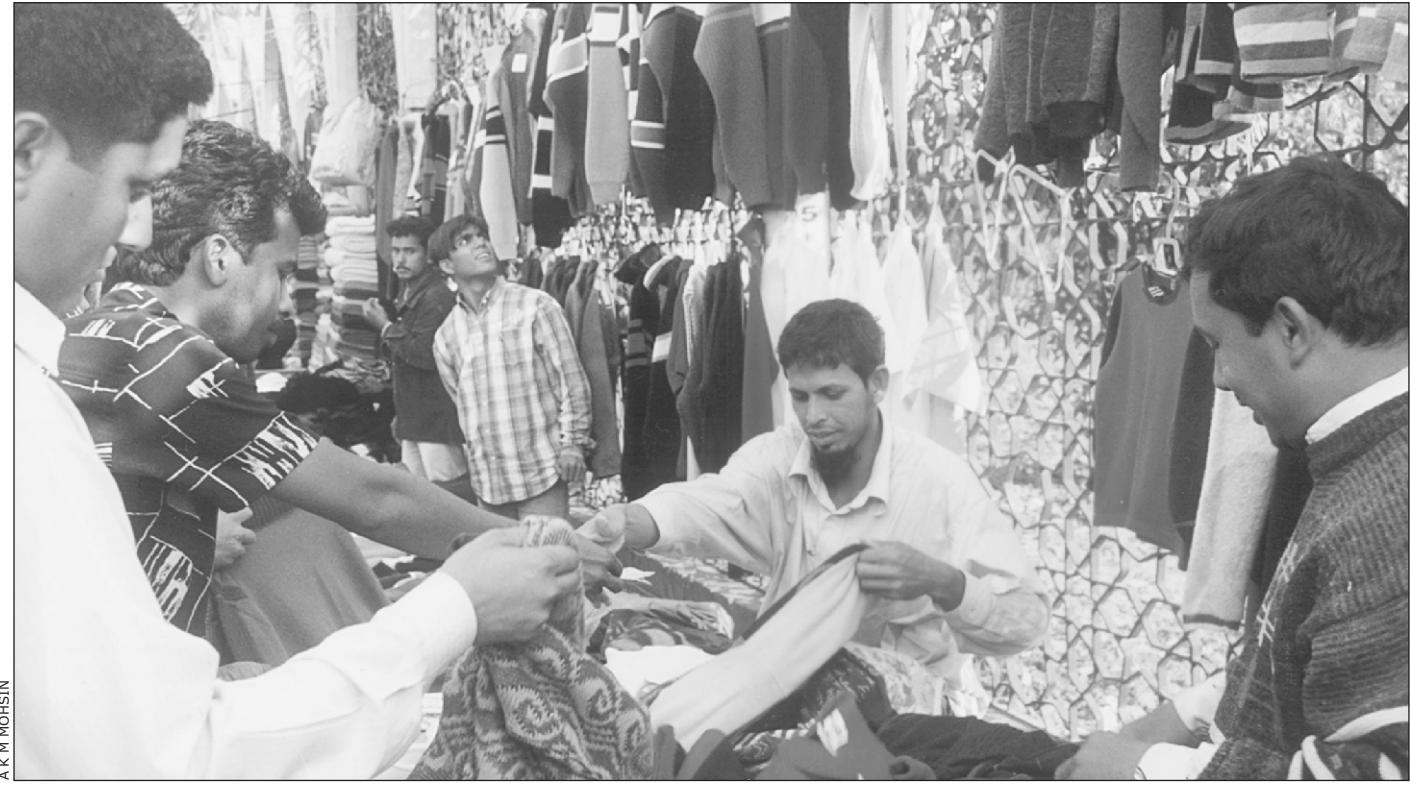
Usually, the importers bring the clothes in bales weighing 100kg each. At least 500 shirts are in a bale that costs an importer Tk 5,000. Each shirt sells at up to Tk 60 -- a price tag close to that of a local shirt up for sale at up to Tk 70.

**The import curve has sloped downwards over the years with Tk 13.93 crore allowed in fiscal 1998-1999, Tk 6 crore in fiscal 2000-2001 and Tk 62 lakh this year.**

"Customers prefer new shirts to used ones," said Jamaluddin, a cast-off clothes seller at New Market.

"Products of local garment factories look nice and cost less," said Sajid Kadir, a student of Dhaka University when asked why he buys them.

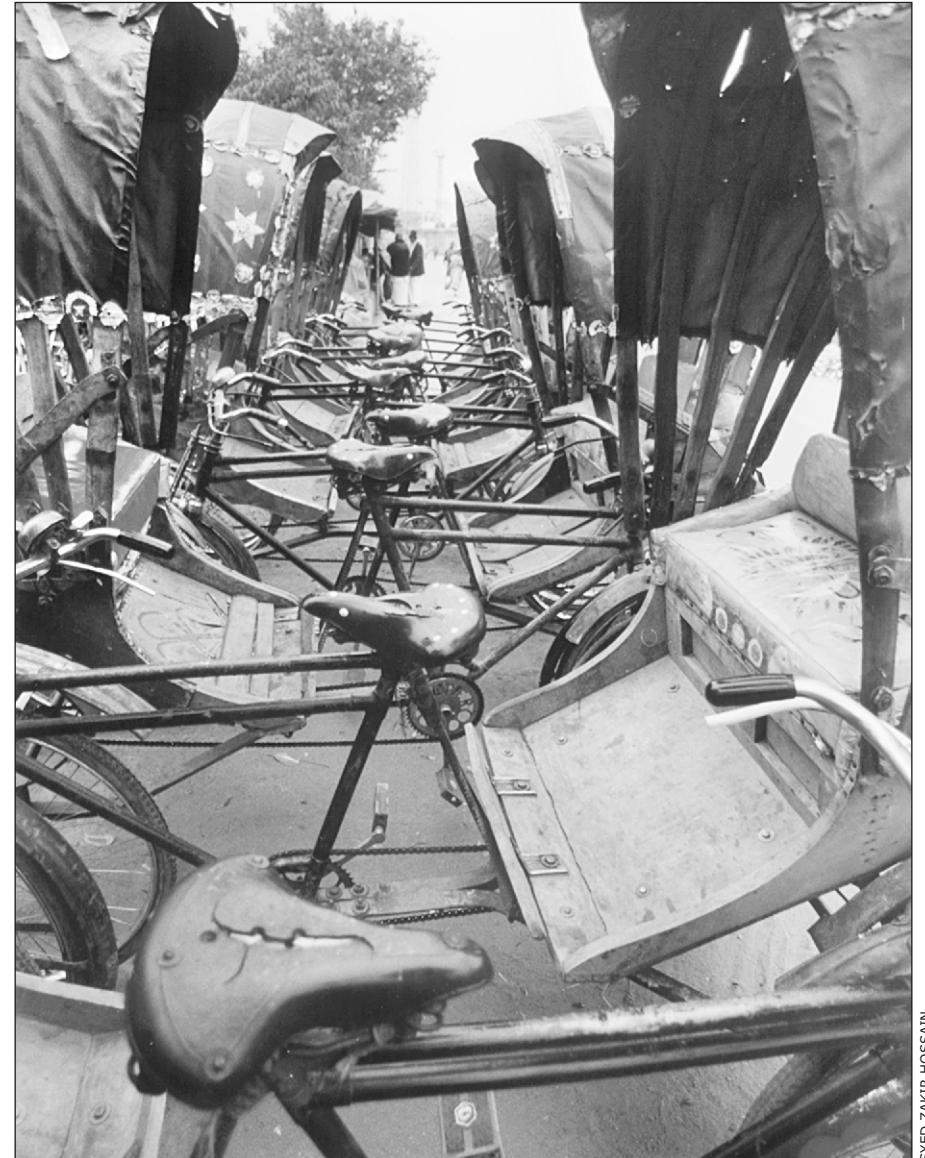
"Less import of used clothes can also save some foreign currency as well," he added.



Warm clothes on sale at the Baitul Mukarram

AKM MOKSHIN

### MUNIR MIA'S HARTAL THOUGHTS



Rickshaws rule the city streets during hartal. But there are also some exceptions. Rickshaw owner Munir Mia of Kamalapur believes it is wise to keep off roads as damage of a rickshaw on a hartal day rarely equals a day's profit.

SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN

## market price

### Dhaka New Market, Dhaka

#### CEREALS

Rice(HYV) Aman MediumKGS 17.33

Rice coarse(HYV)KGS14.33

Rice Chiniguri (Aromatic)KGS 35.33

Wheat Grain (Local White)KGS 11.17

**PULSES**

Masuri Dal (Deshi)KGS45.00

Masuri Dal (Imported)KGS38.00

Khesari Dal (Deshi)KGS21.00

**SPICES**

Onion (Deshi)KGS22.00

Onion (India big)KGS19.00

Garlic Deshi (common)KGS37.00

Garlic Big (Imported)KGS31.00

Ginger (Deshi)KGS29.33

Ginger (Imported)KGS44.00

TurnericKGS77.33

Turneric (India)KGS85.00

Chili GreenKGS22.33

Chili Dried (Deshi Bogra)KGS87.67

Chili Dried (Imported)KGS95.00

**VEGETABLES**

Potato (Holand)KGS17.00

Bitter GourdKGS19.00

Cauliflower Average SizePCS11.00

Local Bean GreenKGS13.00

Lau (Water Gourd)KGS15.00

Brinjal (Long purple)KGS15.00

Pumpkin (Sweet)KGS9.00

Papaya GreenKGS6.00

Radish WhiteKGS7.00

**FRUITS**

Banana Sagar (Medium)4 PCS9.00

Apple (Australia)KGS65.00

CoconutPCS13.33

**FISH**

Rohi (Deshi)KGS125.00

HilshaKGS16.00

**Mesua Bazar, Mymensingh**

**CEREALS**

Rice(HYV) Aman MediumKGS 13.88

Rice coarse(HYV)KGS13.00

Rice Chiniguri (Aromatic)KGS 31.75

**PULSES**

Masuri Dal (Imported)KGS39.63

**Rangpur Municipal Market, Rangpur**

**CEREALS**

Rice coarse(HYV)KGS12.00

Rice Chiniguri (Aromatic)KGS 30.80

**PULSES**

Masuri Dal (Imported)KGS29.00

TurmericKGS75.00

Chili GreenKGS16.00

Chili Dried (Imported)KGS90.00

**VEGETABLES**

Potato (Holand)KGS15.20

Bitter GourdKGS16.33

Barbati Green (Long bean)KGS 15.00

**FRUIT**

Banana Sagar (Medium)4 PCS9.00

Apple (Australia)KGS9.80

Carrot Medium SizeKGS10.00

Local Bean GreenKGS11.75

**FISH**

Rohi (Deshi)KGS16.20

**FERTILIZER**

Urea (Local)KGS6.00

**Khulna Sadar Bazar, Khulna**

**CEREALS**

Rice(HYV) Aman MediumKGS 13.80

Rice coarse(HYV)KGS12.80

Rice Chiniguri (Aromatic)KGS32.00

**PULSES**

Masuri Dal (Deshi)KGS44.40

Masuri Dal (Imported)KGS43.20

Khesari Dal (Deshi)KGS22.00

**FRUIT**

Potato (Holand)KGS10.50

Bitter GourdKGS11.20

Barbati Green (Long bean)KGS 11.20

**VEGETABLES**

Potato (Holand)KGS12.80

Bitter GourdKGS13.20

Carrot Medium SizeKGS12.80

Local Bean GreenKGS10.80

**FISH**

Rohi (Deshi)KGS12.80

**FERTILIZER**

Urea (Local)KGS6.00

**TSP (Imported)KGS14.40**

**Ghop Market, Jessore**

**CEREALS**

Rice(HYV) Aman MediumKGS13.30

Rice Chiniguri (Aromatic)KGS6.40

**FRUITS**

Potato (Holand)KGS15.00

Barbati Green (Long bean)KGS 12.80

Cauliflower Average SizeKGS11.20

Cabbage Average SizeKGS10.00

Tomato Ripe (Deshi)KGS28.40

Carrot Medium SizeKGS12.80

Local Bean GreenKGS10.80

**FISH**

Rohi (Deshi)KGS8.00

**PULSES**

Masuri Dal (Deshi)KGS45.00

Masuri Dal (Imported)KGS43.00

Khesari Dal (Deshi)KGS21.00