

Project to stop Buriganga encroachment for ever

AVIK SANWAR RAHMAN

A project concept paper (PCP) is underway to provide permanent protection for the Buriganga river from encroachment. Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) made the project proposal after the Committee on Governance and Development of Dhaka City decided to permanently stop encroachment on the Buriganga. "We will submit the PCP to the shipping ministry by next week," a senior BIWTA official said. The PCP will be placed at a Planning Commission meeting for inclusion in the Annual Development Programme of the next fiscal year. The cost of the project has been estimated at Tk 94.36 crore, with 96.82 percent of the fund or Tk 91.42 crore to be spent on development and construction on the riverside land of the city's lifeline. The construction includes a terminal building, transit sheds at Ali Bahar Char near Pagla, kiosks, a health centre, a jetty, a parking yard, open yards, development of the Mirerbagh dockyard near the first Buriganga bridge, a recreation centre and riverside seating arrangements. The PCP also includes a walkway on the 34km offshore on both sides of the river and recre-



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Several demolition drives in the recent days have failed to drive out the Buriganga encroachers. The authorities now plan to take a permanent step to protect the city's lifeline.

ation facilities for tourists. The project earmarked The 40 lakh or 0.43 percent of the fund for transportation. The authorities will spend Tk 10 lakh on a soil test and Tk 22.94 lakh for a physical contin-

gency and feasibility study on the project. Local experts to be recruited at a cost of Tk 20 lakh, which is 0.21 percent of the budget, will carry out the feasibility study and brief the BIWTA on the income

from the project. "The project will also help reduce traffic at Sadarghat terminal, and we will be able to restore the old glory to the Buriganga," the BIWTA official said. Sadarghat terminal, estab-

lished as Dhaka Nadi Bandar in 1967, links the two seaports of Bangladesh and is the busiest landing station for cargo and passengers travelling in and out Dhaka. The port was used for about

2.18 crore commuters and 18.70 lakh tonnes of cargo in 2002-3. The movement of commuters is increasing 4.29 percent and cargo 4.72 percent every year, a BIWTA report says.

Diseases follow heat wave

NAIMUL HAQUE

The heat wave sweeping the country for several days has led to the outbreak of a number of diseases. Diarrhoea, heat stroke and vomiting are now the most common ailments with the elderly and children, doctors say.

Cases of skin rash, eruption, blisters, heat rash, headache, eye-ache and skin burn have marked a rise. The incidence of diseases like high blood pressure, asthma and fever has increased due to the hot spell. The city experienced a brief shower of Thursday bringing temporary relief to the people. But the mercury again shot up from the next day.

Yesterday, the highest temperature recorded in Dhaka was 36.5°C. In the city, hospitals, clinics and private medical practitioners' chambers experience an increasing rush of patients mainly suffering from diarrhoea, vomiting and heat stroke.

A senior physician said heat stroke occurs when the body becomes unable to control its temperature. "Body temperature rises rapidly to 104°Fahrenheit (40°C) or higher, sweating mechanism fails and the body is unable to cool down," he added. "Symptoms may include vomiting, bizarre behaviour, dizziness, staggering and rapid pulse, dry skin and lack of sweating, possible delirium or even coma. Heat stroke can even be life threatening."

He suggested immediate medical attention when problems first begin. Doctors also suggested taking off the persons' clothes, wrapping them in cold wet sheets or giving them cold water sponge baths and fan them till the temperature drops. "Immersion in cold water may be too radical a change for the body to bear and may produce reactions. Give the person water to drink frequently but in small quantities. Use oral rehydration mixture if it is available or add 1/2 teaspoon of salt to 1 litre of water as an alternative," one



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As the heat wave is likely to continue for a few more days, doctors have advised people to avoid sunlight particularly during mid-day, take sufficient water, saline water in case of diarrhoea and heat stroke, avoid taking fast food and sugarcane juice and maintain cleanliness as far as possible. Medicine specialist Dr M A Hasan said: "Encourage sweating and at the same time drink plenty of water to keep the circulatory system cool."

He said a person might be too thirsty, weak, nauseous and sweat profusely due to heat wave. Although heat exhaustion is often caused by the body's loss of water and salt, salt supplements should only be taken on doctor's advice, he added. "Heat exhaustion is the body's response to an excessive loss of water and salt through sweat. Those most prone to exhaustion are the elderly, those with high blood pressure and working or exercising in a hot environment," the specialist noted.

Another common problem is heat rash that looks like a red cluster of pimples or small blisters. It is more likely to occur on the neck and upper chest, in the groin, under the breasts and in elbow creases. Treating heat rash is simple and usually does not require medical assistance. One specialist said: "Keep the affected area dry. Powder may be used to increase comfort but avoid using ointments or creams as they may make the condition worse."

But Dr Zakiah Mahfuza Hasan, a skin specialist, said, "Most people tend to use powder in case of sweating. This often can be unsafe since powder may block small pores on the skin that constantly work to control sweating and this may lead to raising body temperature instead of keeping it cool." She also suggested wearing only cotton clothes during summer to avoid skin irritation as well as to avoid over-heating of the body.



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How much solid waste is dumped a day?

High-tech measuring equipment soon

CITY CORRESPONDENT

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) study team has brought in high-tech measuring equipment to assess how much solid waste is being dumped on average at Dhaka City Corporation's (DCC) garbage site in Matuail, Demra.

The equipment, expected to be installed sometime this month, will also help to identify the sheer volume of rubbish a city like Dhaka actually produces everyday, said a DCC official.

The tests however are expected to begin next month. The JICA team was invited by the Bangladesh govern-

ment to undertake a study of waste disposal management in December last year in order to help the DCC develop a more scientific and efficient means of disposal.

The Tk 13.3 crore project, which is being financed by the Japanese government, covers 360 square kilometres under the jurisdiction of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) and new urban planning areas surrounding the capital, JICA officials told Star City.

DCC engineers and officials are also working with the JICA team to prepare a master plan. The study covering disposal of urban, domestic, industrial and medical waste is expected to be completed by March 2015.

JICA hopes by that time it can provide a comprehensive plan, which deals with the collection, transportation, final disposal, financial management, public participation and maintenance management of solid waste.

The study team has already completed its field-level survey where the team reviewed previous reports on the sector and operation of waste collection system by the DCC as well as private organisations last month.

Current figures indicate everyday the city produces more than 5,000 tons of solid waste. But only fifty per cent is really collected by the DCC while the rest is littered on the streets or other places.

healthouting, taxicab & train timing

<p>HEALTH</p> <p>Hospitals Heart National Institute of Cardio Vascular Diseases (NICVD), - 9130800, 9122560-59</p> <p>Burn Dhaka Medical College Hospital Burn Unit-8626812-6</p> <p>Cancer National Cancer Institute-8014914, 8826561-65 Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University-8612550-4, 861455-9</p> <p>Diabetes Diabetic Research Hospital (BIRDEM)- 9661551-5, 8616641-50</p> <p>Mother & Child Care Shishu Hospital- 9119119, 8116061-62 Azimpur Mother & Child Health Training Institute- 8624827, 8624980</p>	<p>Eye Istamia Eye Hospital-9110794, 9119315 National Eye Hospital- 8117202, 8114807</p> <p>Dental Dental College -9002035</p> <p>Orthopaedics National Orthopaedics (Pangu) Hospital- 9114075, 9112150</p> <p>General Dhaka Medical College Hospital- 8626812-6 Rushmono General Hospital- 8317819 Holy Family Hospital- 8311731-25 Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital- 8612550-4, 8614545-9 Bangladesh Medical College & Hospital- 8115443, 9118202, Shamaria Hospital- 9131901 Suhrawardy Hospital -- 9130800,</p>	<p>9122560-69 Salimullah Medical Collage Hospital -- 7310061-4, 7319002-6 Cholera Research Hospital (ICDRB)- 8811751-60 Monowra Hospital 8319802, 8318135</p> <p>Blood Bank Red Crescent Centre- 9116563 Sandhani (DMCH)- 8624040 Sandhani (SMCH)- 7310061, 7310061, 7319022 Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital- 8626812-9</p> <p>Eye Bank Sandhani International Eye Bank- 8614040</p> <p>Ambulances For Dead Body Anzuman Mafidul Islam (Kakrail) 9336611, Gandaria 7319808, 7318166, Al-Markajul Islam 9127867,</p>	<p>MARKET CLOSED</p> <p>Gulshan 1, 2 markets-Friday Elephant Road-Friday Bishal Center-Friday Baitul Mukarram Market-Friday Polwell Market-Friday BCS Computer City-Friday Isha Khan Shopping Complex-Friday. Rajlaxmi Complex-Friday Stadium Market-Friday Bangabazar Market-Friday National Museum--Thursday Ahsan Manzil--Thursday. New Market-Tuesday Gausia Market-Tuesday Mouchak Market-Sunday Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday Eastern Plaza-Sunday Farmview Super Market-Sunday Muktijuddha Jadughar-Sunday Dhaka Zoo-Sunday Shishu Jadughar-Sunday</p>	<p>TAXI CAB</p> <p>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</p> <p>Subarna Express Mahanagar Prabhati Mahanagar Godhuli Turna Parabat Express Joyantika Express Upaban Express Tista Express Ekata Express Upakul Express Padma Express</p> <p>Leaves Dhaka at 4:00 pm Leaves Dhaka at 7-30 am Leaves Dhaka at 3-05 pm Leaves Dhaka at 11-00 pm Leaves Dhaka at 6-30 am Leaves Dhaka at 12-30 pm Leaves Dhaka at 9-30 pm Leaves Dhaka at 7-00 am Leaves Dhaka at 5-00 pm Leaves Dhaka at 6-00 am Leaves Dhaka at 9-20 pm</p>	<p>LIBRARY & INFO</p> <p>Union 8130485 Kool 0171826731</p> <p>Black Cab Cab Ex 9358401 Cabline 8321162 JBS Cab 019364575 Sajan 018126036 Anudip -- 8125285 and 8127611 Cab One 7113282-3</p> <p>Palki 0171052500 Cab I 7113282 Jatri 0171540074 Nipun 9572277 R-Cab 8914782 Star Cab 9571919 Shihab 018202477 & 018228675 KGN 8620011</p> <p>Reaches Chittagong at 10:15 pm Reaches Chittagong at 2-55 pm Reaches Chittagong at 9-11 pm Reaches Chittagong at 7-05 am Reaches Sylhet at 2-30 pm Reaches Sylhet at 9-20 pm Reaches Sylhet at 6-40 am Reaches Bahadurabad at 1-05 pm Reaches Bahadurabad at 11-55 Reaches Noakhali at 1-35 pm Reaches Jagannath at 2-30 pm</p>
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