

Project to protect rivers around the city

SABRINA KARIM MURSHED

The Department of Environment (DoE) and Bangladesh Environment Management Programme (BEMP) have prepared a proposal to save the rivers surrounding Dhaka city from pollution and solve water-related problems.

The project titled "Problem Analysis and Portfolio of Solutions" will be submitted to the environment ministry this month sources said.

DoE officials said the project would take about 20 years to complete at a cost of up to Tk 10 billion.

Rivers surrounding the city, including Buriganga, Shitalakha, Turag and Balu, are severely affected by encroachment, waste dumping and other polluting agents. It is also becoming harder to meet the

increasing demand for water.

"The proposal is designed not only to save these rivers but to deal with all water-related problems city dwellers are facing now and which will increase with the population growing," a DoE high official said.

The project proposal includes as many alternative solutions as possible, apart from technical analysis of the problems.

Assurance of adequate and safe drinking and cooking water took centre stage in the proposal that suggested a strategic shift from ground water to surface water supply and rainwater storing.

It also suggested moving the intake of 9,00,000-m³ water a day by Sayedabad water treatment plant from the Shitalakha to Meghna.

Improving the quality of polluted water and introducing appropriate waste disposal

methods in residences, markets, small businesses and factories also features in the proposal.

It suggested banning the use of phosphate-based detergents in laundry, as phosphate pollutes water, creating algae in it. The disposal of solvents and thinners and other liquid hazardous materials such as corrosive cleaners, pesticides, herbicides, petrol, other fuels, paint in the discharge water lines and drains should be banned, the proposal says.

It also recommended installation of grease traps on grey (polluted) water discharge lines and drains from kitchen sinks and bathrooms in homes and business centres with regular maintenance.

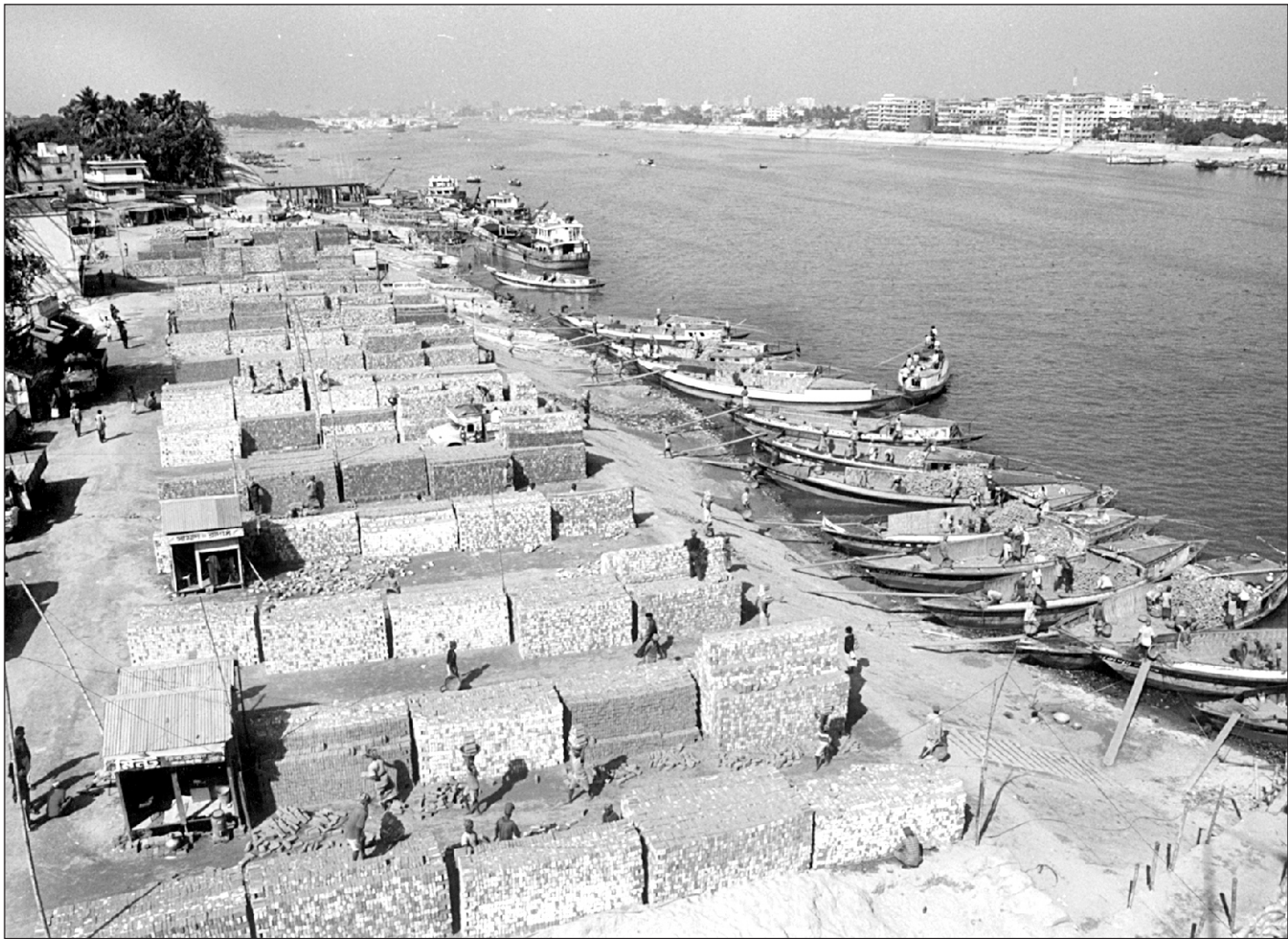
The proposal says at least 80 percent of the sewage produced by 10 million people in Dhaka goes to the river system untreated. Almost all of the

7,000 industries in Dhaka and its environs dispose of their waste directly to drainage ditches, canals and the rivers without treatment. Tanneries in Hazaribagh are creating a severe toxic hazard to river users.

Construction of secondary sewage treatment plants at Dhaka North West, Dhaka North East and Tongi is essential to tackle the situation, the proposal says.

It also recommended construction of primary sewage treatment plants for Narayanganj and Savar and eventually turn them into secondary treatment plants.

The proposal also suggested banning hanging and pit latrines and underscored proper installation and maintenance of dry composting toilets in public places.



SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN

On fast track to porn world

Schoolboys rush to Nilkhet for X-rated CDs and books

KAUSAR ISLAM AYON

Teenagers skip classes and rush to Nilkhet to buy or exchange pornographic books, CDs

and photographs on their fast track to sex-aded life, as Dhanmondi Police Station, only about 400 metres away, plays the role of a silent spectator.

Wayside bookshops in front of the Balaka Cinema Hall and the Bakushah Market get

abuzz with people of all ages, having easy access to porn overdose.

A visit to the area shows businesspeople have piled up a huge collection of local and foreign pornographic magazines like Playboy.

Azim (not his real name), a regular customer, considers pornography one of the best sources of recreation at low cost.

"It feeds my sexual fantasy and I buy these books and magazines. I am not committing a crime," said the class IX student of Government Laboratory High School, annoyed at a query.

Nilkhet is a hub of pirated audio and video CDs with most VCDs X-rated -- banned items that come mainly from Singapore.

The businesspeople say they have customers of all ages and do not think it illegal. They believe this is part of basic human need.

"Our customers include the police too. They take the material away without payment and sometimes return them," a businessman said, feeling no remorse at his clandestine work. "This is a kind of bribe."

But Officer-in-Charge of Dhanmondi Police Station Zafar Ullah denied the allegation and said they often raid the shops, file charges and send them to court. "But the culprits get out on bail and return to the old business," he said.

"It is next to impossible to stop this business. The flow of material is incessant and sources are quite open. Either production of such material should be stopped or the import banned to sweep clean the practice," he said.

The source of most material is local anonymous publishers while some come from India by road, a businessman said. "We also buy foreign adult magazines from other suppliers," he said.

Some material also comes from different diplomatic offices through middlemen. "Material is brought in immune diplomatic bags for personal use. Once the use is over, middlemen (mainly Bangladeshi junior staff) collect them and sell them out," another seller said.

A porn book sells as low as Tk 15 and as high as Tk 600 and the buyer can get a refund of up to 50 percent on returning the book in good reusable condition.

Sending CVs thru' Internet

FAIZUL A TANIM

"Revolution of the World Wide Web has brought about a cultural shift in our lives," said a prospective job seeker in the city.

Today, information technology (IT) is helping human resource management step on its working pace because of the possibility of submitting curriculum vitae (CV) online in comparison with the traditional posting or handing over.

Rubaiyath Sarwar of Swiss Contact, a successful online job seeker, said: "It's basically about making a change. Five or six years back we had to send CVs via snail post system and wait for a month to get a reply."

Another two weeks would go past before the candidate was called for an interview, and so continued the process, he added.

"Today we can submit our CV though the online sites of specific organisations or through portals like Bdjobs.com, jobsBD.com and grameenjobs.com.

Whether there is any vacancy available or not, the organisation will be on the lookout for the job seeker who applied," he further said.

AKM Fahim, CEO of Bdjobs.com, told Star City that there were about 7,000-8,000 job postings in the last six months.

"We started operations in April 2000 and 7,500 candidates were successful in the last four years," he said.

"We usually keep the applications in our database for six months. We leave provision to update the applications and this service is free of charge," Fahim said.

"At the beginning we received applications only from IT students, but the applications now pour in from students of other disciplines as well," said Mohammad Riad, project manager (content development and executive search) of Bdjobs.com. "Once Internet facilities are available in other parts of the country, the number of applicants will certainly increase," he added.

Many comment that this is an easy and

convenient way to be updated.

Abdur Rahim, a North South University (NSU) graduate, said: "Anyone can submit a resume at will from any part of the world. Students residing abroad can apply directly to multinational companies stationed in Bangladesh."

Organisations looking for efficiency in human resource management are seeking to develop the online system and use it more effectively. The British American Tobacco Company (BATC), GrameenPhone Limited and Lever Brothers have completely restructured their recruiting system on the Internet.

Job seekers from home and abroad fill in online forms and information is stored for future reference.

"We have around 8,000 CVs in our database and it's the online system we prefer the most. Whenever recruitment is needed, we browse through our information base and call up prospective candidates for interviews. We do not accept hard copy of CVs," Imtiaz Faruque of BATC's Human Resources department said.



SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN



STAR PHOTO

healthouting,taxicab&traintiming

HEALTH

Hospitals

Heart

National Institute of Cardio Vascular Diseases (NICVD), - 9130800, 9122560-59

Burn

Dhaka Medical College Hospital Burn Unit-8626812-6

Cancer

National Cancer Institute-8014914, 8626561-65
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University-8612550-4, 861455-9

Diabetes

Diabetic Research Hospital (BIRDEM)- 9661551-5, 8616641-50

Mother & Child Care

Shishu Hospital- 9119119, 8116061-62
Azimpur Mother & Child Health

Training Institute- 8624827, 8624980

Eye

Islamia Eye Hospital-9110794, 9119315
National Eye Hospital- 8117202, 8114807

Dental

Dental College -9002035

Orthopaedics

National Orthopaedics (Pangu) Hospital- 9114075, 9112150

General

Dhaka Medical College Hospital- 8626812-6
Rushmono General Hospital- 8317819
Holy Family Hospital- 83111731-25
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital- 8612550-4, 8614545-9
Bangladesh Medical College & Hospital- 8115443, 9118202,

Shamarita Hospital- 9131901

Suhrawardy Hospital -- 9130800, 9122560-69

Salimullah Medical Collage

Hospital -- 7310061-4, 7319002-6

Cholera Research Hospital

(ICDDR)- 8811751-60

Monowra Hospital 8319802, 8318135

Blood Bank

Red Crescent Centre- 9116563

Sandhani (DMCH)- 8624040

Sandhani (SMCH)- 7310061,

7310061,7319022

Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital-

8626812-9

Eye Bank

Sandhani International Eye Bank-

8614040

Ambulances For

Dead Body

Anzuman Mafidul Islam (Kakrail

9336611, Gandaria 7319808,

7318166,

Al-Markajul Islam 9127867,

MARKET CLOSED

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-Tuesdeay

Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday

Eastern Plaza-Sunday

Farmview Super Market-Sunday

Muktijuddha Jadughar-Sunday

Dhaka Zoo-Sunday

Shishu Jadughar-Sunday

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

Union 8130485

Kool 0171826731

Black Cab

Cab Ex 9358401

Cabline 8321162

JBS Cab 019364575

Sajan 018126036

Anudip -- 8125285 and 8127611

TRAIN TIMING

Subarna Express

Mahanagar Prabhati

Mahanagar Godhuli

Turna

Parabat Express

Joyantika Express

Upaban Express

Tista Express

Ekata Express

Upakul Express

Padma Express

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

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

LIBRARY & INFO-

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