

DU printing press bleeds on old tech

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University's (DU) printing press has become a white elephant --earning only about one-seventh of its annual expenditure. Earning around Tk 10 lakh a year by doing internal printing jobs, the press division still requires more than Tk 60 lakh in subsidy to maintain its staff.

The press has become beyond any good use because of outdated machinery. And so the DU has to spend around Tk 20 lakh a year to get its printing works done from external sources.

While offset printing technology has become standards throughout the country, the DU press still uses the outmoded letterpress.

Established in 1950 at Nilkhel, the press unit has seven officials and more than a dozen regular employees. The DU spent Tk 2,64,00,000 in salaries and benefits on the staff since fiscal 2001-02.

"The DU publishes text books, diary and journals regularly which we outsource," said Professor Ahmed Kabir, acting publication director of the DU.

"The DU press is not capable of fulfilling the demand for publication work as it lacks modern technology. We could have saved a lot of money if we could get our jobs done by the press," he said.

"Ours is an outdated letterpress. We also don't have the modern pre-press facilities like computers," said Amjad Hossain, technical officer of the DU press. "We informed the authorities several times to modernise the unit. Recently, we have heard that the university is toying with the

idea of upgrading the press."

Sources said a committee led by Professor ANM Sydul Haque Khan of marketing department was formed in December, 2003 to submit a report on modernising the press. The committee recommended to the DU syndicate procurement of the latest technology such as offset machine and computers.

The syndicate, the highest decision making forum of the university, discussed the report in August this year but no decision was made to allocate funds for press upgradation.

"We are going to take initiative to upgrade the DU press. At present, a proposal to modernise the unit is awaiting the syndicate's nod," said Professor AFM Yusuf Haider, pro-vice-chancellor of the university.



Outdated machinery at Dhaka University's printing press is in crying need of update to fulfill present demands.

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DMCH, MITFORD HOSPITAL

Private diagnostic centres thrive on poor public facilities

SYED TASHFIN CHOWDHURY

Patients of two major public hospitals in the city -- Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) and Mitford Hospital -- are persistently being sent over to private diagnostic centers for medical tests.

These public hospitals do tests at their own pathology laboratories free of cost, but the staff and doctors lure them to private institutions on the pretext of either lacking sufficient staff or urgency, it is alleged.

"We have no choice but to comply with the doctors and staff, since we want to be cured," said Abdul Malik, (not his real name), a patient at the DMCH.

"Hospital staff get at least a 10 percent commission from the private diagnostic centers for sending patients over," said a DMCH staff on condition of anonymity.

These private diagnostic centers, some of them owned by hospital doctors, are located close to the hospitals so as to get the patients as fast as possible.

The rates these diagnostic

centres charge differ. For example, an *ultra-sonogram* test would cost between Tk 350 and Tk 600.

The diagnostic centers of both the DMCH and Mitford remain open from 8:00am to 2:00pm during the weekdays. Although the emergency centre remains open 24 hours, it carries out tests for only hemoglobin, platelet, urine and stool.

Because of a huge pressure of patients and limited facilities, test reports are often inaccurate or delayed, it is also alleged.

"Most patients who come to public hospitals are poor, but they

still have to spend a lot on tests outside," said a staff of the DMCH.

Brokers roam freely around these hospitals in search of patients to be taken to the private diagnostic centres.

"We have issued a memo to the doctors stating that if our diagnostic centers cannot carry out any particular test, only a designated assistant surgeon should refer the patients to private centers," said Brigadier Nazmul Huda, DMCH director.



These private pathology labs near the DMCH cater to immediate needs of patients of the hospital.

PHOTO STAR

said the country's policy on sanitation development does not satisfy their requirements.

It is believed that more than two thirds of the city's population are still detached from the Dhaka Water And Sewerage Authority (WASA)'s sewerage network. According to the WASA, about Tk 250 thousand crore is needed to provide proper sanitation to the entire city, which is virtually impossible for the government to arrange on its own without assistance from donors.

Worryingly, the government still hasn't managed to convince prospective international financial bodies to come forward in developing the sanitation quality of the capital. In recent times Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Sweden International Development Authority (SIDA) have only shown fleeting interest in this regard.

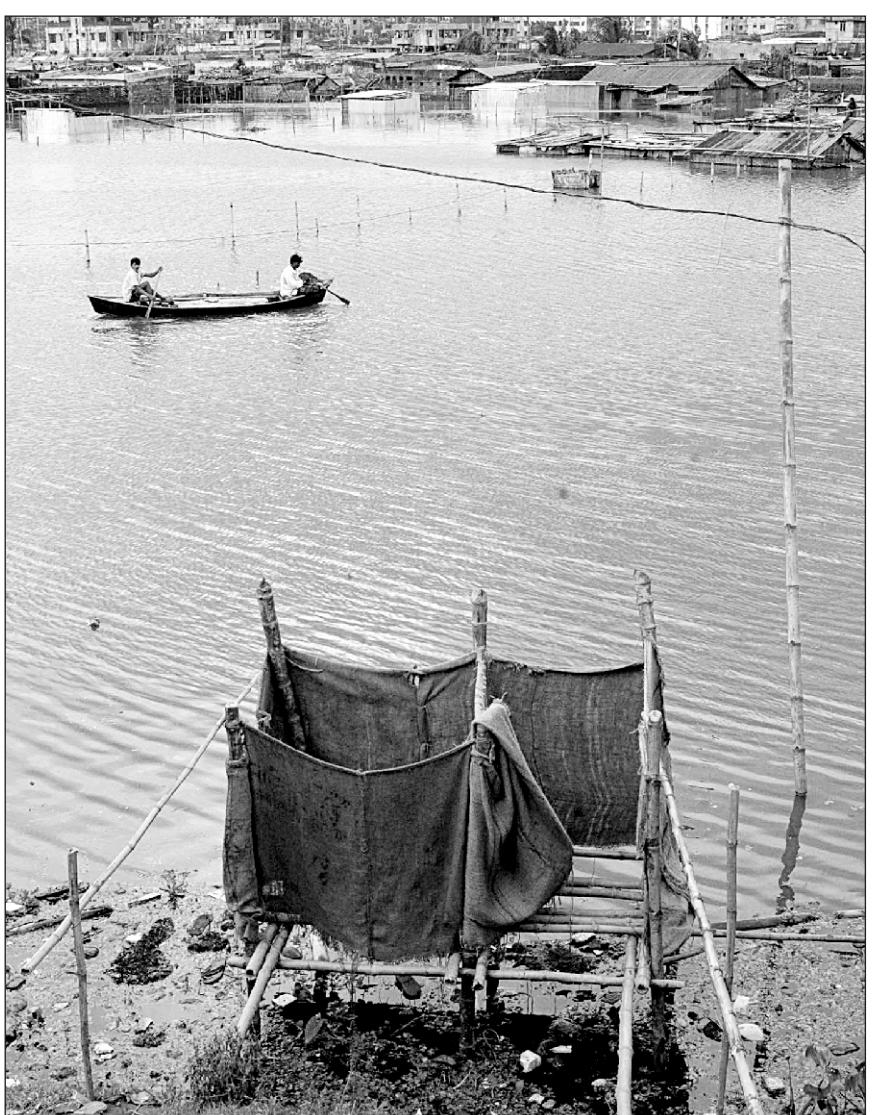
"It will be very difficult to guarantee proper sanitation for every city dweller within the next five years as resource mobilisation has not been ensured. It might be possible to establish a water treatment plant at Begunbari for Dhaka's north-east part. The capacity of the water treatment plant at Pagla in Narayanganj could be also be upgraded before 2010. But planned treatment plants in Uttara and Mirpur are unlikely within that period," said ANH Akhter Hossain, Managing Director of Dhaka WASA.

A high official of Dhaka WASA said on condition of anonymity that the policy makers in the government had set the 2010 deadline ignoring the reality of rapid urbanisation.

"25 percent of the country's total population now live in urban areas and that figure could reach 60 percent by 2025. But our sanitation policy is not compatible with urban sanitation as it is mostly rural based. The sanitation system in the urban areas is much different from rural locations but our policy makers did not keep that in mind when they set the target," the official said.

When asked why the donors are not enthusiastic about assisting the project, he

added. It may be mentioned that four goals among the eight of the MDG are significantly dependent on safe water supply and sanitation.



This open toilet situated in the Rayerbazar slum clearly implies the need for sanitation for all.

PHOTO STAR

usefultelephonenumbers

OURIER 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
Bamgladesh 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
Emen Express- 9330699
Fedex Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd- 9565114
Modhuban Courier Service- 7236222

LIBRARY & INFO-

Dolphin Courier- 9558802
Dreamland Courier Service- 9550326, 9566975
Pioneer Courier Services- 9561727, 9569759
Probashi Courier Services- 9346359
Rainbow Express Parcel Services Ltd.- 8322773, 8315703
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, Cosmopolitan Services- 9552793, 9557975
Dhaka Courier Services- 7236222

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, 955640
The American Centre (IRC)- 8813440-4, 9886395
The 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- 926525-6
Indian Information Centre & Cultural Library- 8615096
The Russian Cultural Centre- 9116314, 9118531, 9118314
Drik Photo Gallery- 9120125, 8112954, 8123412

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

Ahsan Manzil
Open: 10 am 5 pm, Friday: 3 pm - 7 pm, Thursday Closed

Shishu Jadughar- 9666466
Open: 10 am- 6 pm, Sunday Closed

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-Gulshan 1, 2
6 B Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 1, 2
7 Motijheel Shapla chattar- Malibagh- Farmgate- Gulshan 2
8 Sadarghat-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 2
9 Chittagong-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Asad Gate-Kalyanpur-Gabtoli
10 Demra Rani mahal-Motijheel-Kalbagan-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 10, 11, 12
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 Shaplachtar
Sadarghat
Chittagong Road
Demra Ranimahal
Sadarghat
Sayedabad
Syedabad
Shanir Akhra
Motijheel
Signboard (Chittagong Road)
Chittagong Road
Gulistan