

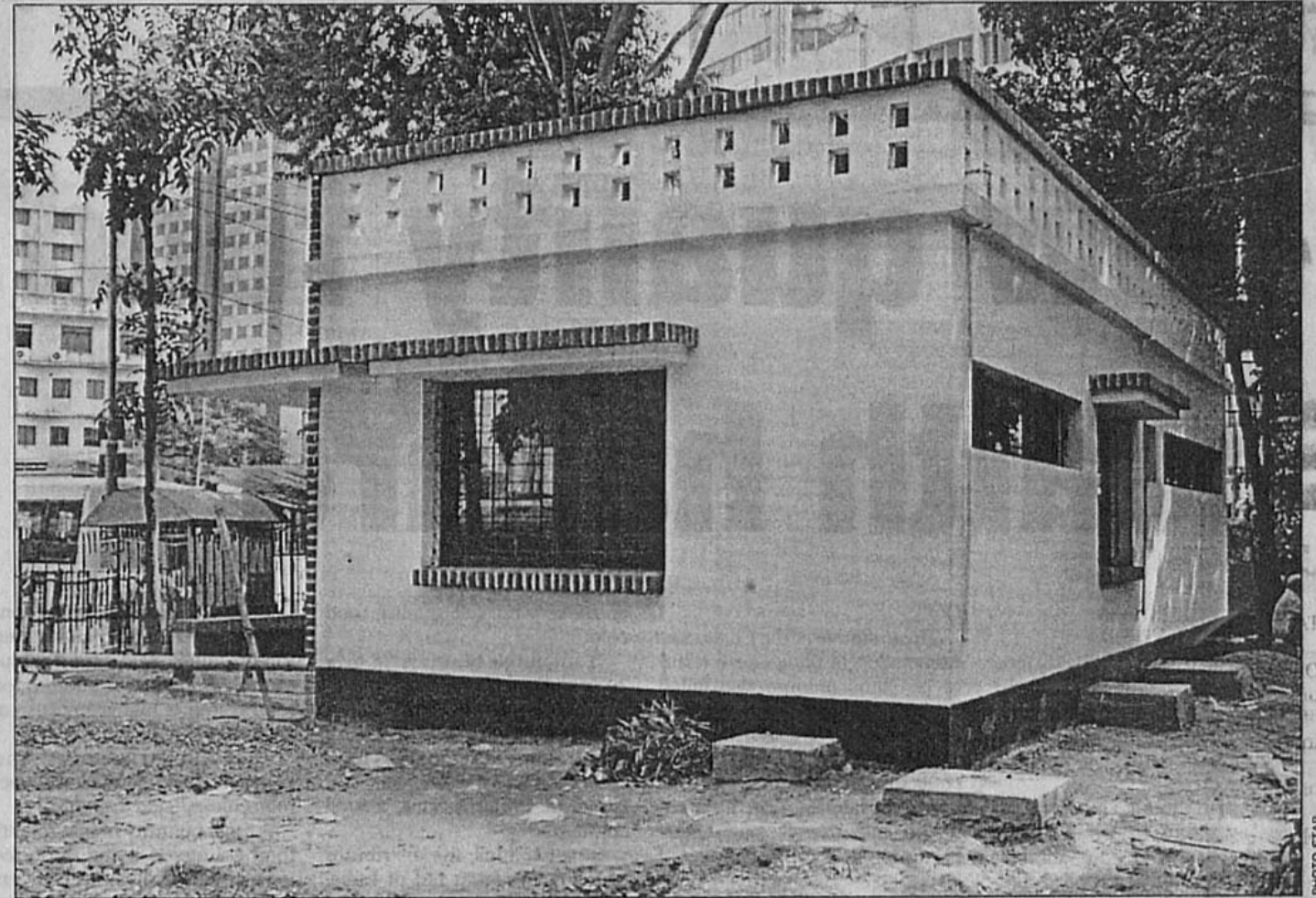
# DCC's plan to construct 100 public toilets curtailed

**AKBAR HOSSAIN**  
Land crisis and disputes forced the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) to curtail its plan to construct 100 public toilets in the city.  
The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is financing the \$10 lakh Urban Primary Health Care Project (UPHCP) aiming to improve sanitation facilities for the city residents.  
Construction of the public toilets started at the beginning of this year and the project is scheduled to complete by the end of this year.  
But DCC had to drop construction of 30 out of 100 public toilets

due to non-availability of land. Construction of another 10-15 toilets is uncertain due to land disputes.  
Sources said land crisis has compelled the authorities to renovate some old public toilets instead of constructing new ones.  
The city of 10 million people has a very few public toilets, most of which has been captured by criminals who do not pay lease money to the DCC on regular basis.  
It is difficult for people to get inside the public toilets as most of these lavatories go under criminals' control after dusk that forces people to discharge

excreta under open sky.  
"I never used a public toilet as these always remain in dirty and unhygienic condition due to poor maintenance," said Jamil Ahmed, a resident of Kalabagan area.  
"Sometimes passersby face great problem to find out a public toilet as such toilets are not easily seen from main roads," Jamil added.  
Dr Azizul Haque, chief health officer of DCC, also pointed out that it was difficult to maintain cleanliness in the city without sufficient number of public toilets.  
"Seventy public toilets is not enough for a city like Dhaka

where more than one crore people reside. We would like to construct more public toilets but where is the land?"  
Regarding the land crisis, an official of DCC estate department said they have no budget to buy land for construction of public toilets.  
"It is not possible to construct public toilets buying lands as it involves huge amount of money," the official said requesting anonymity.  
When asked about land disputes in construction of public toilets, the official said they would settle the land disputes within next week.



Of the 50 in line, this newly constructed toilet in Motijheel will be opened to the public soon.

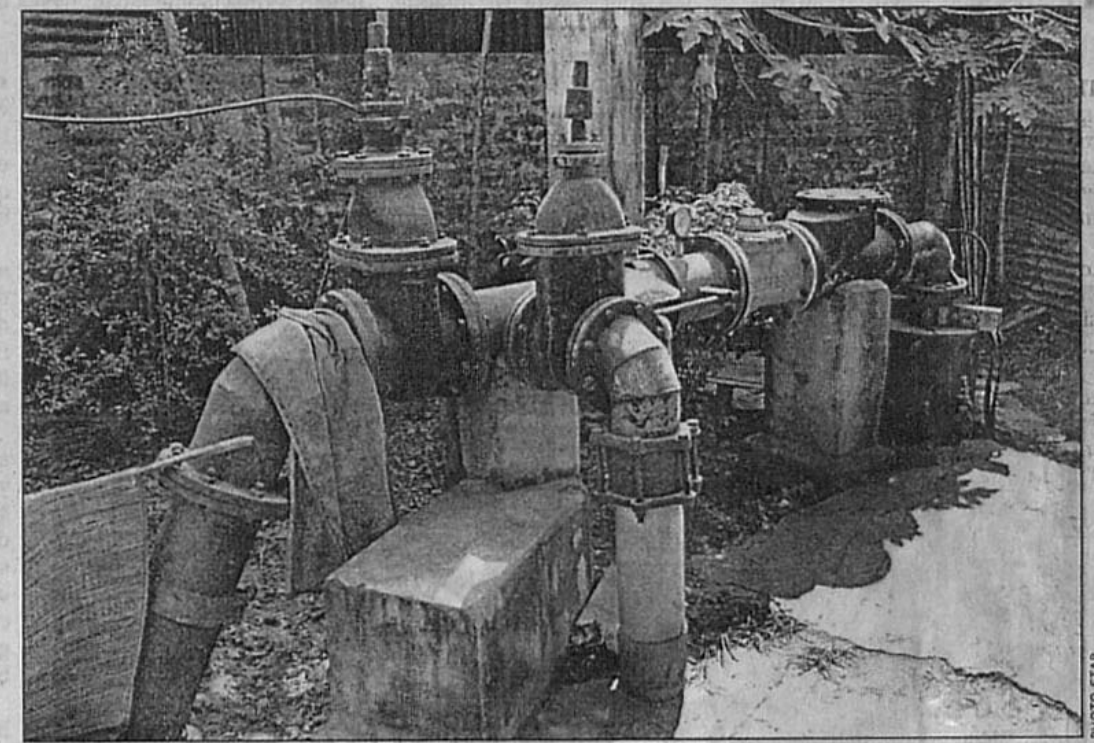
# Water crisis dogging Rayerbazar residents

**SYED TASHFIN CHOWDHURY**  
Residents of Rayerbazar, Sultanganj and their environs in Bangla Sadak are struggling through a seven-month water crisis, which still persists during Ramadan.  
"The crisis is getting worse with time but the authorities have not solved the problem as yet," said Abbas Chowdhury, a resident of Rayerbazar.  
Residents said the problem began immediately after replacements of some old water-pipes in the area.  
Water was previously supplied under extreme difficulties from three other pumps in Tali office, Akhra temple and the staff quarters on Road No. 15 in Dhanmondi. But the new pipes with larger diameters have further slimmed the possibility of an adequate water supply.  
The authorities cited a large number of illegal subscribers as a potential reason.  
"Many subscribers did not pay bills but linked their water tanks to our pipes," said an official for the Zone 3, Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa), in Lalmitia.  
"We have to buy 1,500 litres of water available at Wasa almost regularly to carry on with our daily chores," said another resident.  
Each tank costs about Tk150 and finishes in two days. The poorer families suffer most, while some chip in whatever little they have to buy water in gallons, said another resident.

The water crisis has caused regular commotion in the area. About four months back, an angry mob damaged one of the main pipe lines near Rayerbazar high school.  
"When an important need in life like water is scarce, people tend to lose control over themselves and such incidents become inevitable," Abbas Chowdhury said.  
But such incidents have sub-

sided with the recent deployment of army.  
While acknowledging written applications and numerous complaints, WASA officials had pledged to set up a pump near Madhubazar.  
"But a pump as such will not help as the low pressure of water will not reach the area we live in because the land level is higher," Chowdhury added, a point supported by a senior official of the

Zone 3, Dhaka WASA area.  
"We are now experiencing negative water pressure but still trying to help the people of this area," the official said.  
Locals demand a water pump near Nimtoli or somewhere around. A water pump will require about 1.5 to 2 katha land.  
"We can set up a water pump, if only someone steps forward and contributes the land required," the official said.



Residents of Nimtoli demand installation of another pump as the sole one that distributes water to the area cannot cope with the rising demand.



A mask seller at Gulistan demonstrates how his masks could help fight pollution as air quality of the city has deteriorated over the years. Many, even the law enforcers are seen wearing these in an attempt to protect themselves from pollution.

## useful telephone numbers

### COURIER SERVICES

**International**  
Air Borne Express- 9561371, 9561372, 9550724  
Air Couriers Intl (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 Intl 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-

9550884  
Overseas Courier Service- 9352431, 8321169  
Pacific Courier- 9568446  
Reliance Express Service- 9558515, 7110249  
Sky International service- 9660442  
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  
Cosmopol Services- 9552793, 9557975  
Dhaka Courier Services- 7236222

Dolphin Courier- 9558802  
Dreamland Courier Service- 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  
World Runner Express Ltd. 9112068, Fax- 880-2-9112068

**TIPS**  
Do you know according to Dhaka City Corporation, you must deposit your waste at the collection site between 4pm and 10pm

### LIBRARY & INFO

**Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers**  
Central Public Library- 8626001-4, Shishu Academy- 9564128  
Shilpakala Academy- 8614673  
Bangla Academy- 8619550  
Islamic Foundation- 9550280, 955640-4, 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- 9126525-6  
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   | Starts from                 |
|---------|---|-----------------------------|
| 1       | Gulistan-Shahbagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 10, 11, 12            | Golap Shah Mazar            |
| 2       | Gulistan-Shahbagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 1, 2                  | Phoolbaria bus station      |
| 3       | Gulistan-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Mahakhali-Airport-Azampur                | Phoolbaria bus station      |
| 4       | Shyampur-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Airport-Tongi                  | Shyampur                    |
| 5       | Sayedabad-Kamalapur-Motijheel-Airport-Joydebpur-Gazipur             | Sayedabad                   |
| 6A      | Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Gulshan 1, 2         | Kamalapur                   |
| 6B      | Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 1, 2         | Kamalapur                   |
| 6C      | Motijheel Shapla chattr- Malibagh- Farmgate- Gulshan 2              | Motijheel Shaplachattr      |
| 7       | Sadarghat-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 2                      | Sadarghat                   |
| 8       | Chittagong-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Asad Gate-Kalyanpur-Gabtol   | Chittagong Road             |
| 9       | Demra Rani mahal-Motijheel-Kalbagan-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 10, 11, 12   | Demra Ranimahar             |
| 10      | Sadarghat-Gulistan-Kakrail-Malibagh-Rampura-Biswa Road-Tongi Bridge | Sadarghat                   |
| 11      | Sayedabad-Motijheel-Fakirapool-Maghbazar-Mohakhali-Tongi Bridge     | Sayedabad                   |
| 11/A    | Sayedabad-Khilgoan-Malibagh-Rampura-Airport-Tongi Bridge            | Syedabad                    |
| 12      | Shanir Akhra-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Asadgate-Mohammadpur                 | Shanir Akhra                |
| 13      | Motijheel-Shahbagh-New Market-Jhigatola-Shangkar-Mohammedpur        | Motijheel                   |
| 14      | Signboard -Motijheel-Shahbagh-New Market-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 12      | Signboard (Chittagong Road) |
| 15      | Chittagong Road-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Mirpur 12               | Chittagong Road             |
| 24      | Gulistan-Maghbazar-Mohakhali-Airport-Uttara-Bipile                  | Gulistan                    |