

POLLUTION IN BALU RIVER

Wasa shifts water intake point for Sayedabad plant

AVIK SANWAR RAHMAN

Amid increasing pollution of the Balu river, Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) has decided to change the intake point of surface water source of the Shitalakha for Sayedabad Water Treatment Plant.

"We have to shift the intake point four to five kilometres away from existing point of intake, which is near Balu river, as the water of Shitalakha is being polluted by factory and human waste through Balu river," said a high official of Wasa.

The change will be made for the first and second phase of the water treatment plant project. Danida and Swedish SIDA have already agreed to fund the second phase which will cost Tk 600 crore. Originally the cost was estimated

at Tk 250 crore but it will take another Tk 350 crore to install pipes and other facilities for a 5-km long intake pipe.

A team of foreign experts, which worked at the spot until Eid, will prepare a report on the second phase soon, said the Wasa official.

The Sayedabad Water Treatment Plant was constructed to use surface water from Shitalakha reducing the dependency on groundwater. Its second phase was designed at the time when the first phase started in 1996.

The plant, jointly funded by the governments of Bangladesh and France and the World Bank, uses water from the Shitalakha. After a feasibility study in 1990s, the river was selected because of its easy access to the plant and quality of water.

But the Shitalakha is now

being polluted by the Balu river, which is polluted by industrial waste of the city. The Sayedabad Water Treatment Plant receives Shitalakha water from the point where Balu river meets Shitalakha.

The plant which started operations in July 2002, provides 22.5 crore litres of water daily, which meet 15 percent demand of the city residents. The second phase will provide another 22.5 crore litres to raise the percentage to 30 percent.

The present water demand in the city is 200 crore litres of which 150 crore litres are being supplied from deep tube-wells and the treatment plants. The Chandni Ghat treatment plant provides 4 crore litres a day.

The main source is underground water lifted by deep tube-wells. Dhaka Wasa supplies 124 crore litres water

from underground and the rest from surface sources.

Wasa observed that the water quality of the Shitalakha and Buriganga is gradually deteriorating due to dumping of wastage. Therefore, it has become necessary to find new sources of surface water for treating in the plants.

Officials said Wasa had earlier planned to take surface water from the Padma for its Pagla plant estimated to cost about Tk 1700 crore. The Padma water would be used in this plant for Dhaka City after pumping it at Mawa point.

The proposed Pagla water treatment plant to be constructed with Chinese assistance would provide another 45 crore litres of water a day.

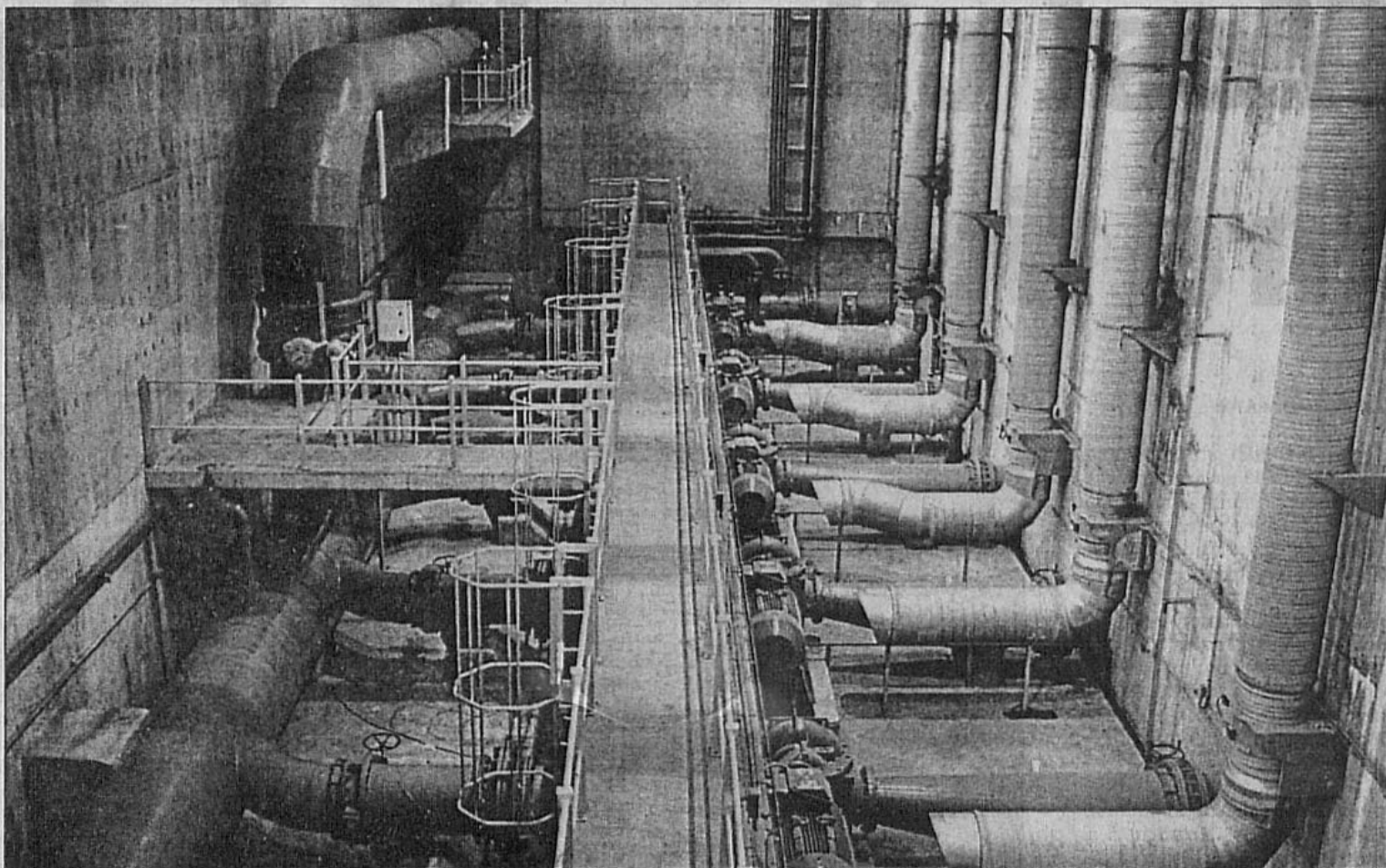


PHOTO STAR

TEA TIME AT TONGI



PHOTO STAR

Devotees take a break to take tea between prayers and sermons while a tea seller makes brisk business at Tongi, the venue of Biswa Ijtema, where tens of thousands from home and abroad gathered to join the biggest Islamic congregation next to Hajj in Makkah. The three-day Ijtema will conclude today.

Karwan Bazar not free from extortion

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Silent extortion still goes on at the Karwan Bazar wholesale market despite the deaths of notorious criminals 'Pichchi' Hannan and Shahabuddin.

The two controlled the area's extortion rackets but even after they were killed, there has been no respite for local businessmen.

"The extortionists are very powerful and they have been active for a long time with help from the police. They have even filed a false case and had my brother, who is the general secretary of Ekota fish wholesale market, arrested as he protested against the extortion. The situation is tense at the moment," said a wholesaler.

The wholesalers alleged that the death of Shahabuddin, who was once the president of Karwan Bazar kitchen market committee, was the result of an internal feud between members and extortionists.

"The committee members are always in negotiation with the extortionists and also profit from the extorted money," said another wholesaler.

Businessmen of Karwanbazar wholesale market had hoped that the presence of the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) and the death of the two gang leaders would put an end to their miseries but it did never happened.

Fish wholesalers each used to pay Tk 160 everyday to the market committee as 'protection' toll before 'Pichchi' Hannan died. The committee reportedly paid a part of that amount to Hannan.

"We are still paying the same amount to the committee as other extortionists have stepped into the shoes of their deceased leaders," said a fish wholesaler.

Most wholesalers this correspondent spoke to said Shahjahan Siraj Shaju and Nurul Islam were now collecting tolls in the name of protecting them from extortionists.

"Extortionists are taking the tolls promising the

wholesalers protection from extortion!" said one businessman.

The extortionists even make the wholesalers pay a toll for using the roads around the market during loading and unloading.

"Whenever we keep goods on the road in front of the kitchen market, we have to give them a certain amount for using the space. Children are employed to keep watch on the space. The real extortionists never show themselves," said a vegetable wholesaler.

Businessmen who come to the market from

different parts of the country are also targets of extortionists.

"We cannot hire a truck in this area. We have to pay the extortionists Tk1500 to arrange a truck and also have to pay the truck's rent which is another 500 Taka at least," said a wholesaler.

The systematic and silent extortion in Karwanbazar is affecting the prices.

"Because of the extortion, many wholesalers are going out of business and the price is also pushing upwards," said a wholesaler at the fish market.



PHOTO STAR

Fish wholesalers at Karwan Bazar claim that extortion by local hoodlums has increased drastically and they face heavy losses in their business.

useful telephone numbers

COURIER SERVICES

International
Air Borne Express- 9561371, 9561372, 9550724
Air Couriers Int'l (BD) Ltd.- 8815970
Aramex International Courier- 9558003, 9559582, 9555075
Airspeed Express- 9563494
Asian Courier Services Ltd.- 8313543
Baishakhi Courier Service- 9558606
Bangladesh 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
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
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- 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

1 Gulistan-Shahbagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 10, 11, 12
2 Gulistan-Shahbagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 1, 2
3 Gulistan-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Mahakhali-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
6 C Motijheel Shapla chattar- Malibagh- Farmgate- Gulshan 2
7 Sadarghat-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 2
8 Chittagong-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Asad Gate-Kalyanpur-Gabtol
9 Demra Rani mahal-Motijheel-Kalbagan-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 10, 11, 12
10 Sadarghat-Gulistan-Kakrail-Malibagh-Rampura-Biswa Road-Tongi Bridge
11 Sayedabad-Motijheel-Fakirapool-Maghbazar-Mohakhali-Tongi Bridge
11/A Sayedabad-Khilgoan-Malibagh-Rampura-Airport-Tongi Bridge
12 Shanir Akhra-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Asadgate-Mohammadpur
13 Motijheel-Shahbagh-New Market-Jhigatola-Shangkar-Mohammadpur
14 Signboard -Motijheel-Shahbagh-New Market-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 12
15 Chittagong Road-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Mirpur 12
24 Gulistan-Maghbazar-Mohakhali-Airport-Uttara-Bipile

Starts from

Golap Shah Mazar
Phoolbaria bus station
Phoolbaria bus station
Shyampur
Sayedabad
Kamalapur
Kamalapur
Motijheel Shaplachattar
Sadarghat
Chittagong Road
Demra Ranimahal
Sadarghat
Sayedabad
Shanir Akhra
Motijheel
Signboard (Chittagong Road)
Chittagong Road
Gulistan