

DCC's search for waste dumping site without clean thought

SULTANA RAHMAN
The Department of Environment (DoE) is in dilemma over issuing clearance for expanding the lone solid-waste dumping ground at Matuail in the city as the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has asked for the clearance ignoring modern waste management under Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).
The Matuail dumping site in the suburb with 52 acres land has already been filled up. "If we cannot expand this dumping ground in a very short time, the city's waste management system will collapse," a senior DCC official warns.
Moreover, the DCC has recently asked for the clearance for using 53 acres of land in Amin Bazar to establish another solid-waste dumping ground, although DoE has been discour-

aging open dumping of wastes. The DoE suggests application of CDM instead of increasing the numbers of dumping grounds in the land-scarce capital.
At present, around 42 percent solid waste of the city is dumped at Matuail posing a serious threat to environment and public health. The open dumping cause air pollution in the area as well as contamination of groundwater.
"If DCC implements the CDM project, the Matuail dumping ground will be capable of receiving the same amount of waste for the next 12 years without an expansion of the site," said Solaiman Haider, deputy director of DoE.
DoE officials alleged the DCC is indifferent to modern waste management system for unknown reason. The unplanned disposal of solid waste in such a public place



Street kids rake through the dumping grounds in Gabtoli in search of any waste particle that may bring in a few takas to their empty pockets.

causes serious environmental hazards and health risks to people, they said.
A recent study conducted by the Hunger Project Bangladesh reveals that the disposal of solid waste generated in Dhaka City requires 110 hectares of land a year.
The city generates 3,000 to 3,500 tonnes of solid waste a day, coming from households, commercial and industrial establishments and street sweepings. Households generate nearly 45 percent of the total solid waste, says the study.
"We do not have adequate land to establish dumping ground," said Badiul Alam Majumdar, country director of Hunger Project, Bangladesh, a non-governmental organisation. He refers to the Dhaka Municipal Corporation Ordinance, 1993 that does not

impose any penalty for illegal and uncontrolled disposal of waste.
"It is expected that by the year 2015, the total waste generated in Dhaka City will be about 8,000 tons a day, requiring about 292 hectares of land for its disposal," Majumdar said emphasising introduction of a modern waste management system under CDM.
The DoE officials said uncontrolled and open dumping of wastes clogs the drainage system that leads to waterlogging in the city. Besides, it also causes water pollution.
However, DCC officials said they have undertaken a project on 'Landfill Gas Recovery' to convert the waste into energy. Waste Concern -- a private company in collaboration with a Netherlands-based organisation is supposed to implement the project.

Get smart at GPO bazaar!

KAUSAR ISLAM AYON
During winter, people from all walks of life flock the makeshift market in front of the General Post Office (GPO) everyday to buy second-hand blazers, coats and suits.
"The quality is very good and the price is within our reach and that is why I came here," said Moin, a BBA student of a private university who came to buy a coat to wear at his uncle's wedding ceremony.
It is arguably the biggest market for coats, suits and blazers in the country. Popularly known as the GPO Bazar, the market has grown on the stretch of pavement from the southern corner of Muktangan to the eastern bend of the GPO. About 95 makeshift shops sell hundreds of coats and blazers according to the need of the customers. The price range is between Tk150-500.

The customers are very happy with the variety that the shops are offering this year.
"I am surprised at the wide range of coats, suits and blazers of latest fashion on offer. If you are lucky you can even get

that he had gone there to buy one but ended up buying two suits as it was within his budget.
The sellers informed that this year the number of shops in this market have increased

"This market is popular as we offer standard products at the cheapest possible rate," said Jalal who has been doing business at the market for the last five years.

Tailors are also found at this pavement market. If one needs to alter a suit to his liking, the tailors at the market can fix it immediately. The rate of alteration is between Tk 20-100. Jhantu a tailor informed that he alters 40 to 60 coats everyday.

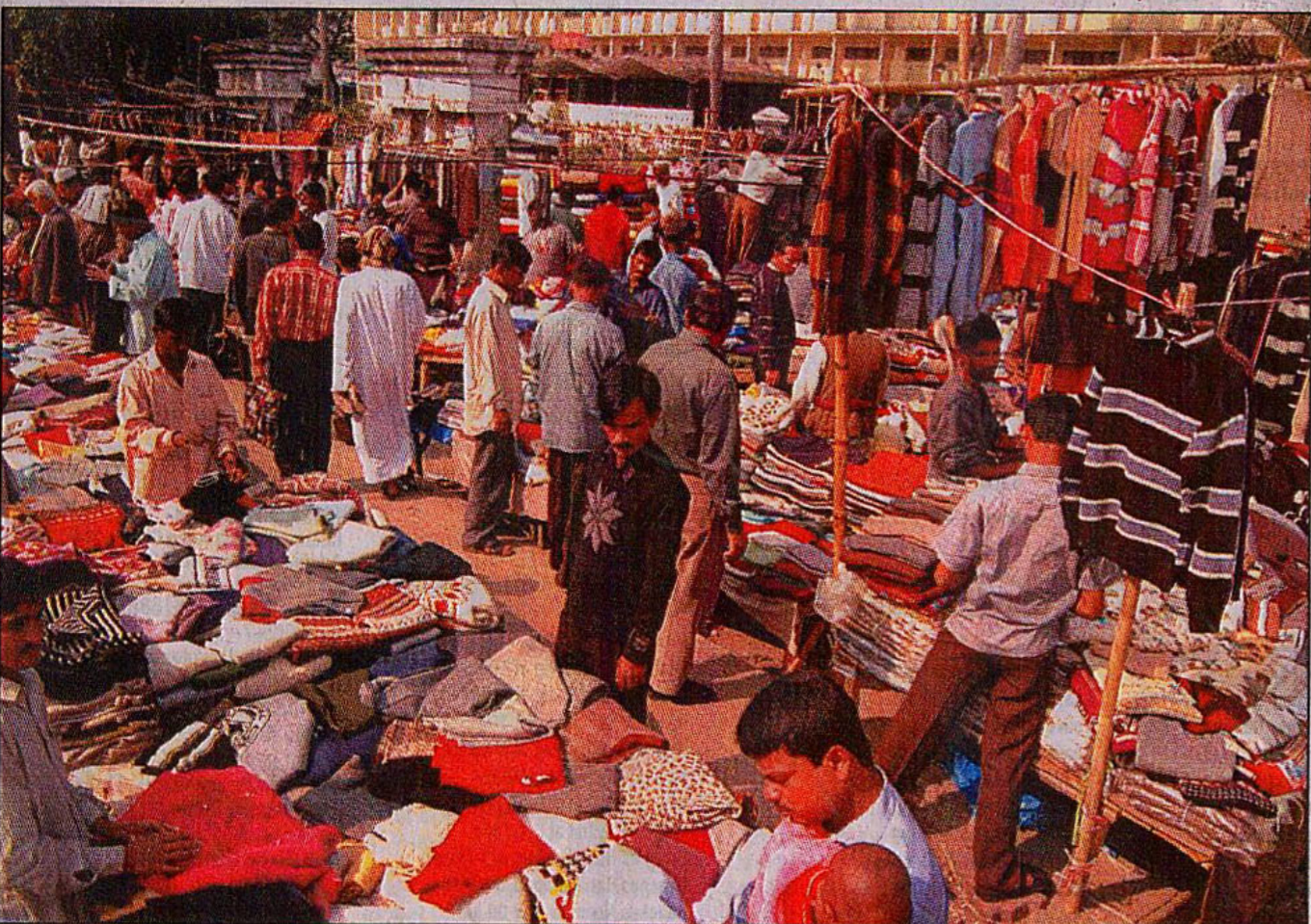
The sellers claimed that they pay Tk 50 to 100 each day to the linemen who collect money for the local police and that is why the law enforcers seldom disturb them.

"The police officials had warned us that during the SAARC summit, they would evict us. But as it was postponed, our seasonal business wasn't hampered," said Rahman a seller.

Popularly known as the GPO Bazar, the market has grown on the stretch of pavement from the southern corner of Muktangan to the eastern bend of the GPO

a complete suit here," said Akber Hossain, front desk executive of a private telecom company.
Pavel Rahman, an executive of an advertisement firm said

as many businessmen of the New Bangabazar, which had been destroyed by a fire a couple of months ago, have shifted there with their collections.



A bustling GPO bazaar where seconds of all items from coats to suits including blazers are readily available.



Endangered species of birds are openly on sale at a pet shop in the capital.

Rare species on sale in violation of law

Orders for birds and animals are taken with a down-payment while deliveries are made once the full payment is cleared

SYED TASHFIN CHOWDHURY

A few extremely rare species including eagle and python are being sold as pets in several shops in Thantharibazar area of the city in open violation of the wildlife protection act.

While visiting the shops this correspondent found five to six different species of birds and animals being sold there. An eagle, local doves, pythons, storks and other birds and animals are on display for sale.

The eagle is priced at Tk 3,000 and a python at Tk 15,000. The birds and animals are kept in small cages. "We can get you any animal you want," said Mintoo, a salesman of a shop when asked

about the availability of other rare animals.

Customers can order any animal or bird making payment of a portion of its price. The delivery is made on full payment on a date specified by the sellers.

"We buy these animals from the villagers and the residents of city outskirts," said another employee of the shop. These shops have brokers who collect the birds and animals from Demra, Jinjira, Postogola and other places.

The shopkeepers said such animals and birds have high demand. The buyers are city dwellers who own mini-zoos and have an affinity towards

pet animals.

"These shops supply different species of birds and animals to the pet shops in Katabon in the city," said Vivek, a pigeon lover and regular customer of Thantharibazar.

The sellers do not care about the law that restricts sale of wildlife.

Under the existing law on wildlife protection act, a person found guilty of selling such animals can be sentenced to six months to one-year imprisonment along with a fine of Tk 500 to Tk 1,000, said an official of the environment and forest ministry.

When asked about the selling of rare wild animals and

birds in public, he said they lack necessary manpower to contain such illegal practices. "We will definitely try to put an end to such illegal business," he said.

Thantharibazar is also popular for the abundant varieties of pigeons and other birds, the sale of which is very much lawful under the wildlife protection act.

But keeping birds and animals in cages can cause their early deaths. "While in captivity these animals succumb to frustrations," said Professor Nurjahan Sarkar of the Department of Zoology, Dhaka University. "Such a mental stress usually kills them in cages."