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Acute systems loss in the Wasa means a vast majority of the city's population, especially the poor, never have enough water and have to depend on sparse supply or illegal connections.

# Wasa targets reducing systems loss by 30 pc

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) has targeted bringing down its systems loss to 30 percent by June this year. Sources in Wasa said that at present it had a 41 percent systems loss due to a variety of reasons. They however claimed that revenue collection had already increased. Wasa had reportedly earned Tk 31 crore more in revenue in the ongoing fiscal than the year before. "We have collected Tk 169 crore in revenue in the recent fiscal. Last year the amount was

Tk 138 crore," said a high official of the revenue department of Wasa. He denied that the increased revenue was because of new connections. "We have not provided new connections in such large numbers so that they may have an impact on revenue collection." Officials said that the change in the billing system of Wasa has provided a boost in revenue earnings. Earlier bills had been handled manually but the process has become totally computerised from last year. Also, bills are now prepared every month. Previously, it was done after every two months. "We are trying to ensure that the

consumers received proper bills prepared by correct meter reading so that they do not confront any hazards and pay the bills on time," said a Wasa official. He also added that a three-member task force has been assigned at each zonal office to supervise the entire billing system. Dhaka Wasa suffer from systems loss both for technical reasons and pilferage, said sources. They said it faces loss when water is wasted during production. Wasa has around 2,17,000 legal consumers in the city but illegal connection holders without meters largely outnumber them. Some 77,000 legal consumers

also do not use meters leading to mismanagement in revenue collection. Some dishonest meter readers help these consumers in avoiding bills by collecting money from them through underhand dealings, alleged Wasa insiders. When asked, a high official of revenue department admitted that theft and use of illegal water connections were the main reasons for the system loss. He said that sometimes it is hard to detect illegal connections. "But each of our zonal offices conduct regular drives to detect and disconnect illegal connections," he added.

# Keep city clean or pay the price

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) will enforce a penalty of a maximum fine of Tk 10,000 or six months imprisonment for indiscriminate waste dumping as well as 'dumping out of permitted time'. "We are not only aiming at dumping places, but also those who pollute residential surroundings causing health hazards will also be taken to task," said the DCC Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka. During a two-week long special cleanliness drive beginning April 10, the DCC will enact the Dhaka City Corporation Ordinance 1983 where the corporation has the right to charge, fine and imprison city polluters. The Mayor said that the law would be implemented very strictly. "If the corporation

**DCC's Conservancy Department has recently installed 400 litterbins and 2,000 more will be set up to encourage the people to dump waste in the appropriate place.**

receives any complaint of scattering dirt in any residential area, the corporation will, as per the law, serve a notice against the violator. In the event the violator does not clean up the site, the DCC will clean for a fee. "If repeated warnings are rejected and violators actions pose health hazards, we will file a case against the violator," the mayor said.

A certain time after dusk will be fixed time for dumping waste at the designated dumping places. Chief conservancy officer of DCC Sohel Farouque has also appealed to the residents to dump waste at scheduled times as well keep their compounds clean. DCC's Conservancy Department has recently installed 400 litterbins and 2,000 more will be

set up to encourage the people to dump waste in the appropriate place. "If the people throw in garbage instead of the present habit of dumping waste outside or around the bin or container, the waste management problem will considerably reduce," Farouque said. Around 5,000 new workers will be recruited for the upcoming cleanliness drive and each of the 90 DCC wards will be divided into 15 sectors with 55 workers to clean each sectors daily. Local ward commissioners and local influential people will be involved to monitor the cleanliness drive. The drive will start next week. The Mayor said To free the city from dirt the DCC will cover open places from where dust spreads. "Each and every inch of city will be cleaned up and people are requested to cooperate with workers in cleaning their own compounds," the mayor urged.



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DCC's proposed cleanliness drive is likely to free roads of filth strewn around the bin at Tipu Sultan Road in Old Dhaka.

9x3

9x2

4x3

5x3