



# DCC dumps garbage on road in Gulshan residential area

TAWFIQUE ALI

Contravening its own mandate to keep the city clean, Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) authorities have picked an open spot in the densely habited Gulshan residential area as a garbage collection point, making life in the area difficult.

Garbage collectors hired by DCC dump piles of stinking garbage at an open spot at the end of Road 138 in Gulshan-1 by the Gulshan-Banani Lake.

Though the DCC is supposed to remove the day's lot of garbage from a certain collection point for final dumping, it is not done so in this case, as only a truckload of garbage is taken away while the rest piles up.

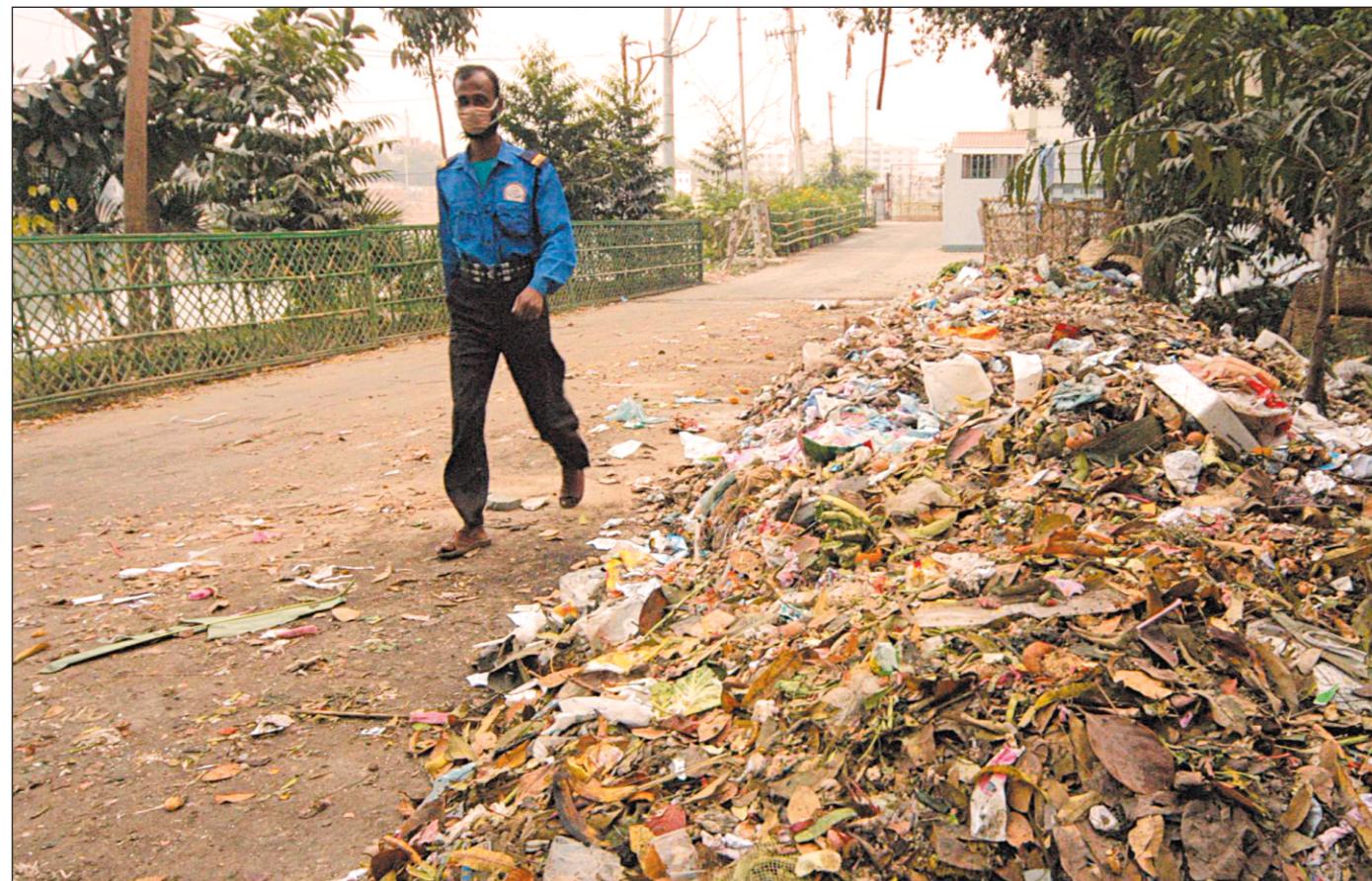
The openly piled garbage is a public nuisance, posing health hazards to the residents and emanates a strong stench forcing them to cover their noses with cloth-masks in and out of home.

The area is infested with swarms of flies that breed in the pile of waste.

"I cannot open the windows of my house. The stench is unbearable," said Khurshid Hamid, a former ambassador. "I have never seen such practice of causing a public nuisance in any country during my diplomatic career," he added.

Residents said that the DCC had suddenly picked this spot for garbage collection for last one week making life miserable.

"We nauseate by the stench as soon as we open the door to our office," said Khondakar Shamim Ara of The World Conservation



The pile of garbage lying on Road 138 in Gulshan 1.

department selects garbage collection sites in consultation with the local ward commissioner.

This site had been selected as a waste collection point because the one on Road 34 is overflowing said Abdul Alim Noki, DCC's local ward commissioner.

"The DCC has no designated space of its own for collection of garbage. So, it has to amass garbage at some point or other," Noki said.

"There is nothing unusual in DCC's waste management practice in amassing garbage by the road. It has around 1,000 such secondary collection points in the open spaces across the city," said Sohel Farouque DCC's chief conservancy officer, adding that he cannot answer why this particular spot was chosen without any notice.

Refuting the allegation that the DCC might have chosen the spot against the Gulshan Society's regarding stand on south park, the local MP, Mohammed Quamrul Islam said that a park would be developed at the site as planned.

Regarding the garbage problem, Islam, also the state minister for Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, said: "The site was selected in the face of complaint from Myanmar embassy about garbage on Road 34."

He said he would personally look into the matter and in consultation with the concerned authorities try to find a solution to the problem.

## city express

The latest crop of quotes from the city's press -- words worth repeating, we feel, for their humour, insight or sheer outrageousness. Star City does not necessarily support the opinions expressed in this column.

"If it was the case, then I will urge the government to go for more such arrests, if necessary"

-- Mohammad Nasim

Former Home Minister and Awami League lawmaker  
Said at a meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on the home ministry. He was replying to the government's explanation about the recent 'blanket arrest' and abuse of Speedy Trial Act, on Thursday.

Source: The Daily Star

"How can a man from India collect toll from here?"

 -- Omar Faruque  
Officer-in-charge

Told Star City explaining situation about regular toll collection from gold traders at Tantibazar, on Monday.

Source: The Daily Star

"My final words, we will besiege the offices of the DC and SP, if a mental hospital for lunatics is not initiated"

-- Lulu

"King of Lunatics"  
Said during his speech at a conference of the mentally challenged in Kumarkhal, on Tuesday.

Source: Prothom Alo

"I could not save my child for money nor could I give her a proper burial. What sort of a mother I am!"

-- Halima

A Rural Maintenance Programme (RMP) worker  
One of the 42,000 women who have been unpaid for the last six months told journalists, on Friday.

Source: The Daily Star

"I would not have to be in white [dress] had they realised earlier that what they had been doing was wrong."

-- Rita Pandey Pallabi

Widow of Judge Jagannath Pandey  
Told journalists about the 'rapacious' militants. Her husband was killed in the JMB attack on the Judges at Jhalakathi, on Friday.

Source: The Daily Star

## Visitors gather to see exhibits of language movement

KAUSAR ISLAM

The Bangladesh National Museum (BNM) had allocated a separate room -- Bhasha Andolan Corner -- to preserve and exhibit documents relating to the 1952 Language Movement in 2001, a year after UNESCO declared February 21 as International Mother Language day by.

A large collection of documents, books, journals and other memoirs on the martyrs are available, but little has been done to collect and preserve the memorabilia of the language martyrs for generations to come.

Apart from the biographies and photographs of five language martyrs, the only relic of the language movement martyrs preserved in the BNM is a full dress of Shaheed Shafiqur Rahman.

The bullet-hit and blood-stained clothing of Shaheed Shafiqur Rahman touch the hearts of all visitors.

"Preservation of memorabilia of the other martyrs would make this collection rich and worthy," said Nazneen Akhtar, a visitor.

"The collection on language movement is rich, yet we will appreciate any kind of contribution or memorabilia relevant to language movement," said Mahmudul Haque, director general (DG) BNM.

"We gathered as many documents as possible regarding this

noble movement privately. Shaheed Salam's portrait was arranged by sculpture Rasa in 2000-01 from the descriptions given by those who knew him," said Jahangir Hossain, senior administrative officer, BNM.

Sculptor Rasha, who has recently finished a documentary on the language martyrs, informed that he came to learn from Shaheed Salam's family that in 1954-55 the then National Assembly member from Noakhali, Khaza Ahmed, had collected the bullet-hit and blood-stained shirt and a photograph of Salam. But these were never handed to the National Museum or any other organisation.

With the Ekushey's gaining

eminence of International Mother Language Day hundreds of visitors including a large number of foreigners gather to the BNM to see for themselves the memorabilia of the 1952 Language Movement.

"The collection is large, but more could be added. An important factor is an English version of the exhibits so that we could understand what is preserved," said Stephen Mullar, a visitor from Switzerland.

A few collections have English captions, but most are described in Bangla only.

The museum's DG said they would take steps soon to add English translations of the narratives.

The Shaheed Minar was

reconstructed and now stands as the source of the nation's strength.

The language movement memorandum draws the attention

## Dhanmondi Lake getting polluted

SYED TASHFIN CHOWDHURY

Dhanmondi Lake, one of the popular leisure spots in the city, is being polluted by the business firms operating in the area, locals and environmentalists alleged.

"The open stage for cultural programmes, boat club, angling club and a number of restaurants attract a large number of visitors every day. These people spend their time, litter and even damage the trees around the lake," she said.

Sultana pointed out that the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC)

has permitted eight private organisations to run various businesses in the area. They do not maintain cleanliness at their business spots, leading to pollution of the beautiful lake.

"Leftovers, polythene and paper bags and all kinds of garbage are dumped by the staff of the restaurants regularly," said a Dhanmondi resident.

Nawroz Kabir, another resident of the area, said due to dumping of waste, the lake overflows even after a rain of two or three hours.

He said some real estate companies constructing apartment buildings in Dhanmondi are

also polluting the lake by connecting illegal sewerage lines to the lake. But the authorities concerned do not even bother to investigate the matter.

Sanjoy Mallik, lecturer, Department of Environmental Science and Management, North South University, said the authorities should take measures to check such pollution after determining its intensity by measuring the water quality.

Another environmentalist pointed out that the pollution of the lake water can cause health hazards for the Dhanmondi residents as toxic chemicals and

tannery waste are dumped into the lake. "The consumption of fish from the lake can also be harmful to human health as these fish carry poisonous chemicals," he explained.

Garbage and human faeces have made the water of the lake greenish, he said.

Residents of Dhanmondi alleged that the authorities remain silent about the pollution. "The lake was in a better condition under the maintenance of Public Works Department (PWD). DCC has failed to maintain the environment," said a Dhanmondi resident.

Dhanmondi Paribesh Unnayan Jote organised several protest rallies over the past few years to create awareness among the people and draw attention of the authorities about the pollution. Last month it brought out a silent procession towards Nagar Bhaban.

"We have contacted the mayor and the ward commissioners and informed them of the problem, but they have not taken any effective steps to resolve it," Sultana said.

Officials at the DCC Conservancy Department has admitted that the pollution in and around the lake has increased over the last three years as the number of visitors to the spot has increased by three folds within this time.

However, Abu Zafar, inspector, Conservancy Department, Ward No 49 of DCC, claimed that the private business organisations operating in the area and DCC personnel have been working jointly to solve the pollution problem.

Another staff of the department said they could have tackled the problem more effectively if the manpower in the department was increased.



Dhanmondi Lake covered with leaves from surrounding trees.