

## GRABBERS EYE HAIKKAR KHAL AGAIN



As the flood water turned the low lying area on the western side of the martyred intellectual memorial into a vast stretch of watery plain, some local developer grabbed the opportunity to fill up the Hikkar Khal, a natural canal that winds its way from Mohammadpur and joins the Buriganga in the north. Apparently the earth filling work on the water-body would elude the most trained eyes as the offender uses a dredger to pump out the sand from a vessel in liquid form and releases it into the canal. The result would not be visible until the dry season arrives.

## EIDGAH PARK

# Permanent structure for temporary market!

We will demolish it when required, says official

### CITY CORRESPONDENT

With the construction of a kitchen market, the local residents' hope for a public park in front of Dhanmondi Eidgah is fading fast. Bangladesh Rifles, under its 'Daal-bhat' programme to provide daily essential items at fair price to the public, has started construction work of the kitchen market in

front of the historic eidgah.

Sources at BDR said that this is for the first time BDR is going to build a brick-made structure for its temporary fair price shops.

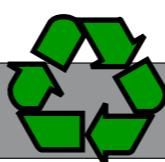
At present BDR runs around 20 fair price shops in the city. This programme started in March, 2007 to help people get essentials at fair price.

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Top: The historic Eidgah congregation in Dhanmondi. Left: Authorities building a pucca structure on the designated space for a public park between Eidgah and the Satmasjid road.

## INFORMAL RECYCLING SECTOR 1



# Waste pickers toil to safeguard environment



Left: A boy on the lookout for recyclable items at Matuail. Top: Rubel (second from left) with his fellows.

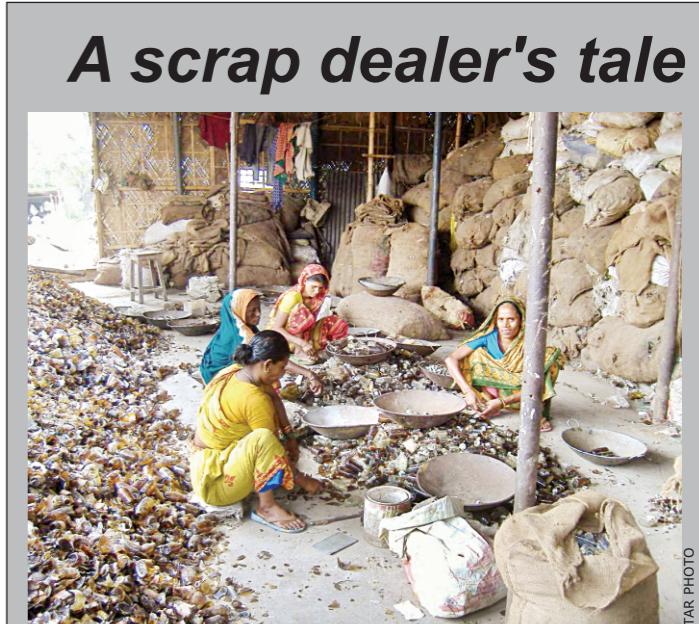
### DURDANA GHIAS

Rubel, a 10-year old waste picker, was standing in the midst of a heap of garbage. His hands were busy searching for anything useful dumped there. His feet were blackened with a layer of liquid waste.

"This is a very tiring job.

Sometimes I cut my hands while sifting through the trash," he said when the Star City correspondent asked him how he could stand on the pile of garbage for hours together.

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Female workers sorting out recyclable items at a bhangari shop in Matuail.

Habibullah Khan buys scrap from the waste pickers and then sells those to another 'party' who sells those to plastic, glass or metal factory owners.

"We buy scrap from the waste pickers. On average we buy and sell 15 to 20 sacks a week. We sell one full cement-sack at Tk 50 and gunny bag at Tk 250. We sell per kg plastic at Tk 35, cow bones at Tk 4 and glass at Tk 2."

Habibullah is satisfied with his income. "I could improve my business further if I had Tk 1,00,000 capital and my own godown," he said.

"Summer is our peak season as people drink lots of beverages during this period. Plastic bottles of soft drinks earn us some extra bucks," he said.

Liton Mia, owner of a glass scarp shop, said per maund (around 37 kg) of glass sells at Tk 120. "I sell the glass to the glass factory owners in Tejgaon and Tongi. There are many glass-scrap shops like mine so there is lots of competition in this business," he said.

There are factories in Matuail, Islambagh and Mitford area where workers sort out plastic, paper and glass from the waste. Then those are sold to the plastic or glass factory owners. This is a chain of the market of recycling where waste pickers remain at the bottom and factory owners at the top.

## WASTE MANAGEMENT

# DCC to hide local dumping containers

### RIZANUZZAMAN LASKAR

Solid waste management of the capital city is set to receive a major overhaul as Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) is planning to revamp the hundreds of garbage bins to improve waste disposal system and reduce public nuisance.

DCC has identified 56 zones of the city, with plans to surround the garbage bins in the zones with 6 feet high brick walls to oblige people to dispose wastes inside the bins instead of on the streets, sources said.

The new scheme also involves

paving the floorboards of the garbage containers and connecting them with Wasa sewerage lines to bring some ease in the flow of liquid waste. Water hosepipes would also be available near the containers so that DCC cleaners can hose away the scattered trash and reduce the foul odours.

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"The walls will make sure that the trash will not stay scattered on the streets and also stop foul odours from spreading," said an official from DCC's waste management department.

"We also have plans to deploy full time sweepers to make sure that garbage is disposed in the proper way.

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The DCC is planning to hide these containers on main roads with walls around them.