A River in Distress

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It was once a river where strong currents flowed giving it life and vibrancy. Over the last few years, however, the Shitalalkya River is now on the verge of an untimely death. Environmental degradation in the river water from untreated domestic and industrial effluent has reached such an alarming level that it poses a significant threat to public health, ecosystem and economic growth of surrounding areas. The water is so polluted that no aquatic life can survive during the six-month dry season, which has drastically changed the socio-economic structure of the localities adjacent to the river. Residents nearby have no choice but to do their washing in the pitch-black malodorous water. Moreover, a huge number of Dhaka city dwellers are directly affected by water pollution of Shitalakkhya River, since Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) supplies water for the Dhaka residents treating such contaminated water at the Saidabad Water Treatment Plant.

