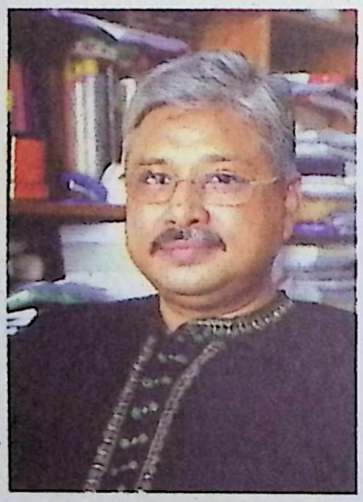
"The pitch black malodorous water gives itching skin and rashes," says Ambia Begum, a resident of Rushki, who has to bathe in the river, as there is no alternative water source for her and many others in the area.

Addressing the ongoing environmental degradation in the catchments of Shitalakkhya River and its tributary Balu River the World Bank blames growth of industries, which use inappropriate technology and processes as well as unplanned urbanisation. The other important factors are institutional failures, lack of enforcement, policies, which provide disincentives for environmental conservation, and governance constraints. The report also mentions that being pressurised by the development partners, the government has promulgated a few laws and has formed the Department of Environment. But these initiatives are not adequate to control ongoing environmental degradation.

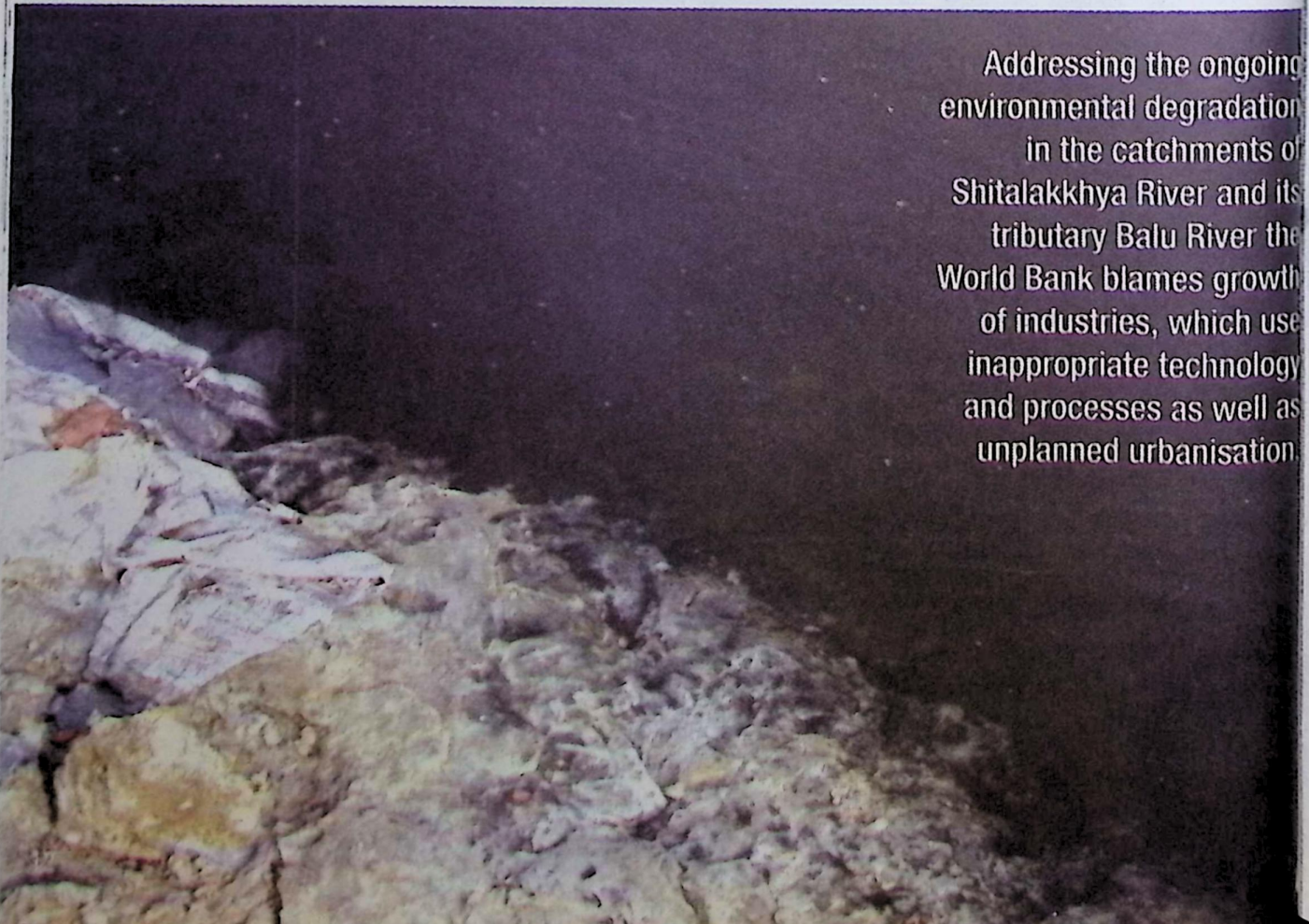


Professor M Mujibur Rahman

The report reads, "Board of Investment in Bangladesh does not ask the investors to provide any information on the potential environmental impact of proposed manufacturing activities. Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) is only implementing the laws in the Dhaka Strategic Plan, which allows dispersed industrial growth. This approach is making it difficult to manage pollution and also has encouraged encroachment on wetlands. Rajuk's view is that the Department of Environmen



River pollution has adverse impact on fisheries.



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