

# Buildings to store rainwater

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It now aims to implement a third project to build eight recharge pits and injection wells in Uttara, Mirpur, Banani, Gulshan, Khilgaon, Motijheel, Mohammadpur and Gandaria during this rainy season.

Institute of Water Modelling (IWM), a government trust, will do the job for Dhaka Wasa. They will operate the pits and wells for a year before handing over the operation to Wasa.

The project includes developing zone-wise prototype design of artificial recharge system and preparing aquifer map and groundwater zoning map of Dhaka city.

With a total of 10 recharging pits, Wasa expects to pump 50 lakh litre of water into the underground aquifers annually.

The authorities, though, need 1642.5 crore litres of water a year to recharge the underground aquifers in the

capital. Experts said building just a few structures for the purpose of recharge in a city of around 1.2 million people is quite inadequate.

"To make the water table of Dhaka city stable, we need to pump 45 crore litres of water into the aquifers daily. This is very much possible," said Mizanur Rahman, senior groundwater specialist at IWM.

Artificial recharge by harvesting rainwater from concrete rooftops of 60 percent buildings in the capital may replenish 25 crore litres of water per day, he mentioned adding, the deficit can be covered by reducing the extraction of groundwater.

"We have checked the quality and quantity of the city's rainwater under the first pilot project delivered last year with the help of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology and found the water

recharging suitable," said Mizanur.

Contacted, Wasa Managing Director Taqsem A Khan said they will go for a massive recharging programme using the most cost effective way possible.

Furthermore, Wasa will halve its dependency on groundwater by the next 10 years by introducing three new water treatment plants in Khilkhet, Pagla and Sayedabad, he added.

These units will produce around 117 crore litres of water per day by treating water of rivers.

Although four rivers flow around the capital, the city has been using groundwater for a long time.

According to the statistics of Bangladesh Water Development Board, groundwater level in Mirpur dropped 53.75 metres between 1991 and 2008, while the decline was 18.59 metres in Mohammadpur,

37.4 metres in Sabujbagh, 8.22 metres in Sutrapur, and 14.14 metres in Dhaka Cantonment during the same period.

Dhaka Wasa's daily production now stands around 210 crore litres against the requirement of 230 crore litres. It produces around 88 percent water from 613 deep tube wells, while the rest from four water treatment plants.

Besides, there are 1,500 legal and 2,000 illegal private deep tube wells in the city.

The Rajuk has prepared "Imarat Nirman Bidhimala-2012", the new guideline, making rainwater harvesting compulsory for private and public building owners, said Sheikh Abdul Mannan, member (planning) of Rajuk.

The guideline stipulates any building with a minimum rooftop area of 300 square metres must have provision for harvesting rain water.

# PM blames BNP

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claimed, the BNP-Jamaat alliance had taken all preparations for vote rigging.

She termed the 2001-2006 period "disastrous tenure of BNP" while the following caretaker government another "disastrous tenure of caretaker" for the country.

Hasina also strongly criticised the caretaker government for oppressing many people, including politicians, businessmen, teachers and students, through filling cases against them during its two-year tenure.

Taking a wipe at the opposition, she alleged that the nature of BNP was burning sleeping people to death in buses, and protecting and nurturing killers.

In a scathing attack on BNP Chairperson Khaleida Zia, the prime minister said, "Her movement is aimed at saving the war criminals."

The opposition leader did not like the trial process of the war criminals as she had made one of the killers of Bangabandhu a parliament

member from Chuadanga through vote rigging, the prime minister said, adding, "She (Khaleida) also made Col Rashid a parliament member from Comilla. It proves how kind she was to the killers of Bangabandhu."

Mentioning that the opposition leader herself had resorted to corruption, whitened black money and embezzled orphanage fund, Hasina said, "If these incidents of graft do not come under trial, then what else will it try?"

Referring to the comments of an opposition leader on the arrest of 18-party leaders, Hasina said after the assassination of the Father of the Nation, many AL leaders and workers including Sajeda Chowdhury were arrested, remanded and oppressed in jail during 1975-79 period when Ziaur Rahman was in power.

After 1991, she said, during the tenure of the BNP, more leaders, including former president Ershad, his wife Rowshan Ershad, Anwar Hossain Manju, were

arrested. "The then BNP government also oppressed and killed many AL leaders and activists. Even late Jahanara Imam also had to experience baton charge by police. How the politicians and civil society lost those incidents from their minds?"

Hasina also asked the media to collect the list of how many people were arrested at a time in that period.

After 2001, the premier said, the BNP had also created a den of terrorism in the country through creating "Bangla Bhai" and unleashing extremism, killing, bombing and militancy. "It needs to be counted how many people were killed every day during BNP's tenure since 2001 in 'Operation Clean Heart', in various terrorist activities and in crossfire."

Claiming that her party believed in peoples' empowerment, Hasina said, over 5,000 different elections were held peacefully during the tenure of the present government. "There was no occurrence of trouble, no one was killed

either...people cast their votes according to their will."

AL presidium members Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim and Kazi Jafarullah, and Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif were present on the occasion.

## Dyeing unit

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Nofel Digital City in Savar, Tk 15 for lakh grabbing public land at Senwalia in the upazila, said a press release.

DoE's Director Munir Chowdhury also took a bank guarantee of Tk 50 lakh and an undertaking from Chaiti Composite Ltd to stop polluting.

The dyeing factory has been polluting farmlands and poisoning fish and domestic animals by dumping chemical liquid waste at the farmland of Tripurdi village.

M Matur Rahman, director of the factory, admitted wrongdoing and paid the fine. DoE also directed the factory to activate effluent treatment plant (ETP) fully, take all necessary steps to stop pollution and restore the cultivable land that is now polluted.

If the company fails to comply with the order, the owners would be sent to jail and the factory's gas and electric supply cut off, the release said.

The bank guarantee will be forfeited if the dyeing factory is found polluting environment in future.

The factory refused to modify and modernise its ETP despite being repeatedly asked to do so for the last 18 months.

Meanwhile, DoE fined Ahmed Karim and stopped his project work at Senwalia in Savar after he failed to produce any document proving ownership of the land.

He also did not have any environment clearance from DoE, the release said.

Munir Chowdhury said the illegal housing project would have stopped water and sewerage flow from Jahangirnagar University and Savar Golf Club.



### Obituary

Zahirul Haq Chowdhury of Khan Bahadur Gazi Chowdhury Bari in Noakhali passed away on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2012, after suffering from prolonged illness, at the age of 67. Late Z. H. Chowdhury served for a long time in B A S F Bangladesh Ltd.

He left behind his wife, son, two daughters and a number of well wishers.

His Qul-khani will be held on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2012 after 'Asr prayer at his Uttara residence (House No: 03, Road No: 14, Sector: 06).

# Tourism in a shambles

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Visitors sometimes are harassed by the vendors on the beach.

Mizanur Rahman, a tourist from Dhaka, said, "I came from Dhaka with my family to see Patenga beach. But I find that the natural beauty of the beach has been destroyed by the settlements."

The makeshift eateries primarily focus on profit making, as there is no standard restaurant around, he said.

"We took four plates of noodles and a cold drink. For that they charged us 1,200 taka."

"When we asked them about the high price, they started bullying and took the money almost forcefully," he said adding, "I never had such an experience at any tourist spot before."

Several other tourists echoed Mizan.

Sabbir Ahmed, another tourist from Chittagong, said visitors get very little open space as the makeshift shops occupy almost all the beach area leaving no room for the tourists to stroll around.

"You can see trash littered all over the beach. I have not found any dustbin in the whole beach area," said another tourist Abul Kalam.

According to Mohammad Shahabuddin, president of Patenga Sea Beach Shop Owners' Co-operative Association, around 30,000 tourists visit the beach daily.

On weekends the number reaches to one lakh. On special occasions like Eid, Puja, Valentines Day, and Independence Day the number rises to about 1.5 lakh to 2 lakh, he said.

Some 331 shops are doing business in the beach area providing livelihood for around 15,000 people excluding the floating hawkers, he added.

Shahabuddin said, "We don't want to do business illegally. If the authority leased or rented out the space to us then it would be

better for us."

"But the authority always remained silent on the issue," he added.

Shahabuddin defended the high price of food at the Patenga eateries saying that the price of a plate of noodles is Tk 250 which is the same at Chinese restaurants in the city.

None of the eateries, however, match the standard of a Chinese restaurant.

Shahabuddin claimed that the beach is now safe for visitors as police regularly patrol the area to prevent illegal activities.

When asked why police do not evict their illegal businesses from the beach area, he said during the immediate past caretaker government they had been evicted, but returned after the election, and now nobody bothers them because their presence keep the place free of other criminal activities.

Several hawkers and local residents, on condition of anonymity, said shop owners together bribe police one lakh taka per month for not evicting them.

But Shahabuddin denied the allegation outright. Officer-in-charge (OC) of Patenga Police Station Prodip Kumar Das also denied taking money from the shop owners.

"As we are not allowing prostitution and other anti-social activities on the beach, some people are bringing false allegations against us," Prodip said.

When asked why they are not evicting the illegal shops from the beach, he said, "The embankment is owned by the Water Development Board. They are not asking us to evict the shops, that's why we can't evict them from the area."

"If you let someone occupy your own area then police can do nothing about that," he added.

He said, "We are maintaining law and order in the beach area and there is no anti-social activity now."

Visitors, local residents,

and shop owners also said the beach which used to be a spot for prostitution before, is now completely free of that menace.

Sources at Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC) said they have taken a plan to build a motel on five acres of land in the beach area.

"A team from the national tourism body visited the area to select a site for the motel in early February this year," said Rafiqul Islam, unit manager of BPC in Chittagong.

"A committee will be formed to implement the project soon."

He, however, could not confirm the timeframe for the beginning of the construction work.

Investments from the private sector could also boost tourism on the beach, said an official of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC).

Sources at private sector hotels and tourism businesses said a lack of infrastructure, commercial facilities, security, and government support, and possibilities of natural disasters are main reasons why the beach area is not attracting investment from the sector.

"Developed infrastructure, adequate supply of electricity, and availability of banking services are needed to establish hotels on the beach," said Shahin Mohammad Nowshad, senior manager for sales and marketing of Hotel Agrabad.

Possibility of disasters like cyclone is always a problem for hotels as well, he said.

"If the embankment of the area is made strong enough then cyclones will not be a threat," he added.

Unlike Cox's Bazar beach, Patenga has not been developed to an international standard, which is very important for attracting private investment that will build other facilities like hotels, motels and entertainment venues, Shahin said.

"If the government provided support to the private sector, the place would not

remain undeveloped for such a long time," he said.

Meanwhile, CCC has taken a project of Tk 93 crore for infrastructure development in the beach area.

Under the project, a planetarium, a bay aquarium, a sea-world, a five-star hotel, a banquet hall, and 12 to 14 motels will be built, said Rafiqul Islam Manik, executive engineer at CCC and the director of the project.

The 850 feet wide and 2,400 feet long project will be implemented on the plain land located between the beach road and the embankment, he said.

Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) owns about 150 acres of land in the area, about 40 acres of which will be taken primarily for the project, said Rafiqul.

A proposal for the project was submitted to the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives in 2010, he said.

The LGRD ministry forwarded the proposal to the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism for a no objection certificate (NOC) the same year, he added.

But the tourism ministry has not given the approval for the project yet.

Sources at the tourism ministry said the project is likely to get government approval. But they could not confirm when the approval will come.

Md Zafar Alam, director of the Department of Environment (DoE), said CCC must take an approval from the department to implement the project in the area.

"If they apply, we will assess the environmental impact by appointing a consultant."

"I believe, planned infrastructural development will not adversely affect the environment in the area," he said.

The illegal shops on the embankment are actually badly affecting the environment, he added.

## Unleash your potential and become the future leaders of MTB

Mutual Trust Bank Limited (MTB) is a Financial Services Group company headquartered in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The bank has been in operation for the last 13 years and has three fully owned subsidiaries - MTB Securities Limited, MTB Capital Limited and MTB Exchange (UK) Limited. It operates a countrywide network of 76 branches, with 100 ATMs and employs around 1,300 people with an admired corporate governance standard and unique corporate culture, based on a home-grown philosophy known as **MTB3V!**

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**Position: "MTB Management Trainee Batch of 2012" (MMT 2012)**

**Qualification and other competencies:**

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- From a highly reputed university or educational institution, anywhere in the world
- Minimum CGPA should be 3.20 out of 4.00 or 4.00 out of 5.00 (no third division/third class in academic career is acceptable)
- Very good spoken and written command over both the English and Bangla languages
- Possess an entrepreneurial spirit, high energy, self motivated and driven to succeed
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- Excellent computer and web-use skills
- Has demonstrated interest in extra-curricular activities
- Age limit: 26 years (as of May 31, 2012)

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**ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY (IUT)**  
Board Bazar, Gazipur, Bangladesh  
Organisation of Islamic Cooperation

Memo No. IUT/PD/35.02

Date: 16 May 2012

**INVITATION FOR TENDERS**

1.	Organisation	: Organisation of Islamic Cooperation
2.	Executing Agency	: Islamic University of Technology (IUT)
3.	Procuring Entity Name	: Vice Chancellor, IUT
4.	Procuring Entity district	: Gazipur
5.	Tender Name	: Vertical Extension of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Academic Building (Construction of level-4 (5 <sup>th</sup> floor) over existing 4 <sup>th</sup> floor), in/c. Civil, internal sanitary, water supply and internal electrification works and other ancillary works.
6.	Tender No.	: 01/ IUT of 2012, dt. 16 May 2012
7.	Procuring Method	: Open Tendering Method (OTM)
8.	Budget & Source of fund and Payment	: Own source of IUT. Payment will be made in Bangladeshi Taka
9.	Price of Tender Document	: Tk. 5,000 (Taka Five thousand) only
10.	Amount of Tender Security	: Tk.5,00,000 (Taka Five Lacs) only in the form of Bank draft or Pay Order from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh in favour of 'Islamic University of Technology' to be drawn on AB Bank Limited, Board Bazar Branch, Gazipur.
11.	Last selling date of Tender Document	: Upto 04:00 p.m. on 10 June 2012
12.	Tender receiving date, time and place	: Upto 01:00 p.m. on 11 June 2012 at the office of the Vice Chancellor, IUT
13.	Tender opening date, time and place	: 02:30 p.m. on 11 June 2012 at the office of the Vice Chancellor, IUT in presence of the tenderer if there is any
14.	Name and address of the office selling tender document	: Accounts and Finance Office, IUT, Board Bazar, Gazipur
15.	Eligibility of Tenderer/Firms	: This invitation of tender is open to all eligible tenderers as mentioned below and as further detailed in the Tender Data Sheet (TDS) of the Tender Document. a) Should have minimum 10 years general experience in construction works. b) Should be enlisted as top class contractors in government, semi-government, autonomous bodies in Bangladesh. c) In case of joint venture one of them must have 10 yrs experience and the other should have 5 yrs building construction work experience. Details in TDS. d) The tenderers should have experience of completion of at least 4 storied building incl. sanitary and electrical works in a single/ multiple no. of contracts with an amount of not less than Tk. 100 lacs in the last 5 years. e) The tenderers must have valid TIN, VAT, Trade licences and enlistment certificates, ABC electrical licence. All original documents must be shown by the intending tenderers before purchasing tender document.
16.	Liquid asset/ credit facility/ working capital	: Tk. 50 lacs.
17.	Minimum Annual construction turn over for the last 5 years	: Tk. 250 lacs
18.	Special Instructions	: The procuring entity (VC, IUT) reserves the right to accept any or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Chief of Planning and Development