

RESPONSIBILITY LIES WITH ALL

The Daily Star has published twenty five reports on Dhaka's ponds between June 22 and September 18 revealing how these vital organs were destroyed, occupied or threatened due to unabated encroachment, dumping of waste and sheer negligence. But many are still salvageable. As the city is already plagued by waterlogging, we must preserve what remains and excavate new ones. Today our final report of the series testifies how steps need to be taken to protect the reservoirs. To build a better Dhaka, the responsibility of saving these ponds not only lies with the authorities concerned, but also with all of us.

PONDS of Dhaka

HELEMUL ALAM

Emphasising the necessity of ponds in mitigating waterlogging crisis and during fire incidents, urban experts and environmentalists demanded that the government take proper measures to protect these vital organs.

A pond is also beneficial for the environment and enhances the aesthetic beauty of an area, they added.

The experts stressed the need for recovering the reservoirs which have been grabbed illegally or left in death throes due to pollution. Also, a mass awareness is needed as the responsibility to protect these water bodies from encroachment and pollution lies with all.

They also sought intervention of the prime minister in this regard.

Emphasising the need for protecting ponds and water bodies, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in a parliament session on July 13 said the government has prepared a wetland protection act to save those. She said during any construction work, the water bodies have to be kept intact.

Prof Mujibur Rahman of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) said a pond is a natural haven. It has an ecosystem where there are communities of organism dependent on each other with the prevailing water environment for their nutrients and survival.

But people are destroying it by making it polluted, he said. "A pond is vital for its rain water containing capacity. It also helps the drainage system. Unfortunately, people do not even realise it."

The more these water bodies will be filled up, the more rainwater will keep on submerging the roads and houses.

"The value of land in Dhaka is so high that people (both government



This is how we envision our ponds -- surrounded by trees and without a fear of encroachment or pollution. The photo of the around eight-bigha reservoir was taken at the capital's Islampur recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

and private) do not want to keep the ponds alive. They want to build buildings or other structures by filling those up. It is unacceptable," he said.

"Destroying these vital organs means damaging the country's environment. Ponds are one of the major components of the environment."

"Not just the ponds, even the trees around the water bodies play an important role in solving the drainage problem of an area. With the help of the trees, vegetation can be generated by the banks of a reservoir. It can drain out a huge amount of rain water," he said.

Architect Iqbal Habib, joint secretary of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa), said ponds and water bodies

are essential to put up resistance against warm weather. A water body has a higher heat capacity than land. It also comes in handy during incidents of fire.

Importance and necessity of protecting the reservoirs are also mentioned in the Building Construction Rules and the capital's Detailed Area Plan, he said.

"The government has documented the necessity of the reservoirs but did not take any step to protect those. Even just from the viewpoint of disaster management and the Detailed Area Plan, recovering and protecting the existing ponds are a must," he said.

If the government do not protect the water bodies, it will be a violation of law, said Habib.

A coordinated initiative by the ministries concerned is imperative to protect the ponds. Also, steps should be taken against all illegal activities such as construction of the BGMEA Bhaban at Hatirjheel, he said.

Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela), said a pond has become a rare sight in the capital. "All this generation sees are buildings and wetlands filled with sands. This must change."

"We can't deny the necessity of ponds in the heavily populated and congested Dhaka city. We must protect what we are still left with and excavate new ones to save the city from waterlogging," she added.

Prof Ishrat Islam of department of Urban and Regional Planning of Buet said, "The digging of ponds started in line with the 'dig-elevate-dwell' principle of settlement. This is the way people started living in the floodplains of a delta. As most of the area of Bangladesh is lowland, ponds were dug up for earth to elevate the land."

The reservoirs also became a source of water and were used as retention areas. During the early days, city people used to depend on pond water for drinking, bathing or doing their household chores, she said.

"We also have a pond at our grandfather's house in Siddheshwari. It was purchased in 1948. There was a huge scarcity of water there and people of the area used to use its water."

"We are now far away from the concept of ponds as there is no necessity of pond for drinking water..." she said. "Many of the city ponds were filled up due to dumping of waste."

Prof Israt said in many countries they keep the water bodies intact as part of their flood or drainage management system. While developing an area, they are not allowed to fill those up randomly.

The developers there will have to build playgrounds as well as keep certain areas as lakes or ponds or canals, she said.

"According to Building Construction Rules, cutting of hills and filling up ponds are not allowed without permission. But it went on unabated. The wetland protection act is supposed to protect every kind of water bodies. The authorities concerned will have to take strict measures in this regard."

AKM Shakil Newaz, director (operation and maintenance) of Fire Service and Civil defence, said water saves lives from fire. "We need reser-

voirs. Most of Dhaka's water bodies were filled up randomly for which we face an acute shortage of water during fire incidents," he said.

"During fire incidents, we do not get water like before. We have to have two systems of getting water. One will be the mechanical or modern system where we need to have fire hydrants, and the other will be the natural source of water such as ponds or other water bodies."

Also, from an environmental aspect and to maintain the ecology, it is essential to have water bodies, Shakil said.

"Last year during a fire incident at Karwan Bazar, we had to face serious

difficulties due to a lack of water body," he said. In Uttara, they also faced a similar problem while dousing a blaze, he added.

"We had to seek water door to door. If there was a pond available in the area, we could have fetched water from it and brought the situation under control sooner."

Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) Mayor Annisul Huq in July said most of the water bodies are under the DC office while Wasa is in charge of the maintenance.

"I don't see that many ponds in the city anymore. The ponds and other water bodies are a vital part of Dhaka. Those have to be protected

properly," he said.

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) Mayor Sayeed Khokon said most of the ponds in the DSCC area are privately owned or under the possession of panchayets (local associations).

"The ponds are managed locally. When people seek help, we assist them. If needed, we can do cleaning activities in the ponds," he said.

About the Shikkatuli pond, the mayor said there is a dispute between locals and those who are claiming ownership of the pond.

About the DIT plot pond in Genderia, the mayor said some influential people are trying to grab it. "I have asked our people to clean the pond," he said. Rajuk will have to take an initiative to protect it.

"If Rajuk, DC office, individual owners or local associations seek help from the DSCC to protect the pond, we will be more than happy to help them. For example, there were no street lights near Bongshal pond. We have set up the lights around the reservoir, following requests of locals," the mayor said.

(Edited by HASAN MER)

WHY PONDS ARE IMPORTANT

- Reduce waterlogging
- Source of water
- Environment friendly
- Aesthetic benefits

REASONS FOR DISAPPEARANCE

- Encroachment
- Dumping of waste
- Housing projects
- Lack of maintenance

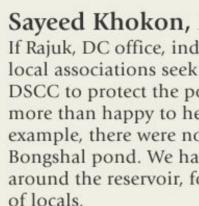
RECOMMENDATIONS

- Protect existing water bodies
- Implement wetland protection act
- Concerted effort
- Mass awareness



Mujibur Rahman, Professor

Not just the ponds, even the trees around the water bodies play an important role in solving the drainage problem of an area. With the help of the trees, vegetation can be generated by the banks of a reservoir. It can drain out a huge amount of rain water.



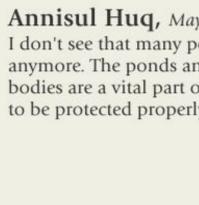
Sayeed Khokon, Mayor

If Rajuk, DC office, individual owners or local associations seek help from the DSCC to protect the pond, we will be more than happy to help them. For example, there were no street lights near Bongshal pond. We have set up the lights around the reservoir, following requests of locals.



Iqbal Habib, Architect

The government has documented the necessity of the reservoirs but did not take any step to protect those. Even just from the viewpoint of disaster management and the Detailed Area Plan, recovering and protecting the existing ponds are a must.



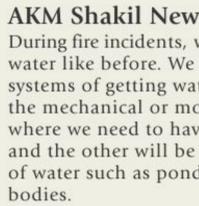
Annisul Huq, Mayor

I don't see that many ponds in the city anymore. The ponds and other water bodies are a vital part of Dhaka. Those have to be protected properly.



Syeda Rizwana Hasan, Activist

We can't deny the necessity of ponds in the heavily populated and congested Dhaka city. We must protect what we are still left with and excavate new ones to save the city from waterlogging.



AKM Shakil Newaz, Fire officer

During fire incidents, we do not get water like before. We have to have two systems of getting water. One will be the mechanical or modern system where we need to have fire hydrants, and the other will be the natural source of water such as ponds or other water bodies.



Ishrat Islam, Professor

According to Building Construction Rules, cutting of hills and filling up ponds are not allowed without permission. But it went on unabated. The wetland protection act is supposed to protect every kind of water bodies. The authorities concerned will have to take strict measures in this regard.



Dhaka Power Distribution Co. Ltd.

(An Enterprise of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh)
Biddut Bhabon (3rd Floor), 1 Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka - 1000
Web site : www.dpdc.org.bd

ISO: 9001:2008 Certified

"শেখ হাসিনার উদ্যোগ
যত্নে যত্নে বিদ্যুৎ"

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (For selecting International FIRM)

1. Ministry/Division	Power Division, Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources
2. Agency	Dhaka Power Distribution Company Limited (DPDC)
3. Procurement Entity Name	Project Director, "Dhaka Underground Substation Construction Project at Kawranbazar under DPDC"
4. Expression of Interest for Selection of	International Consulting Firm for Engineering Consultancy Services for implementation of "Dhaka Underground Substation Construction Project at Kawranbazar under DPDC"
5. EOI Ref. No. & Date	
6. Procurement Method	Quality Based Selection (QBS), Time Based
7. Budget and Source of Funds	Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Government of Bangladesh
8. EOI Closing Date, Time and Place	Date: 22/10/2017, Time: 12 : 00 hours BST, Place: Office of the Project Director, 11 th Floor, Bidyut Bhaban, 1 Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh
9. EOI Opening Date, Time and Place	Date: 22/10/2017, Time: 12 : 30 hours BST, Place: Office of the Company Secretary, DPDC, Biddut Bhaban (2 nd Floor), 1 Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.
10. Project Background	The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received an Official Development Assistance (ODA) Loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) towards the cost of "Dhaka Underground Substation Construction Project at Kawranbazar under DPDC" with the objective of improving electric supply reliability and electric power supply and demand balance by constructing one 132/33kV and 33/11kV underground substation in the location of Kawranbazar in Dhaka under DPDC area. This project consists of the following components: • Construction of one new 132/33kV & 33/11kV underground substation (hereinafter referred to as "UGSS") without superstructure (civil & building); • Installation of electrical equipment for the UGSS; • Construction of 132kV Bay extension on source substation for the UGSS; • Construction of 132kV and 33kV Transmission Line for UGSS; and • Construction of 11kV Distribution Line in the UGSS site up to the feeder: starting pole through the underground cable tunnel; A part of the proceeds from the loan will be utilized for consulting services for assistance of implementing the Project. Dhaka Power Distribution Company Limited ("DPDC") will be the employer of this consulting services
11. Scope of Services:	The scope of consulting services will include but not limited to the following: • Preparation of basic design, including detailed cost estimates for construction of underground substations and superstructure • Assistance in the Bidding Procedures from preparation of bidding documents to final contract agreement • Related detailed Design and drawings approval • Construction supervision and contract administration for construction of underground substation • Provide support during the period of Operation and Maintenance of underground substation • Technology Transfer in the area of design and supervision works for underground substation • Facilitation of implementation of Environmental Management Plan (EMP) including Environmental Monitoring Plan (EMoP) • Threat and security assessment and preparation of Security Management Plan
12. Duration of Services:	The duration including the defect liability period is estimated as seventy six (76) months.
13. Experience, Resources Delivery Capacity Required	EOI is invited from eligible consulting firms in single or in the form of Joint Venture, or association/consortium, which has required expertise and experience in the abovementioned areas. The firm is expected to have: • Experience of consulting services for Power sector's overseas projects; • Experience of consulting services of underground substation projects in Asia Pacific or South Asia; • Experience of Japanese ODA/World Bank/ADB funded projects.
14. Other Details:	i) Selection of the shortlisted consultants will be made in accordance with the "Guidelines for the Employment of the Consultant under Japanese ODA Loan, April 2012" following Quality Based Selection (QBS); The guideline is available in the link mentioned below: http://www.jica.go.jp/english/our_work/types_of_assistance/oda_loans/oda_op_info/guide/ ii) EOI should include the following information: 1) Company profile (Form-1); 2) Related experiences of the firm in accordance with the requirements mentioned in Clause 13 (Form-2); and 3) Agreement of Joint Venture, or association/consortium, if applicable (Form-1b). iii) EOI as well as forms/supporting documents attached shall be written in English. Documents originally written in other than English should be translated into English and attached to the copy of original duly attested by competent authority. iv) EOI notice and Forms of Expression of Interest are posted on DPDC website: www.dpdc.org.bd and CPTU website: www.cptu.gov.bd and hard copy of the same are available from the office in the address given hereunder. Project Director, Dhaka Underground Substation Construction Project at Kawranbazar under DPDC & Superintending Engineer, Design Circle, 11 th Floor, Bidyut Bhaban, 1 Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000. Tel: +88029564215; Mobile no.: +8801713255008 e-mail: sed@dpdc.org.bd v) Five (5) signed copies of EOI shall be submitted in a sealed envelope and delivered by hand, subscribing "Consultancy Services for Dhaka Underground Substation Construction Project at Kawranbazar under DPDC" on top of the sealed envelope to the following address by 12 : 00 hours, Date: 22/10/2017, Bangladesh Local Time in presence of the representatives of the EOI Applicant (If any): Office of the Project Director, Dhaka Underground Substation Construction Project at Kawranbazar under DPDC 11 th Floor, Bidyut Bhaban, 1 Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh. vi) EOI submitted by firms will be screened, and firms will be shortlisted. Only short-listed firms will be invited to submit proposals. vii) Interested applicants may obtain further information from the undersigned during the office hours (9:00 to 17:00 hours BST) viii) Interested applicants are requested to submit their information in Expression of Interest Forms which are available in the website: www.dpdc.org.bd and www.cptu.gov.bd ix) DPDC reserves the right to accept/reject one or all EOIs or stop the process of approval at any stage, at its sole discretion without assigning any reasons and shall bear no liability whatsoever consequent upon such a decision.
15. Association with local firm is	Encouraged
16. Name of Official Inviting Expression of Interest (EOI)	Jayanta Kumar Sikder
17. Designation of Official Inviting Expression of Interest	Company Secretary, DPDC
18. Address of Official Inviting Expression of Interest	Office of the Company Secretary, DPDC, Biddut Bhaban (2 nd Floor) 1 Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.
19. Contact details of Official Inviting Expression of Interest	Tel: +88029570066 E-mail: cs@dpdc.org.bd
20. The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all EOIs without showing any reason thereof.	

Jayanta Kumar Sikder
Company Secretary, DPDC