

Zero Waste Systems could create 6,000 jobs in Dhaka: study

MUNTAKIM SAAD

If Dhaka were to recover 80 percent of recyclable and organic material in its waste stream, the city could create over 6,000 new jobs, found a study of Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA).

The study from GAIA finds that cities that invest in zero waste programmes and policies create numerous, good, green jobs, in addition to known benefits of reducing pollution and improving community health. This report comes as municipal governments across the world are making critical investment decisions to increase climate resilience and rebuild local economies damaged by the Covid-19 crisis.

GAIA is a worldwide alliance of more than 800 grassroots groups, non-governmental organisations, and individuals in over 90 countries, aiming to catalyse a global shift towards environmental justice by strengthening grassroots social movements that advance solutions to waste and pollution, explained Claire Arkin, communications coordinator at GAIA.

The new paper is a meta-analysis of 36 studies spanning 16 countries that examined the job creation potential of various waste management strategies such as repair and reuse, recycling, composting, incineration and landfill.

It finds that reusing creates over 200 times as many jobs as landfills and incinerators; recycling creates around 70 times the number of jobs, and re-manufacturing creates almost 30 times as many jobs as landfills and incinerators, said a joint press release of GAIA and ESDO (Environment and Social Development Organisations).

The research makes clear that what's good for the environment is also good for the economy, Claire said.

Zero waste is a comprehensive waste management approach that prioritises waste reduction and material recovery, with the ultimate aim of creating a circular economy, shrinking waste disposal to zero. In contrast, disposal-based systems rely on incineration (waste

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After a year full of uncertainty and obstacles for students, this year's Saraswati Puja, where members of the Hindu community honour and celebrate the goddess of knowledge and art, is certainly unique. With festivities commencing yesterday, a celebration of limited-scale has been arranged at Dhaka University's Jagannath Hall. This photo was taken yesterday from the premises.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

'Padma bridge future of dev'

Says Quader; 92pc work of main bridge completed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Padma bridge will be opened for public in June next year and development of the country will evolve centring the bridge in future, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said yesterday.

Quader, also the general secretary of Awami League, made the comment while visiting the under-construction bridge.

The total project witnessed 84 percent progress so far while the main bridge and river training -- two major components of the fast-track project -- saw 92pc and 79pc progress so far, he said.

He said construction works for Lebukhali and Kalna bridges are going on in line with the Padma bridge. Besides, turning Faridpur-Bhanga-Barishal and Khulna-Mongla highways into four lanes are now at planning level, he said.

The bridge would not only connect Dhaka with the 19 southern districts,

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DSCC relocating stray dogs again?

Spokesperson says two were caught and neutered; veterinary officer contradicts him

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) appears to be reverting on its promise to not relocate stray dogs from the city without consulting concerned stakeholders.

A DSCC move to clear the streets of stray dogs by relocating them to a landfill was met with strong protests last year, prompting animal rights groups to file a writ petition with the High Court (HC) challenging its legality.

The petition was eventually dropped after Attorney General AM Amin Uddin assured the HC bench of Justice Md Ashfaqul Islam and Justice Mohammad Ali on November 23 last year on behalf of the DSCC mayor that no dog relocation would take place without consulting stakeholders, including the petitioners.

DSCC Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh also subsequently sat in discussions with the petitioners and other stakeholders on sustainable management of stray dog population in the city.

However, a recent video captured by phone and shared on social media shows men from a van of DSCC trapping a dog in a net, near Bongobazar intersection of the capital. When the man recording the video asks why the dogs are captured, he is told the dog would be released outside the city. The man then asks if they are city corporation staff, which they admit.

The man is Musa Un-Nabi Saikat, a cultural activist residing in Old Dhaka. Talking to this newspaper yesterday, Saikat said the incident happened on February 14 morning. "The men told me they were doing it on the mayor's orders, so I had nothing to say. But seeing it broke my heart. I cried that day," said Saikat.

Contacted about it, DSCC public relations officer (PRO) and spokesperson Md Abu Nasher asked for some time to



A worker of DSCC catches a dog in a net in the capital's Bongobazar area.

enquire about it, before responding. About an hour later, he said, "Yes, what you saw in the video is true. DSCC is launching a neutering programme for male stray dogs, and as part of 'know-how', two dogs were captured, neutered and returned to their original places... There has been no violation of the attorney general's promise to the court."

He further said DSCC only had capacity to neuter male dogs, but not female dogs yet. Asked which office of DSCC was handling the project, he said it was the health department.

Contacted about the neutering programme around 5pm yesterday, DSCC chief health officer Brig Gen Dr Md Shaif Ahmed said, "Please contact me tomorrow during office hours, and I can connect you to the veterinary officer who is handling it."

When veterinary officer Dr SM Shaifiqu

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KOTALIPARA BOMB PLOT HC to deliver verdict today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court is set to deliver its verdict today on the case filed for attempting to kill Awami League leader and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina by planting a 76-kilogramme bomb at Gopalganj's Kotalipara in 2000.

The HC bench of Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim and Justice Md Badruzzaman will announce the verdict based on death reference (lower court documents) and convicts' appeals against the lower court judgement, Deputy Attorney General Dr Md Bashir Ullah told 'The Daily Star' yesterday.

On February 1, the bench set today to deliver the verdict, after concluding hearing on death reference and appeals.

Attorney General AM Amin Uddin, Additional Attorney General Sheikh Md Morshed and Deputy Attorney General Dr Bashir appeared for the state, while Amulya Kumar Sarker placed arguments as state defence lawyer for the absconding convicts. Lawyers SM Shahjahan, Mohammad Ahsan and Mohammad Nasiruddin stood for the convicts in jail.

During hearing, the attorney general prayed to the HC to uphold the trial court verdict, saying that those convicted have committed a serious and unpardonable offence.

The defence prayed to the HC to acquit their clients, saying that the trial court has delivered the verdict on basis of the confessional statement of Harkat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami (Huji) leader Mufti Abdul Hannan.

The bomb was recovered at Sheikh Lutfur Rahman Ideal College of Kotalipara on July 21, 2000. Hasina was supposed to address a rally there the next day. Then sub-inspector Nur Hossain of Kotalipara Police Station filed the case under Explosive Substances Act.

Criminal Investigation Department submitted charge sheet against Mufti Hannan and 24 others on April 8, 2001, showing 83 people as prosecution witnesses. Gopalganj District and Sessions Judge's Court framed charges against the 25 accused on July 2 the same year. The Gopalganj court recorded statements of 40 prosecution witnesses, including the case's complainant. The case was then shifted to the Speedy Trial Tribunal for quick disposal.

Tribunal-2 in Dhaka on August 20, 2017 handed death sentence to 10 leaders and activists of Huji. One was sentenced to life imprisonment, and three were handed 14 years in jail. Of the accused, 13 are in jail and 11 on the run.

The court acquitted 10 others. Mufti Hannan was found guilty but was acquitted as he was executed on April 12, 2017 for killing three people, as well as injuring former British high commissioner to Bangladesh and a dozen others in Sylhet in 2004.

KARNAPHULI RIVER

Bangabandhu Tunnel work in full swing

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Work to build the country's first underwater expressway tunnel -- Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Tunnel -- under Karnaphuli River is going on in full swing, with around 62 percent of work already completed, according to officials.

Although pace of work was a bit slow in the second quarter of last year due to the pandemic, it has been ramped up to complete the project by December, 2022, said project sources.

As the Chinese citizens working in the project went to their country in the early months of last year, work was hindered between March and September, they said. After they came back and resumed work, the project is advancing in full speed.

Engineers and workers, comprising 290 Chinese nationals and over 600 locals, are working to implement the project.

The 94-metre high tunnel boring machine (TBM) is now digging deep, around 100 feet, to install the tunnel's second tube out of the two, going from Anwara upazila to Chattogram city. Installation work of the first tube, going from the city back to Anwara, was completed in August last year, said Harun-ur-Rashid Chowdhury, project director of Multilane Road Tunnel Under River Karnaphuli Project.

The tunnel would go deep, between 18-31 metres beneath the riverbed, he said.

While inaugurating installation work of the second tube in December last year, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said the tunnel would bring about a revolutionary change in the southern part of Chattogram.

Chattogram city would be developed as "one city two towns", like China's Shanghai city, where the eastern and western parts are connected in such a manner, he said. Communication among Dhaka, Chattogram and Cox's Bazar would

be easier and less time consuming.

Earlier on February 24, 2019, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated boring work of the tunnel.

The tunnel's total length will be around 9.3 kilometres, with a 3.4-kilometre part under Karnaphuli river, and an approach road of 5.25 kilometres alongside 727 metres of an over-bridge, Harun said.

The tunnel goes under the Karnaphuli at the Naval Academy point in port city's Patenga to connect to Anwara upazila on the other side of the river.

Each tube of the tunnel will have two lanes and would allow one-way traffic. One would allow vehicles to move from the city to Anwara and the other in the opposite direction, said Harun.

The length of each tube would be 2.45km and diameter 11.8 metres, he said.

China Communication and Construction Company Limited (CCCC) is constructing the tunnel, he added.

Earlier in 2013, Bangladesh Bridges Authority with support from CCCC, Ove Arup and Partners Hong Kong Limited jointly conducted a technical and financial feasibility study for constructing the tunnel, he said. It gave a report that its construction would be an economically successful project.

The project cost was estimated at Tk 8,446.64 crore in 2015, which has increased to Tk 9,880 crore at present, said Harun. Work for the project started on December 5, 2017.

Harun said project cost rose because the price of land has increased three times.

Hailing the tunnel's construction, Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Mahbul Alam told 'The Daily Star' that the tunnel would strengthen the role of Chattogram as the centre of communication, develop communication of Dhaka-Chattogram-Cox's Bazar national

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Elderly paralysed man dies in Ctg slum fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chattogram

A paralysed elderly man burned to death in a slum fire at Patenga area of Chattogram early yesterday.

The deceased was Nousa Mia (80), who lived in Raibeat slum at Patenga.

Newton Das, deputy assistant director of Chattogram Fire Service and Civil Defence told 'The Daily Star' that the blaze swept through the slum around 4am.

Eight units from four fire stations rushed to the spot and put out the fire around 5am, he said. They found the body from one of the burned rooms.

The man could not escape the fire as he was paralysed, added Newton Das.

The cause of fire could not be known. Fire Service and Civil Defence are investigating to find the cause of the blaze.



Members of a family helplessly stand amid the remains of what used to be their home in a slum at Chattogram city's Patenga area yesterday morning, after a fire swept through it in the early hours of the day.

PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

Order on contempt of court rule against Kushtia ex-SP today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court will deliver its order today on the contempt of court rule issued against the then Superintendent of Kushtia Police SM Tanvir Arafat for misbehaving with a senior judicial magistrate during Bheramara municipality election on January 16.

Tanvir has been transferred as deputy commissioner of Barishal metropolitan police on February 8.

The bench of Justice Mamnoon Rahman and Justice Khizir Hayat is scheduled to pass the order. Tanvir's lawyer Md Munsurul Hoque Chowdhury told 'The Daily Star' yesterday.

On January 25, the HC bench had rebuked Tanvir for his misbehaviour with Senior Judicial Magistrate Md Mohsin Hasan, saying that he (Tanvir) must act in such a manner so that people don't feel that a police state has been established.

On that day, he appeared before the HC bench and apologised for his behaviour and promised that such "mistake" would not occur again.

During the polling on January 16, the magistrate went to the polling centre at Bheramara Pilot Model High School after receiving complaints of voting fraud and was talking to a presiding officer when SP Tanvir and other police personnel loudly called the presiding officer aside, according to media reports.

Mohsin told them he was a judicial magistrate and requested them to let him speak to the presiding officer. The SP then called the magistrate impolite and asked him to leave the premises.

Mohsin later filed complaint with the EC, Registrar General's Office of the SC, law and home ministries and IGP office, accusing the SP of misconduct. The SP's conduct during the polls was a blatant violation of the Local Government Election Rules, 2010, the complaint said.