Forests make embankments sturdy

The authorities must design, build and maintain coastal embankments the right way



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the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) that Sitrang could not the polders in this region are in a relatively good condition, compared to those in the western and southwestern areas of the country. And perhaps the wind speed of the cyclone was not as fast as feared at first. If the cyclone had made its landfall in the southwestern coastal areas, it would have caused more measures such as strengthening our damage. So, we could say we were forecasting system – issue warnings somewhat lucky this time.

In order to soften the impact of any cyclone, there is no alternative to constructing embankments and polders along our coastal region. If you go and talk to the local people there, they will say only one thing: the embankments must be protected at all costs. No matter how much we frown upon the idea of embankments, the reality is that, if we want to save lives from cyclones and tidal surges and lessen the damage caused by them, we will need these embankments.

But while the embankments built along the central coastal areas of Bangladesh are quite sturdy, those in the south and southwestern areas are not in very good conditions. That is because when they were built,

While we need some time to the majority of cyclones used to understand the extent of damage hit our central coastal districts, i.e. Cyclone Sitrang has caused, I Chattogram, Noakhali, Barishal, etc. assume that the overall damage But later, the country experienced would be much less than previous more and more cyclones in its such calamities. I have learnt from southern and southwestern coastal districts. Since the trend shows that cyclones will be more frequent do much damage to the beribadhs now, we need to strengthen all the (embankments) and polders in embankments along our coasts. the affected areas. This is because Also, they should be designed, built and maintained in the right way. If you do not maintain the coastal embankments properly, they will decay over time - their heights will decrease, and they will become weak.

> After we have ensured that our embankments are in good condition, we will also have to take some soft properly, accurately and timely and ensuring afforestation along the embankments.

> Our cyclone forecasting system needs much improvement. It must be designed in a way that local

> > Afforestation along our coastlines is crucial. There are many social and economic benefits of afforestation. We have seen how the Sundarbans saved our coastal region from the devastating impacts of cyclones in **the past.** the tidal surge in their village will



The aftermath of Cyclone Sitrang in a fishing village in Chattorgram.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN people can easily understand it. be, what the wind speed in their social and economic benefits of embankments with proper planning.

The warnings must be given in particular area will be, whether the afforestation. We have seen how the The forests can lessen the chances embankments will break down, etc. Sundarbans saved our coastal region of the embankments collapsing or With all this information in hand, they can make their own decisions during a cyclone. Local people a cyclone becomes weaker as it passes cannot just benefit from knowing through the forests. The whole world what will happen in their districts or is now focusing on green solutions proper development in these three divisions. Unfortunately, we have not to these problems, and we also need been able to develop such a smart, to take this seriously. Although localised warning system as yet.

is crucial, too. There are many is green our coastlines along the

from the devastating impacts of cyclones in the past. The strength of we do not have much space left Afforestation along our coastlines for afforestation, what we can do

developing breaches.

Cyclones are inevitable for us; we cannot stop them from occurring. But if we can ensure sectors, the havoc they wreak can be significantly mitigated.

Transcribed and translated by Naznin Tithi.

The new DAP lacks a proper plan



Prof Mohammed Mahbubur Rahman all indiscriminate uses and left all University of Science and Technology

MOHAMMED MAHBUBUR RAHMAN

It is a matter of pity that, with nearly 40 years of experience in planning, I have failed to find why many people are so enthusiastic about the new Detailed Area Plan (DAP) for Dhaka. From what I understand, it is supposed to be a preparation in advance for what you should do with every inch of land in an unplanned area so that it meets the future needs. The law of the land requires that a "competent body" will prepare the (land-use) master plan for areas under its jurisdiction. That competent body prepared a three-tier master plan consisting of a structure plan (DSP) and urban area plans (UAPs) for 19 zones, and left the DAP to be prepared by local consultants – which they did. In the DSP, we evaluate the previous plan, collect the latest data on the current situation and trends, set a vision, and decide on the policies. At the UAP level, we define the strategies to adopt for implementing said policies, and in the DAP at the ground level, we define the land use and transport network. Of course, a plan is not about all things physical; it also includes how to generate employment opportunities, mitigate adverse effects of climate change, make a healthy living, etc.

Note that DAP should follow decisions already set in the DSP and adopt the strategies set in UAPs. For example, say, the DSP takes the policy that no inter-district bus should ply through the city proper. In that case, the UAP may draw a thick, bent line along the edge in the city map to suggest bypass roads. The DAP should show the proposed road alignment in proper scale with feeder roads development schemes that define a nothing for the area. It has validated and sustainable future?

future use of the unplanned areas.

Can a city as big as Dhaka have a DAP for its entire area? The answer is no. It should instead prepare detailed plans of the unplanned areas – only those that are mostly informal developments, newly claimed areas, gradually crystallising or expanding urban areas, fringe areas, and/or new satellite townships to be developed. In the new DAP, the DSP area has been divided into 18 central city sub-areas and eight expanding city sub-areas. All of these burgeoning areas should for Dhaka is Rajdhani Unnayan have their own plans of permissible Kartripakkha (Rajuk). In 1997, it land uses and alignment (right of way) for all future roads. And for the

> DAP depicts a vision, but whose vision that is and how it came to be are not clear. It is certainly not the people's. The vision of a city has to be generated with full participation of all stakeholders, the supreme of which is the citizens.

central areas (presumably planned already), if there are major changes (due to violations or evolution or other reasons), they need to be addressed in DAP, either by validating changed uses, assigning new uses or suggesting corrective measures. For example, the 65-year-old Tejgaon industrial area has evolved into a mixed-use institutional-commercial area over the years, and is destined to change further. Thus, the new DAP should have taken cognisance of the and/or exits. This is what is missing fact and suggest a plan for the future from the new DAP: actual plans or use of the area. But DAP has virtually

unpianneu iniormai uses oi the areas surrounded by the industrial area and Hatirjheel at the mercy of those occupying them.

simple and believable language.

Local people hardly understand

the meaning of cyclone caution

signals. Say, for instance, what will

local people understand from the

Distance Cautioning Signal Number

One? What they want to know is if

the particular village they live in will

be affected, whether their houses

will be damaged, what the height of

So what does the new DAP offer? The most controversial and highly contested of its policies is the idea of reducing density. As mentioned earlier, DAP is not supposed to make any policy decisions; it should only show what steps and schemes would be undertaken in order to achieve the policy targets outlined in the DSP by adopting the strategies listed in the UAP. DAP has violated this order, and overstepped its jurisdiction and scope. It often refers to a DSP 2016-35, which does not exist legally. Yet, this phantom structure plan is claimed to be guiding all decision-making at the DAP level.

DAP depicts a vision, but whose vision that is and how it came to be are not clear. It is certainly not the people's, because we definitely did not participate in this exercise. The vision of a city has to be generated with full participation of all stakeholders, the supreme of which is the citizens. The latest DAP also includes some objectives. Visions and objectives should all have been set at the upper level plan, not here. Even if we accept that we list the objectives in order to clarify the proposals' perspectives, would say DAP objectives are haphazard. Housing regeneration should have been the first objective, if at all, not the last. I fail to understand how freedom of investment could be Objective Number One, which actually absolves the government of its responsibilities.

Dhaka has consistently remained at the bottom of the liveability and pollution indices. Add to that the looming threat of climate migration and our commitment to the SDGs. The new DAP will certainly not meet almost any of the SDGs. In our existential crisis created by severe climate, bad governance, inadequate infrastructure, unabated traffic and urbanisation, and homelessness, DAP is going to be the last nail.

DAP is not the panacea of all ills. But, can we, the citizens of Dhaka, not demand a just, equitable, liveable

Government of the people's Republic of Bangladesh

Alternative Medical Care (AMC) Director General of Health Services Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.

Request for Expression of interest (EOI)

Memo no. DGHS/AMC/Procurement plan/Goth (Services)/2022-2023/2623

Date: -25/10/2022

-	Ministry	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW)		
2	Division	Health Services Division.		
	Agency	Directorate General of Health Services		
4.	Procuring Entity Name	Line Director, Alternative Medical Care (AMC), DGHS.		
5.	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka.		
6.	Expression of Interest for Selection of	SL. No.	Puckage No	Name of the Service Package
		01	AMC-2022-2023- SD-1 (Unani)	Survey on Challenges and opportunities of AMI Education and Services Unani System of Medicine Situation analysis
		02	AMC-2022-2023- SD-2 (Ayurvedic)	Survey on Challenges and opportunities of AMI Education and Services Ayurvedic System of Medicine Situation analysis.
		03	AMC-2022-2023- SD-3 (Homeographic)	Survey on Challenges and opportunities of AMI Education and Services Homeopathic System of Medicine Situation analysis
7	EOI Ref. No.	Memo no. DGHS/AMC/Procurement plan/GoB (Services)/2022-2023/2623		
8.	Date	25/10/2022.		
9,	Procurement Method	Consolting firm/research Institute will be selected in accordance with the people's Republic of Bangladesh procurement Guideline and procedures set out in the public procurement Regulation 2008 of the Government of people's Republic of Bangladesh (Followed by QCBS Method)		
10.	Budget of Source of Funds	As per ADP allocation 2022-2023 (GOB), Health Sector Development fund		
11	Project/Program Name	4 th HPNSP, Alternative Medical Cure (AMC)		
12	Development Partners	N/A.		
13.5	Project/Program Code	127-12702-224021011.		
14	EOI Closing Date & Time	08/11/2022 (Up to 1:00 PM). EOIs shall be submitted in scaled ghala envelope to Line Director, Alternative Medical Care, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212. Name of the work should be mentioned on the top of the envelop.		
15.	Brief Description of Assignment	 Survey on Challenges and opportunities of AMC Education and Services Unart System of Medicine Situation analysis. (2). Survey on Challenges and opportunities of AMC Education and Services Ayurvedic System of Medicine Situation analysis. Survey on Challenges and opportunities of AMC Education and Services Homeopathic System of Medicine Situation analysis. 		
In.	Experience, Resources & Delivery Capacity required	The applicant shall have to submit the EOI with the following documents: (1) Category of the firm: Research Organization/Survey organization/Consulting firm; (2) Brief description of the firm with proof of working in the relevant areas and of conducting Survey; (3) Updated Valid Trade license/Registration; (4) Updated income Tax certificate; (5) Updated Certificate of VAT; (6) Minimum 05 (five) Years Experience in the health related survey/research; (7) List of major clients working with in last five years with contact reference; (8) Liquid money or credit facility certificate with of Tk. 100:90 Lac (One Core) in case package AMC-2022-2023-SD-1 (Unani), Tk. 100:00 Lac (One Core) in case package AMC-2022-2023-SD-2 (Ayurvedic) & Tk. 100:00 Lac (One Core) in case package AMC-2022-2023-SD-3 (Homeopathie) (Any Liquid money or credit facility certificate issued before 28 days prior to last date of submission of EOI will not be accepted) (9) Updated Bank Solvency certificate with statement & Financial Audit Report (10) Name of the Central Key personnel with C.V. who will be involved with the assignment; (11) Relevant documents in Invor of organizational strength of the farm.		
17.	Association with other firms	Consultant firm/Research Institute may associate with other consultants to enhance its qualiti (optional).		
18.	Association with foreign firms	N/A		
19.	Name of Official inviting EOI	Dr. Md. Abu Zahez		
20	Designation of Official inviting EOI	Line Director, Alternative Medical Care (AMC)		
21	Address of Official inviting EOI	Room no-502, (Old Building) Alternative Medical Care, DGHS, Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212.		
		Tel No-02-58812134, Email- amo@ld dghs gov.bd.		
22	Contact details of Offscials inviting EOI	Tel No	3-02-58812134; Email- am	o'aéld dghs gov.bd.

Alternative Medical Care Program

DGHS, Mohakbali, Dhaka

Phone no-02-58812134