

Lahore  
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# Lahore canal turning into drain

By Muhammad Asghar

LAHORE, Dec 28: The Lahore canal is being polluted by over 50 cusecs of sewage being discharged into it by residents of over half a dozen colonies situated along its banks between Harbanspura and Fategarh bridges and near the Moghalpura irrigation workshops.

The sewage is being discharged into the canal at 10 points between the Harbanspura and Fategarh bridges and four points near the Moghalpura workshop. It emanates mainly from the houses in the colonies and villages situated near the banks and contains organic and domestic waste. It constitutes over 12 per cent of the 400 cusecs canal water when river water is released into it by the Irrigation Department. The canal degenerates into a drain with only sewage flowing into it during its closure period.

The colonies disposing of their sewage into the canal include the Canal Bank Scheme, Mehr Fayyaz Colony, Mois Town, Harbanspura and Salamatpura and Rani Piud. Disposal of sewage was no problem before the development of these colonies.

District environment officer Muhammad Tahir said dis-

charge of sewage in the canal was a serious problem. The organic matter in the sewage could cause skin and other dis-

eases among the canal bathers. No study regarding canal pollution had been carried out so far by the Environment

Protection Department, he said.

He said the canal pollution problem had come to the lime-

light when the Irrigation Department plugged all the sewage discharge points in 1999. As a result, streets in the locali-

ties adjoining the canal were flooded and the residents staged demonstrations in front of the Governor's House. The sewage discharge outlets were opened and the Water and Sanitation Agency was directed to prepare a scheme for the sewage disposal.

Wasa managing director Inam Qadir said the agency had already prepared a scheme and got it approved from the Planning and Development Department. It now awaited provision of Rs63 million by the City District Government for the construction of drains and the sewerage system for the disposal of the sewage being discharged into the canal. Work on the project would start within a month after the provision of funds and completed during the next one year and a half.

The scheme envisages laying of 13,600-foot long one-foot to five-foot diameter sewer lines and construction of 14,900-foot long three-foot deep drains for the disposal of the sullage water emanating from the Canal Bank Scheme to Salamatpura Morr on the GT Road and its disposal into the Pakistan Mint drain by installing lift pumps.

