*Chittagong

Monsoon brings woes

An hour-long shower is enough to trigger flash floods, water-logging in city

NURUL ALAM

Flash floods and water-logging have become synonymous with monsoon for the residents of the

The drainage system is so poor that even an hour-long shower is enough to trigger flash floods in low-lying areas, paralysing normal life for hours together.

But the authorities concerned remained indifferent to the woes of the people

With the advent of every rainy season, the residents become worried about how to survive the

onslaught of floods

Flash floods and waterlogging gripped most of the lowlying areas here disrupting traffic movement after a heavy downpour on June 7.

Thousands of people were stranded at different points of the city and hundreds of vehicles stuck up when over three-foot rainwater inundated roads in the low-lying

The business people stayed indoors as Agrabad VIP Road was submerged under rainwater. The worst-hit areas due to the

flash flood and water-logging are Chawkbazar, Chaktai Canal, Bakalia, DC Road, Ghasiapara, Muradpur, Bahaddarhat,

Kapashgola, Ghatforhadbeg, Khatunganj, Asadganj, Rajakali, Badurtola, Panchlaish Residential Area, Nasirabad, Dewan Bazar Masterpool, Bahubazar, Halishahar, Port

Connecting Road, Reazuddin

Bazar and Rahamatganj, resi-

dents said.

Unplanned constructions and faulty drainage system had caused the flash flood and water-logging in the port city, Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) sources said.

Even some buildings were constructed over the drains in the city obstructing the

flow of rainwater. It caused waterlogging during rainy season, sources added

The drains were getting silted with the beginning of rainy season as the sands were flowing down following hill cutting in the port city, Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) sources said.

The indiscriminate hill cutting in Chittagong created the problem of siltation, the sources added.

The CCC needs conservancy workers to remove sands from the drains regularly to allow the passage of rainwater, sources said.



Katalgonj-Shulok Bahar intersection goes under water following a downpour. The photo was taken on Sunday noon.



Traffic tailback at Bahadderhat intersection.

Traffic jam at Bahaddarhat

MOHIT UL ALAM

The traffic jam at Bahaddarhat is a permanent feature and a great worry for the city authorities.

Road systems in a city operate ike blood vessels. When the formation of bad cholesterol puffs up arteries and veins, the passage for the blood flow gets narrowed down and the liquid traffic to and from the heart is blocked. In the road map the increased volume of traffic may be considered as the bad cholesterol, which over the city.

The Bahaddarhat intersection has proved to be the biggest bottleneck in the city. It is a source of great frustration for all kinds of vehicles and passengers. because passage through it is sometimes delayed by two hours at a time.

Twenty minutes to half an hour jam is almost a routine at Bahaddarhat at any time of the day. The residents of Chandgaon, Bahaddarhat, Bakalia and Farider Para are the unfortunate victims of this jam. Bahaddarhat provides the only passage for them to connect with the city to the west.

And they fret, and out of frustration they are now learning to devise their work routine in such a way so as to avoid the high rush. So a mother will be seen taking her son to school almost at dawn iust to be in time, whereas the before eight in the morning. Like the mother every resident in the vicinity of Bahaddarhat is making some kind of sacrifice everyday.

Though the jam is to be seen at any time of the day, it becomes most acute in the afternoon and evening when buses, maxis, tempos, taxis and cars carry

homebound passengers returning from work, and when lorries and trucks and buses from the opposite end try to enter the city for the night.

The residents of the aforesaid areas do also contribute to the jam as they come out in their respective vehicles to join weddings and parties at several city centres in the evening. This jamming of the traffic at

Bahaddarhat has been prevailing since long, since, as it is said in the Bible, the year before the flood. But nowhere does anybody em to give a fig about it. Is it th traffic authority, the City Corporation, the CDA, the Roads and Highways, the Ministry of Communications, or the newspaper that one should go to complain?

Whoever is the direct authority, the solution of the problem seems to be simpler than it looks.

Enough land on both sides of the carpeted old road is left unused obviously as part of the widening plan of the road

So the two-lane road that has started from Barek Building about ten kilometers north and has inexplicably stopped at Bahaddarhat should now be extended further down to the south up to Kalurghat. That is, the old road from Bahaddarhat to Kalurghat should be built twolane, and that will largely solve the problem.

discipline the Bahaddarhat Bus Terminal, which is responsible for causing all the jam. And, all the authorities con-

cerned should coordinate to remove the bottleneck at Bahaddarhat.

theweekthatwas

Tk. 4000 crore for commercial capital demanded

Greater Chittagong Development Action Committee on Sunday in a memorandum to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia demanded allocation of Tk 4,000 crore in the next budget for implementation of the plan for commercial capital.

The memorandum was handed over to the Deputy Commissioner, Chittagong.

In its memorandum the committee said implementation of the cabinet division approved priority-based 16 plans was necessary for developing infrastructure of the commercial capital. The allocation was needed for this, it said.

Campaign on Thalassemia in October

Thalassemia Service Centre Bangladesh (TSCB) and Shiliguri Thalasemia Society (STC) of India would launch an awareness campaign on Thalassemia.

It was decided at a meeting between TSCB and STC at Nandon Kanon here on Friday. The STC General Secretary Shib Shankar Banik was present in the meeting.

The awareness campaign titled, "From the Himalayas to the Sea" would be launched in October, Bhutan, Nepal, India, and Bangladesh would participate in the campaign. It would start from India and end in Bangladesh. A delegation of Shiliguri Thalassemia Society would join the campaign in a motorcade. A group of physicians would organise medical camps at different places.

TSCB president Helal Uddin Chowdhury presided over the meeting.

Kindergarten Assoc Scholarship

The scholarship awarding ceremony of Chittagong Kindergarten Association was held at the Muslim Institute auditorium on Friday.

While addressing the ceremony as the chief quest Commerce Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury emphasised on English education and computer-based education to face challenges of globalisation.

The minister later gave away crests and certificates among the students. Association chairperson Noor Jahan Begum presided.

Anti-smoking programme begins

Adhunik, an anti-smoking organisation, began a seven-day programme on the University of Science and Technology, Chittagong (USTC) campus here on June 7.

USTC Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr. Shahadat Hossain inaugurated the programme organised by Adhunik USTC unit.

Rajashree enthrals audience



Rajashree, a local artiste, enthrals audience at the annual prize giving ceremony and cultural programme of Lever **Brothers** (BD) Ltd

recently.

The annual prize giving ceremony and cultural programme of Lever Brothers Sports and Recreation Club was held at the Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) auditorium here on Friday.

Sanjib Meheta, the Chairman and Managing Director of Lever Brothers (BD) Ltd, addressed the ceremony as the chief guest.

Meheta said Lever Brothers won confidence of consumers through producing and marketing world-class products keeping pace with the changing demand. Club president Md. Hasan Zafar Chowdhury chaired the function while Vice President Zulfiqar Ahmed and General Secretary Shafiul Azam spoke. Coordinator Saleh U Ahmed made the address of welcome.

A circumcision programme for distressed children was held on the inaugural day.

Chittagong Women Entrepreneurs' recommendations

Chittagong Women Entrepreneurs on Saturday placed a 9-point recommendation demanding special privileges for women entrepreneurs in the upcoming budget. The recommendations include minimum duty on raw materials, framing an easier set of rules in export sector, cash subsidy for export. priority in agriculture and light industry

Shishu Hospital executives

A 21-member Executive Committee of the Chittagong Maa O Shishu Hospital was elected here on Friday.

Chowdhury were elected president and general secretary uncontested. Other office-bearers are Dr. Anjuman Ara Islam, Professor Dr. Nurunnabi and Shahjada Fazlul Ali Khan, vice-presidents; Engineer

Rashid Ahmed Chowdhury, joint secretary

and SM Morshed Hossain, finance secretary.

ASM Fazlul Karim and Dr. Khurshid Jamil

Alumni under

CUET demanded

Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (CUET) Alumni Association demanded dissolution of the BIT, Chittagong Alumni Association The CUET Alumni Association also staged sitin at local press club on Friday to realise its

The Association leaders at a rally during the sit-in said a vested quarter was up to hold the alumni under the BIT to tarnish image of the

Abul Fazal **Birth Cente**nary Celebration **Committee** formed

A 1001-member Abul Fazal Birth Centenary Celebration Committee was formed here on

The committee was formed at a meeting on the eve of 100th birth anniversary of litterateur Abul Fazal. Elderly revolutionist Binod Bihari Chowdhury chaired the meeting while Abul Fazal Memorial Trust president Dr. Anisuzzaman was special quest. The celebration committee was formed with Dr. Anisuzzaman as president, Dr. Anupam Sen as acting president and Professor Mahbubul Haq as its general secretary.

Flightschedule



Arrival

9.30am (Dhaka)

5.30am (Dhaka)

6.20am (Sylhet)

9pm (Chandpur)

7.20pm (Sylhet)

9.15pm (Dhaka)

12 noon (Dhaka)

7.05am (Dhaka)

11am (Sylhet)

2pm (Dhaka)

effective from March 30 to October 25

Flight No. **Departure**

08.45am (Chittagong) BG 022 Monday & Thursday

BG 028 09.15am (Chittagong)

10.00am (Dhaka) Thursday & Friday

Trains

(Sunday off)

Jalalabad

Rajshahi

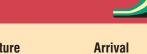
Sagorika

Sylhet

Karnaphuli

Subarna (Friday off)

(Jagonnathgonj Ghat)



Inter-city **Departure**

Turna Nishitha 11pm(Chittagong) Udayan (Saturday off) 9pm (Chittagong) Meghna 5pm (Chittagong) Mohanagar Probhati 8.10am(Chittagong) Paharika (Friday off) 10.15am(Chittagong Mohanagar Godhuli 3pm (Chittagong)

7am(Chittagong)

Mail Express Chittagong Mail 10.30pm(Chittagong) 10.30pm(Chittagong)

12 noon(Chittagong)

2.10pm(Chittagong)

8.50pm (Chandpur) 11.10am (Chittagong) 10.25pm (Dhaka)

Local trains

9am (Chittagong)

8.35pm (Sylhet)

Chandpur (Chandpur)

7am (Chittagong)

4.55 pm