

Cry for water as crisis tightens grip

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Water crisis has gripped many city areas despite the authorities assurance to maintain smooth supply during the month of Ramadan.

Besides, residents of some areas complained of contaminated water supply.

People of Badda Kuril on Thursday brought out a procession protesting contamination of water. They alleged that diarrhoea and skin diseases are spreading fast in the area.

Similar complaints came from Madhubagh and Arman Khan Road of West Dhanmondi. Many tenants are leaving the area because of contamination and water crisis.

In the last few days there were reports of water crisis in Paribagh, Purana Paltan, Shantinagar, Mugda, Manda, Basaboo, Sabujkanon, Mirpur, Pirebagh, Ahmednagar and Chankharpool, Bangsal, Nazirabazar, Alinakir Deuri, Kasaituli, Imamganj, Urdu Road, Nababganj and Becharam Deuri in Old Dhaka.

Residents of Paribagh said they have been facing water crisis for the last three months. Local people have appealed to the Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) to inter-connect the Paribagh area with the Syedabad project's supply line passing through Hatirpool Bazar.

The water crisis in Mirpur Paikpara is going on for over a year and the authorities have turned a deaf ear to their problems.

About three lakh reside in the area's mosque point, Chandrima Road, Chhapakhana crossing and Basiruddin Road where water crisis has become a routine affair.

Crisis is acute at mosque point and

Crisis is so acute in some areas that the residents go to their relatives' house to take bath or wash clothes. And contamination has added to some others' miseries

Chandrima Road where people sometimes do not get water for 15 days at a stretch. Residents go to other areas or their relatives' houses to take bath or

wash clothes.

Wasa water vans have stopped visiting the area. But the meter readers supply inflated estimated bills regularly, it is alleged.

There is only one water pump for the huge member of residents and Wasa is now planning to set up another pump in the area. Officials who visited there on Tuesday said they will try to install the pump during the month of Ramadan.

In Syampur's Dania area similar water crisis has been persisting for a long time.

There are two pumps for about four lakh people of Dania, Dolipar, Sarai, Kabirabagh, Kutubkhali, Rasulpur and Nasiruddin Road.

But most of the time the pump is not run on the plea of power failure, it is alleged. Earlier, Wasa formed seven vigilance teams to work round the clock to ensure smooth supply of water during Ramadan.

Army was deployed at strategic points so that citizens do not face acute water shortage. However, the new Wasa Managing Director, A N H Akhter Hossain, told this correspondent that despite all effort, the water supply may prove inadequate as Wasa only supplies water to two lakh houses of the city.

A recent study shows that the city has 3.6 lakh houses.

He also said that the authorities were taking steps to install seven new deep tube wells and replace another seven malfunctioning ones on urgent basis.



Kuril residents took to the streets last Thursday demanding adequate supply of water.

Malls sans parking lots in Dhanmondi

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Most shopping malls on the Satmasjid Road and Dhanmondi areas do not have parking facilities and the space provided by some of them is not sufficient for numerous vehicles that stop by.

Satmasjid Road is home to almost a dozen shopping complexes and diagnostic centres. Some say they do not have parking space for customers. Others claim they have extra space for parking on separate land, and some say they have taken permission from Dhaka City Corporation

(DCC) to use the road in front of the malls for parking.

The shopping malls are often blamed for traffic jams on roads. It is mandatory for the roadside complexes to have basement or any other parking facility for their employees, clients and customers. Any deviation from this norm is a violation of government rules.

A well-known diagnostic centre is on Dhanmondi Road, just 100 yards from the Mirpur and Green Road intersection. The common scene in front of the centre is that some 30 to 40 motorised vehicles are parked on the road creating severe traffic congestion.

The centre has its own basement-parking space for the doctors and physicians, but not for their customers. The space can accommodate only 12 cars, whereas more than 25 doctors come to the diagnostic centre a day, said the security guard at the centre. Every day, hundreds of customers come to the centre and park their cars on the road.

But the engineer working for the centre said it has a capacity of 15 cars, and some 20 doctors come in cars. He said that although the centre has extra space for parking in a separate spot, customers do not want to park their vehicles there.

Another big diagnostic centre has five branches and laboratories and doctors' chambers in different spots by the side of the road. Most of the centres are housed in rented premises, which does not have adequate parking space.

Two shopping complexes just before the Rifles Square do not have any parking facility. Dhanmondi is occupied by many schools, private universities and coaching centres. Most of these schools do not have any parking space of their own. So, the area becomes almost standstill at certain times. Road nos. 8, 9 and 12 are cramped with private schools.

Since the elementary level schools start at eight in the morning, the area becomes chaotic 30 minutes before the commencement and goes on till half past eight am. Again the chaos starts between one o'clock and half past two, the time school is over.

A few streets are turned one-way for these institutions. Since the bridges are the crossroads in the area, these become most chaotic.

Vehicles parked in front of these institutions, shopping complexes and diagnostic centres are one of the major reasons for traffic jam on Satmasjid Road, an on-duty traffic policeman said.



Cars park on both sides of Dhanmondi Road no. 14 for lack of a designated parking space in the area.

Clearing open-air garbage from city streets

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) is going to launch a pilot programme to solve the problem of open-air garbage on the streets, which is one of the main reasons of pollution in the city.

The Chief Conservatory Officer of DCC Commander Sohel Faruque said this at a seminar on Thursday.

The seminar was arranged by Dhanmondi Paribesh Uন্নয়ন Jote with a view to improve the Solid Waste Management (SWM) situation of Dhanmondi Ward 49.

Faruque also said that the pilot project could start with Ward 49 as the community had showed definite commitment to improve the solid waste management system.

Waste Concern, an NGO that deals with SWM, has proposed a new model for solid waste management which it believes would be effective in Dhanmondi residential area.

"But the community has to synchronise between the time of house to house waste collection and DCC's waste collection system," said Iftekhar Enayattullah, director of Waste Concern.

DCC's waste collection system and time is not harmonised with the community's waste collection and disposal mechanism. As a result, solid waste is found lying inside or outside the garbage containers for a very long time.

Waste Concern has proposed several measures to effectively manage solid waste of the area, some of which are as follows:

1) The organic and inorganic waste should be segregated from the houses and the garbage would be transferred to the trucks directly from the vans responsible for collecting household garbage of Ward 49.

2) Solid waste collection system should promote segregation of wastes so that it is reduced on site and a minimum amount of it goes to the landfill site.

3) The garbage containers and dustbins have to be removed from the area.

4) Solid wastes will be disposed directly into the DCC waste collection trucks. The trucks will wait at suitable locations of the area at a fixed time. Community organisations or other local bodies will be responsible for house to house waste collection and they will directly dispose off the collected garbage in the trucks.

5) Waste collection containers should be easy to handle so that transfer of wastes from the containers to the DCC trucks becomes easy.

6) Waste should be transferred from rickshaw-vans to municipality trucks from strategically located transfer stations within the community.

7) If land is available waste should be disposed off within the community.

"The main problem is public awareness and we have to distribute leaflets and take other measures to make the local familiar with the new type of solid waste management system," said the commissioner of the Ward 49 Abul Khair Bablu.

Medical waste also came up for discussion.

The chief conservatory officer assured that this problem will be solved soon as PRISM Bangladesh (Project in Agriculture, Rural Industry, Science and Medicine) is selected to handle the medical waste of the city as they are doing it in Khulna city. An acre of land has been allocated for medical waste disposal at Matuail. The project would be partly funded by World Health Organisation (WHO).

useful telephone numbers

COURIER SERVICES

International
Air Borne Express- 9561371, 9561372, 9550724
Air Couriers Int'l (BD) Ltd.- 8815970
Aramex International Courier- 9558003, 9559582, 9565075
Airspeed Express- 9563494
Asian Courier Services Ltd.- 8313543
Baishakhi Courier Service- 9558606
Banladesh Express Co. Ltd.- 9565114
Bangladesh Courier Service- 9563989
Bengal Express- 9560642, 9552666
Bangladesh Int'l Courier- 953636
Continental Service Ltd.- 9552948, 9558425
DHL Worldwide Express- 9881703-7, 9886305-9, 9882057
Enem Express- 9330699
Fedex Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.- 9565114
Modhuban Courier Service-

9550884
Overseas Courier Service- 9352431, 8321169
Pacific Courier- 9568446
Reliance Express Service- 9558515, 7110249
Sky International service- 9660442
Skynet world Wide Express- 9558062, 9560258, 7114787, 7113184
TNT Express- 9566662, 9558239, 8618155
Union Courier Service- 9341722
United Parcel Service Air alliance Ltd.- 8826429, 8810223

National
Asian Courier Service Ltd.- 8313543
BAE- 9884851
Central Courier Service- 9881118
Confidence Courier Service Ltd.- 9567036
Chisty Courier- 7110177-9, 7100842-4
Cosmopol Services- 9552793, 9557975

Dhaka Courier Services- 7236222
Dolphin Courier- 9558802
Dreamland Courier Service- 9550326, 9566975
Pioneer Courier Services- 9561727, 9569759
Probashi Courier Services- 9346359
Rainbow Express Parcel Services Ltd.- 8322773, 8315703
Reliance Express Services- 9558515, 7110249
Sundarban Courier Services- 9551984, 9556189, 9551656
Sunrise Courier Services- 9568751

TIPS
Do you know according to Dhaka City Corporation, you must deposit your waste at the collection site between 4pm and 10pm

LIBRARY & INFO-

Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers

Central Public Library- 8626001-4,
Shishu Academy- 9564128
Shilpakala Academy- 8614673
Bangla Academy- 8619550
Islamic Foundation- 9550280, 9556407
Nazrul Institute- 9114602
Ford Foundation- 8116133
Alliance Francaise- 8611557
British Council- 8618867-8, 8618905-7
Community Development Library- 8113769, 8113604
Goethe Institute Int'l- Dhaka- 9126525-6
Indian Information Centre & Cultural Library- 8615096
The Russian Cultural Centre- 9116314, 9118531, 9118314
Drik Photo Gallery- 9120125, 8112954, 8123412

OUTING

Museum and Zoo
National Museum- 8619396-9
Open: 10 am 5 pm, Friday 3 pm- 8 pm, Thursday closed
Muktijuddha Jadughar- 9559091
Open: 10:30 am 6:30 pm, Sunday Closed
Bangabandhu Smiti Jadughar- 8110046
Open: 10 am 5 pm, Wednesday closed
Ahsan Manzil
Open: 10 am 5 pm, Friday: 3 pm - 7 pm, Thursday Closed
Shishu Jadughar- 9666466
Open: 10 am- 6 pm, Sunday Closed
Sonargoan Jadugha

CITY BUS ROUTE

Bus No.	Route	Starts from
1	Gulistan-Shahabagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 10, 11, 12	Golap Shah Mazar
2	Gulistan-Shahabagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 1, 2	Phoolbaria bus station
3	Gulistan-Shahabagh-Farmgate-Mahakhali-Airport-Azampur	Phoolbaria bus station
4	Shyampur-Motijheel-Shahabagh-Farmgate-Airport-Tongi	Shyampur
5	Sayedabad-Kamalapur-Motijheel-Airport-Joydebpur-Gazipur	Sayedabad
6 A	Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Shahabagh-Farmgate-Gulistan 1, 2	Kamalapur
6 B	Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 1, 2	Kamalapur
6 C	Motijheel Shapla chattrar- Malibagh- Farmgate- Gulshan 2	Motijheel Shaplachattrar
7	Sadarghat-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 2	Sadarghat
8	Chittagong-Motijheel-Shahabagh-Farmgate-Asad Gate-Kalyanpur-Gabtolli	Chittagong Road
9	Demra Rani mahal-Motijheel-Kalbagan-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 10, 11, 12	Demra Ranimahall
10	Sadarghat-Gulistan-Kakrail-Malibagh-Rampura-Biwa Road-Tongi Bridge	Sadarghat
11	Sayedabad-Motijheel-Fakirapool-Maghbazar-Mohakhali-Tongi Bridge	Sayedabad
11/A	Sayedabad-Khilgoan-Malibagh-Rampura-Airport-Tongi Bridge	Syedabad
12	Shanir Akhra-Shahabagh-Farmgate-Asadgate-Mohammadpur	Shanir Akhra
13	Motijheel-Shahabagh-New Market-Jhigatola-Shangkar-Mohammedpur	Motijheel
14	Signboard -Motijheel-Shahabagh-New Market-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 12	Signboard (Chittagong Road)
15	Chittagong Road-Motijheel-Shahabagh-Farmgate-Mirpur 12	Chittagong Road
24	Gulistan-Maghbazar-Mohakhali-Airport-Uttara-Bipile	Gulistan