

**BEIJING SAYS  
TROOPS DISENGAGED  
ON CHINA-INDIA  
BORDER**  
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# The Daily Star

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## DHAKA WASA'S LEGACY

# A decade of failure, inefficiency

*Safe water for all remains a far cry; no solution to waterlogging despite spending hundreds of crores of taka*

HELEMUL ALAM

On September 26, 2007, The Daily Star ran a report with a headline "Living with dirty, stinky wasa water", highlighting the innumerable sufferings of Dhaka city dwellers.

Almost 13 years have passed since then and the Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) has taken up many projects and spent hundreds of crores under a managing director who has been running the show for 11 long years.

But many Dhaka dwellers are still living with dirty and stinky water, facing acute shortage of drinking water, being deprived of access to the sewerage network and encountering the same old waterlogging problems.

Contacted on Sunday, a Dhaka Wasa official working in their call centre said they received complaints about foul-smelling water from Satish Sarkar Road in Ganderia,

English Road and Rahmatpur of Jatrabari. "We also received complaints about leakage from Subash Bose Avenue, Mitford Road and Nawabpur Road in Old Dhaka yesterday [Saturday]," said the official.

Residents of Nakhhalpara, Hemonto Das Road of Sutrapur and South Kutub Khali also complained of getting no water, he added.

There are, however, more areas in the long list of suffering subscribers.

Residents of East Jurain, Donia, Shyampur, West Jurain, North Jurain and Muradpur, parts of Dhupkhola, English Road, Rahmatpur of Jatrabari, parts of Shanir Akhra and some houses in Shewrapara also told The Daily Star that they were getting putrid water from the Wasa supply line.

Mizanur Rahman, a resident of Jurain's Mistir Dokan area, said many of around two lakh residents of East Jurain are facing

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**BANGLADESH  
UPDATE**



2,960

New cases in 24hrs



2,29,185

Total cases



3,000

Deaths



1,27,414

Recoveries

**GLOBAL  
UPDATE**



659,015

Deaths



16,733,760

Total cases



## Keep up progress in agriculture for food security

Says PM

UNB, Dhaka

Putting emphasis on keeping up Bangladesh's progress in the agriculture sector, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said the government has been providing all kinds of assistance for ensuring food security amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

"This is true that coronavirus is pushing us back a lot. Even then, we will have to

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2 YRS AFTER MOVEMENT

## Roads just as risky as before

*New law, taskforce not being able to bring discipline in the sector due to resistance from transport associations*

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

In the last two years after the road safety movement, the enactment of a tougher road transport act and the formation of a taskforce to curb road crashes have been the most talked about issues in the transport sector.

Several committees were formed and a series of meetings were held to make the law effective and the taskforce functional.

Ministers and high officials made lofty promises about the law on the one hand, while the transport associations doubled down on their efforts to prevent the implementation of the law on the other.

And as the country observes the second anniversary of the unprecedented movement, road users and experts find the law and the

taskforce did not bear fruit as the roads have remained as dangerous as it was.

"Indiscipline in the transport sector is the main reason behind the road crashes. So the system has to be reformed," said Prof Shamsul Hoque, adding that no improvement has been made in bringing discipline to the sector.

The eminent transport expert came up with these remarks when asked to evaluate the current situation of the sector.

Two students of Shaheed Ramiz Uddin Cantonment College were killed and nine others were injured on July 29, 2018, following a mad race between two buses.

Thousands of students took to the streets seeking justice for the killing and demanding safe roads.

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## No end to their trauma in sight

*Students accused of vandalism during road safety demo suffer as investigation drags on*

MUNTAKIM SAAD

Like any other teenage student, Tarek Aziz would attend classes or hang out with friends on the campus. He would also go to a movie or play cricket or football in his spare time.

But his world turned upside down two years ago.

After the student of Dhaka Polytechnic Institute was accused in nine cases on charges of vandalism and spreading rumour over the 2018 Road Safety Movement, he languished in jail for 10 long months.

After he came out on bail, he had to spend a significant amount of his time and energy for court appearances; he needed to turn up before court for attending hearing at least nine times every month before the Covid-19 pandemic.

Going through this trauma, he now hardly finds it possible to concentrate on studies or live the life as he used to.

Besides, his family has been devastated, arranging money to continue the legal battle. Tarek's father Khorsheed

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## 3,000 dead and counting

*Bangladesh now 16th worst hit country in the world*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of deaths from Covid-19 infection in the country reached the grim milestone of 3,000 yesterday, with 35 new deaths.

The depressing milestone coincided with another bad news of becoming the 16th most infected countries of the world in terms of coronavirus positive cases.

Turkey, which has been detecting below 1,000 cases a day in the last couple of days, used to be the 16th most infected countries with 2,27,019 positive cases till Monday.

On Monday, the total number of Covid-19 cases in Bangladesh was 2,26,225. Yesterday, the country detected another 2,960 cases, taking the figure of positive cases so far to 2,29,185, according to worldometers.info.

Meanwhile, the World Health Organisation in its Covid-19 situation report on Bangladesh published on Monday said the number of tests has been

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**A part of the approach road to Shimulia Ferry Ghat-3 being devoured by the mighty Padma in Mawa of Munshiganj. Ferry services on Shimulia-Kathalbari route was disrupted yesterday as the authorities had to suspend operation of ro-ro ferries following the erosion.**

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## Swollen rivers wreak havoc

*Many dams, a major ferry terminal damaged*

STAR REPORT

Floodwater has destroyed embankments in many areas, inundating villages and causing people immense sufferings.

In Faridpur, a 50-metre portion of the 4-kilometre long district town protection dam was washed away by floodwater at Beelgozaria area under Sadar upazila, as of yesterday.

Vast swathes of land and houses were submerged.

Earlier on July 19, floodwaters broke 22-metre of the dam on the same spot, inundating around 50 houses.

Officials of the local Water Development Board (WDB) tried to repair the dam temporarily by dumping sand-filled geo-textile bags.

But a portion of temporary repair was breached yesterday.

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## Hajj begins today

AFP, Makkah

Pilgrims were quarantined in the Muslim holy city of Makkah yesterday ahead of the dramatically downsized hajj as Saudi authorities strive to prevent a coronavirus outbreak during the pilgrimage.

Up to 10,000 people already residing in the kingdom will participate in the annual ritual starting today, according to hajj officials, a tiny fraction of the 2.5 million international pilgrims that attended last year.

Those selected to take part in this year's hajj were subject to temperature checks and placed in quarantine as they began trickling into Makkah at the weekend.

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