

National



Water remains stagnant in many parts of the divisional town of Sylhet, even after a moderate rainfall due to faulty drainage system. Photo shows the submerged (left) Kalighat Road in front of Government High -Star photo by Md Iqbal Siddique

Faulty drainage causes people's sufferings

From Aminul Islam

MYMENSINGH, Aug 18: Because of lack of proper drainage system and poor condition of roads, sufferings of the town dwellers go beyond description during the ongoing rainy season.

Most important roads of the district town are flooded after slight or moderate rainfall. It takes a remarkable time to recede the rain water the pitiable condition of Machhhu bazar, Boro bazar, Ganginarpur Road, Durgabari, Station Road, Aampatti, Swadeshi Bazaar Road become bad to worse when mud and garbages are mixed after slight rainfall. The area wears a very pitiable look when the workers lift sewerage and pile up it for the days together and after rainfall it is spread on the roads and footpaths creating a sufferings to the people. Due to lack of proper cover on the sewers, the town dwellers experience sewerages every moment when they use such roads.

As most of the roads are low, rain waters enter into the business establishments carrying garbages. After heavy rainfall, Ganginarpur, Durgabari and Station Road area look like a flood hit area.

Machhu bazar, the old business centre of the town remains always dirty vegetables market, fish market and other daily

essentials are sold here, but garbage of the area is not cleaned up regularly properly, alleged some businessmen. They also told The Daily Star that it is a

chronic problem and the authorities concerned are totally indifferent to the problem. Conditions of other 'kutcha bazaars' are same, but no steps are taken as yet.

Over and above, hundreds of ponds throughout the district have been filled in by real estate agencies for residential purposes both in urban and rural areas. Thus heavy damages have been done to the cultivation of fish.

The big rivers namely the Bakkhali, the Matamuhuri and the Naaf have also gone dry and innumerable shoals have already appeared which, in turn, have also caused damage to fish cultivation.

The ultimate result is that the cultivation of fish has been almost rendered impossible due to the siltation of traditional rivers, beels, canals and ponds and hence severe scarcity of fish has been noticed everywhere.

Furthermore, extra water is not coming down from the hilly areas and have culminated in massive siltation of all big and small sources of water and thus fish cultivation has been ren-

dered virtually impossible.

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Thus there is no fish in the rural markets. Traditional supply

of protein is no more here and this calls for immediate arrangements for huge and large-scale cultivation of fish by creating new sources of water and its preservation.

Alternative measures are also needed like large-scale marketing of sea fish and at the same time, production of quick growing fish of foreign origin and also adoption of drastic measures against fishing of immature fishes.

Disappearance of fish from the market has, in turn, caused massive unemployment of fishermen, many of whom are being compelled to opt for alternative profession or migration to big cities.

Barister Islam said after the independence of the country, the gross violation of human rights was committed on August 15 in

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