

# Where monsoon rains bring miseries

Five lakh suffer for years because of waterlogging in DND dam area

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Waterlogging triggered by monsoon rains in much of Dhaka-Narayanganj-Demra (DND) embankment area has caused much difficulty to five lakh people for the last 20 years because of the inability to pump rainwater out.

The construction of a dam began in 1962 as an irrigation project, but a backwash was seen as urban expansion took over the project.

As most DND inhabitants belong to the low-income generating sector, they chose to live in this area, knowing well that there is no proper drainage and sewerage system.

The Water Development Board (WDB), the authority maintaining the dam, currently uses four pumps to drain water into the DND lake, which are not

sufficient to solve the problem.

"The DND embankment area turned residential about 20 years back. Politicians have assured us of a solution many times and we have complained to the authorities about the situation we face year in and year out during the rains," said Motaleb Sarker, resident of Matuail.

"Local MP Salauddin Ahmed of the Dhaka-4 constituency promised to solve this problem by building a drainage and sewerage system during his election campaign," he added.

The areas badly affected by logged rainwater are Matuail, Kajla, Dhonia, Konapara, Basherpul, Dogair, Hajinagar, Tengra, Boxnagar in Demra and Shanarpar, Bagmara, Nemaikashari, Jalkuri and other parts of Narayanganj of the DND embankment.

"The logging of rainwater has

to be stopped as our day-to-day activities are hampered. Sometimes the water is mixed with waste and the dirty water gives a bad odour as well," said Faridul Islam, a shopkeeper in Konapara.

"We cannot get out of home by rickshaw. The water on the main roads rises up to two to three feet. Many homes have gone under water -- a recent development of waterlogging," said Zahid Hossain, student of Dania College.

"We are not responsible for the lack of a drainage system or to pump out the water," said Executive Engineer Yunus Ali of Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA). "The authority is the WDB," he added.

"I am trying to help residents of DND embankment area with my involvement," said lawmaker Salauddin Ahmed. "A project to

build a drainage and sewerage system in the area soon is underway," he added.

"Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has made a commitment to develop the area and the good governance committee of PM's Office has already approved the project proposal and referred to the local government and rural development (LGRD) ministry to take initiatives in this regard," he added.

WDB Engineer Mujibur Rahman said: "The dam is proposed only for irrigation purposes. Now the area has turned residential. Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) or WASA should undertake to solve the problem."

"Every year we do some development work as part of routine repair. We have not been informed about any project to build a drainage and sewerage system in the area," the official said.



Waterlogged Rayer Bazar in the DND dam area.

# Karwan Bazar underpass waterlogged, stinky

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Waterlogging in the Karwan Bazar underpass has become an apparent breeding ground for aedes mosquitoes responsible for dengue, while the Dhaka mayor appears on television almost 'everyday' calling citizens to wake up to the deadly disease.

Stagnated water in the much-used underpass has been a common sight over the months. Water leaks into the underpass amid a heavy shower. As there is no outlet, the water in turn stagnates.

Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka in a recent advertisement has been asking city dwellers to be aware of dengue and keep places free from stagnant water. Experts say aedes larvae breed high in stagnant water, especially around homes.

"Karwan Bazar underpass has been in this state for last two months," Nilufar Jahan, a university student, said of the waterlogged underpass. "I am afraid it may become a dengue-infected place," she added.

To avoid wading through dirty water, she tried crossing the road full of speeding traffic -- a risk she takes breaking traffic laws.

Entomologists said dirty water is not a breeding place for aedes. "Stagnant water at Karwan Bazar underpass can spread bad smell and diseases other than dengue," said an entomologist at Dhaka City Corporation (DCC).

Hospital sources say dengue has

staged a comeback with the arrival of monsoon, infecting hundreds of people. Officials at the control room of the health directorate said at least 195 people died and another 14,089 were infected with the dengue virus until 2002.

Experts warned that the risk of

dengue fever is high this year.

Stagnant rainwater in the walkway irks commuters because of the bad smell it produces.

"Whenever I go through the underpass I become sick and want to bring out everything I had had," said Saiful Alam who goes to

the corporation's double standard

Karwan Bazar kitchen market almost everyday for daily needs.

"Stagnant water provides a breeding ground for the aedes mosquito and the DCC has asked us to be aware of it. But now they have changed their stand. I think this is the corporation's double standard

policy," he added.

Contacted, DCC officials said the underpass gets waterlogged during the monsoons, as the only water-pump has been inoperative for almost a year.

The DCC officials said the maintenance of Karwan Bazar underpass has been handed over to Dhaka Urban Transport Project (DUTP) last year a claim DUTP brushed aside.

DUTP and DCC officials, talking to Star City, claimed ownership of the walkway but shifted the maintenance responsibility to each other.

Karwan Bazar underpass, though poorly maintained, is the only easy crossing point on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue and much used by pedestrians. The other two are in Gulistan and Gabtoli.

The DCC constructed the walkway almost 14 years back at a cost of around Tk 60 lakh. The DCC zone office-6 is responsible for its maintenance.

An official of zone-6, said the underpass is technically faulty and that is why water drips from the surface when it rains.

To develop the situation, a committee, which exists only on paper, was formed by the DCC two years back, but no headway has been made to date.

Star City published a report on this run-down underpass on June 7, but no change has been seen since.



Stagnant water at Karwan Bazar underpass

# Floods blamed for another round of price like

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Floods and inclement weather have pushed up prices of essentials in the city.

Prices of vegetables, eggs, fish and meat will go up further in the coming weeks because of floods, feared traders at the kitchen markets.

They attributed the price hike to the disruption in the chain of supply from flood-hit districts. Floods have already gripped more than 35 districts in the last two weeks.

But dishonest traders take advantage of the situation by increasing prices of many items like soybean oil, pulses, sugar and rice.

During a survey of vegetable prices at the kitchen markets at New Market, Hatirpool, Shantinagar and Karwan Bazar yesterday it was found that prices of most items marked rise despite adequate supply.

Patol was selling at Tk 16 a kilogram rising from Tk 10-12 last week. Papaya, which was the cheapest at Tk 6 a kg now sells at Tk 10 while prices of all kinds of aubergines rose by Tk 3-5 per kilogram.

Karola became pricey by Tk 4 and sells at Tk 20 and chichinga and barbati each, marked rise by Tk 2 per kilogram and sell at Tk 14 and Tk 16 respectively.

All other items registered a similar rise, except for green chilli, which still sells at Tk 20 a kilogram.

However, prices of onion, dry chilli, garlic and ginger remained stable.

Potato jumped to Tk 12 a kilogram from its earlier price of Tk 9.

Egg shot up to Tk 52-54 a dozen from Tk 45-48 in the last one week. Some traders reasoned the price hike to the flood situation while others attributed it to drop in supply of smuggled Indian eggs.

Fish became further dearer and went almost out of reach of the common buyer. Ruihi (local) now sells at Tk 180 a kilogram, boal Tk 250, meni Tk 160, prawn (medium size) Tk 350-400, cat fish (local) Tk 400, kachhi/batashi Tk 120-150 and koi (small 20 pieces) Tk 100-120. Despite its season, hilsha supply was not good and price still very high. A pair of medium size hilsha still sells at Tk 350-400.

Beef now sells at Tk 100 a kilogram and mutton Tk 180.

Farm chicken however still sells at Tk 72. But the traders warned that the prices may soon go up as the government has again banned indefinitely import of poultry items from six countries because of fresh outbreak of bird flu.

Price of soybean oil rose from Tk 52 to Tk 54-56 a litre for what the traders said 'fresh price hike in the international markets.' Sugar was selling at Tk 32 a kilogram 'for no reason' while all types of pulses rose by Tk 2-4. Cumin prices also shot up from Tk 120 to Tk 160-180.

Nazirshail and menicac now sell between Tk 19 and Tk 22 a kg rising from Tk 18 and Tk 20 only a week ago. Faljam varieties sell between Tk 17 and Tk 20 while coarse rice Tk 14-15. Kataribhog and bashmoti are priced at Tk 35 and Tk 40 respectively.

## healthouting, taxicab & train timing

HEALTH	MARKET CLOSED	TAXI CAB	LIBRARY & INFO		
<b>Hospitals</b> <b>Heart</b> National Institute of Cardio Vascular Diseases (NICVD), - 9130800, 9122560-59 <b>Burn</b> Dhaka Medical College Hospital Burn Unit-8626812-6 <b>Cancer</b> National Cancer Institute-8014914, 8826561-65 Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University-8612550-4, 861455-9 <b>Diabetes</b> Diabetic Research Hospital (BIRDEM)-9661551-5, 8616641-50 <b>Mother &amp; Child Care</b> Shishu Hospital-9119119, 8116061-62 Azampur Mother & Child Health	Training Institute- 8624827, 8624980 <b>Eye</b> Islamia Eye Hospital-9110794, 9119315 National Eye Hospital- 8117202, 8114807 <b>Dental</b> Dental College -9002035 <b>Orthopaedics</b> National Orthopaedics (Pangu) Hospital- 9114075, 9112150 <b>General</b> Dhaka Medical College Hospital- 8626812-6 Rushmono General Hospital- 8317819 Holy Family Hospital- 83111731-25 Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital- 8612550-4, 8614545-9 Bangladesh Medical College & Hospital- 8115443, 9118202,	Shamarita Hospital- 9131901 Suhrawardy Hospital - 9130800, 9122560-69 Salimullah Medical Collage Hospital - 7310061-4, 7319002-6 Cholera Research Hospital (ICDDR,B) - 8811751-60 Monowra Hospital 8319802, 8318135 <b>Blood Bank</b> Red Crescent Centre- 9116563 Sandhani (DMCH)- 8624040 Sandhani (SMCH)- 7310061, 7310061, 7319022 Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital- 8626812-9 <b>Eye Bank</b> Sandhani International Eye Bank- 8614040 <b>Ambulances For Dead Body</b> Anzuman Madidul Islam (Kakrail) 9336611, Gandaria 7319808, 7318166, Al-Markajul Islam 9127867,	Gulshan 1, 2 markets-Friday Elephant Road-Friday Bishal Center-Friday Baitual Mukarram Market-Friday Polwell Market-Friday BCS Computer City-Friday Rajlaxmi Complex-Friday Stadium Market-Friday Bangabazar Market-Friday National Museum-Thursday Ahsan Manzil--Thursday New Market-Tuesday Gausia Market-Tuesday Mouchak Market-Sunday Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday Eastern Plaza-Sunday Farmview Super Market-Sunday Muktijudha Jadughar-Sunday Dhaka Zoo-Sunday Shishu Jadughar-Sunday	<b>Yellow Cab</b> Navana 9558065 Salida 9344477, 0171620881 Cosmo 9112959 and 8127191 Cab One 7113282-3 Nihon 8624741-2 Orion 9347277 Anudip 8125285 and 8127611 Capital 9352847 <b>Union</b> 8130485 Kool 0171826731 <b>Black Cab</b> Cab Ex 9358401 Cabline 8321162 JBS Cab 019364575 Sajon 018126036 Anudip -- 8125285 and 8127611 <b>Cab One</b> 7113282-3 Palki 0171052500 Cab I 7113282 Jatri 0171540074 Nipun 9572277 R-Cab 8914782 Star Cab 9571919 Shihab 018202477 & 018228675 KGN 8620011	<b>Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers</b> 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 Information Resource Center, The American Center - 8813440-4, 9886395-9 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