

# Mirpur CNG stations not getting optimum pressure

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Compressed natural gas (CNG) stations in Mirpur area are still not receiving the optimum gas pressure from Titas Gas between 12pm to 2pm every day. As a result, most CNG stations from Mirpur section 10 to Gabtoli cannot produce CNG, thus incurring huge losses.

CNG station owners said that due to non-availability of gas pressure during peak hours, they were losing out on nearly 50 percent revenue each day. Most of these stations have to hang 'No Gas Available' signs during those couple of hours much to the suffering of the drivers of CNG-run taxis and three-wheelers.

"I have been waiting for almost three hours as a I have no gas. Using octane or petrol will not give me any profit. I will not be able to raise even the daily submission-money if I do not use gas," said the driver of a three-wheeler, who was waiting

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patiently in a long queue at one of the stations.

Although this was a common problem at CNG stations all over the capital a few months ago, gas scarcity at present is mostly felt in Mirpur.

CNG station owners said that the gas crisis originated from its source in Sylhet for which optimum supply cannot be availed in the capital. Other sources said that the Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Ltd regulates the amount of gas to be supplied for each suburb and

Mirpur is getting the least share. Besides, even commercial factories around the city get the same pressure through the line used for supplying gas to residences and because of that the pressure remains automatically low.

"While we are supposed to get a gas pressure of 10 psi normally, we are getting 3 psi at the moment which is not enough to produce CNG. Therefore we are losing our customers," said Fakir Ashrafuddin, proprietor of Aria CNG filling station in Mirpur.

Musleh Uddin, one of the

directors of Kingshuk Co-operative Society which runs a CNG filling station said: "Our CNG converting machine requires at least 15 psi pressure. As soon as it comes down to 8 psi, the machine shuts down automatically and we cannot serve clients."

"This crisis will continue till the end of March. However, Petrobangla will soon undertake a 300 million-dollar circular gas line project which will be funded by the Asian Development Bank. After that the situation will ease," said general secretary of Bangladesh CNG Owners Association Col. (Retd) Shahabuddin.

"Three new gas wells will be dug shortly in the Bay of Bengal. Unocal, a multinational company, will undertake this project. That will greatly improve the pressure condition," hoped Mahmudul Hossain Khan, senior assistant secretary of energy ministry.



Queues of cars build up at CNG stations as gas pressure dropped drastically in recent times.

# West Dhaka struck with water crisis, again

SYED TASHFIN CHOWDHURY

Rayerbazar, Sultanganj, Tali Office and adjoining areas of west Dhaka are once again struck with water crisis.

Water supply to the area had been steady in winter, but the crisis resurfaced in mid-February.

"Because of low use of water in winter, we got uninterrupted supply," said a resident of Sultanganj. But as the hot days came water problem arose.

Residents said this crisis had been going on for over a year and the Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) installed new water pipes in the area, promising better supply.

"Wasa assured us that the new pipes with larger diameter will supply a bigger volume of water," said Abbas Chowdhury, a Rayerbazar resident.

But the disappointment came when the new pipes could not provide even one-third the previous volume.

"One has to be lucky enough to get a few litres of water at around three in the morning," said a resident of Sultanganj. "The rest of the day, we remain dry."

"Houses that are built on high elevations do not get sufficient water because we cannot increase water pressure in the pipeline," said Rafiqul Islam, executive engineer, Wasa, Zone 3.

However, residents allege that the

problem could have been solved if Wasa officials checked on the problem-prone areas from time to time.

"Wasa officials promised to visit the affected areas and listen to our woes but they don't do it," said Chowdhury. Wasa denied the allegation.

Recently, some outraged locals vandalised the pump house at Rayerbazar. The damaged facilities also shrunk water supply to a vast swath of area.

Residents demand installation of another water pump in the area. Wasa officials said the existing pumps are being repaired, but uninterrupted electricity supply to the pump house in Madhubazar that supplies water to the entire area is required to ensure steady water supply.

"This pump house is operated with the aid of a generator and lacks proper power supply," said Engineer Rafiq.

In the face of acute crisis, residents have been buying water from Wasa supplied by water lorries. Others use tubewells.

The poor are in special difficulties and literally have to beg for water from the 'well-to-do' residents.

Locals no revile at the comment of a senior official of Wasa, Zone 3: "I am hopeful that we will be able to solve this problem within the next three months."



Residents of Rayerbazar scramble for water as Wasa cannot ensure adequate supply.

DHAKA'S DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE

# Wasa to work on master plans next year

ABDUL KADER

Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) will prepare two separate master plans from early next year for proper drainage and sewerage management in the capital with World Bank (WB) assistance, Wasa sources said.

The WB has agreed to provide \$1.20 million for project preparation and \$100 million for preparing the master plans and for extending and rehabilitating the existing drainage and sewerage system.

Wasa Managing Director ANH Akhter Hossain said of the \$100 million, each master plan will cost \$2.5 million and the rest will be spent for extension and rehabilitation of the existing system. "It might take about two years to complete the master plans," Akhter Hossain told The Daily Star.

The Wasa covers 140 square kilometres (skm) of the city areas for drainage management although the coverage area should be about 350 to 400skm, Wasa officials said.

The city has 180km sewerage pipelines, 9km box culvert and 65 km canals.

"Only 30 percent of the city population are getting sewerage facility from Wasa and the rest are yet to get it," one official said.

Many areas of the city experience serious waterlogging during rainy season due to lack of required drainage system. The areas include Uttara, Mirpur, part of Mohammadpur, Shyamoli, Kalyanpur, and parts of Gulshan, Baridhara, Khilgaon, Bashabo, Rampura and Tejgaon.

The capital has about 2500 km water supply lines and only around 790 km sewerage lines although both are supposed to be equal, Wasa sources mentioned.

Wasa water supply connections -- both domestic and commercial -- number around 2.20 lakh and there are about 50,000 sewerage connections.

People in the areas not covered by sewerage system use septic tanks that are not scientific as an alternative. And thousands of city dwellers, especially of the lower income group, are using most unscientific system of sewerage disposal polluting the environment.

## healthouting,taxicab&traintiming

### HEALTH

#### Hospitals

##### Heart

National Institute of Cardio Vascular Diseases (NICVD),  
- 9130800, 9122560-59

##### Burn

Dhaka Medical College Hospital  
Burn Unit-8626812-6

##### Cancer

National Cancer Institute-8014914,  
8826561-65  
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib  
Medical University-8612550-4,  
861455-9

##### Diabetes

Diabetic Research Hospital  
(BIRDEM)- 9661551-5,  
8616641-50

##### Mother & Child Care

Shishu Hospital- 9119119,  
8116061-62  
Azimpur Mother & Child Health  
Training Institute- 8624827, 8624980

#### Eye

Islamia Eye Hospital-9110794,  
9119315  
National Eye Hospital- 8117202,  
8114807

#### Dental

Dental College -9002035

#### Orthopaedics

National Orthopaedics (Pangu)  
Hospital- 9114075, 9112150

#### General

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)- 8811751-60  
Monowra Hospital 8319802, 8318135

#### Blood Bank

Red Crescent Centre- 9116563  
Sandhani (DMCH)- 8624040  
Sandhani (SMCH)- 7310061,  
7310061,7319022  
Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital-  
8626812-9

#### Eye Bank

Sandhani International Eye Bank-  
8614040

#### Ambulances For Dead Body

Anzuman Mafidul Islam (Kakrail  
9336611, Gandaria 7319808,  
7318166,  
Al-Markajul Islam 9127867,

### MARKET CLOSED

Gulshan 1, 2 markets-Friday  
Elephant Road-Friday  
Bishal Center-Friday  
Baitul Mukarram Market-Friday  
Polwell Market-Friday  
BCS Computer City-Friday  
Isha Khan Shopping Complex-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-Tuesdeay  
Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday  
Eastern Plaza-Sunday  
Farmview Super Market-Sunday  
Muktijuddha Jadughar-Sunday  
Dhaka Zoo-Sunday  
Shishu Jadughar-Sunday

### TAXI CAB

#### Yellow Cab

Navana 9558065  
Salida 9344477, 0171620881  
Cosmo 9112959 and 8127191  
Cab One 7113282-3  
Nihon 8624741-2  
Orion 9347277  
Anudip -- 8125285 and 8127611  
Capital 9352847

#### TRAIN TIMING

Subarna Express  
Mahanagar Prabhati  
Mahanagar Godhuli  
Turna  
Parabat Express  
Joyantika Express  
Upaban Express  
Tista Express  
Ekata Express  
Upakul Express  
Agniabeena Express

Leaves Dhaka at 4:30 pm  
Leaves Dhaka at 7:30 am  
Leaves Dhaka at 3:15 pm  
Leaves Dhaka at 11:00 pm  
Leaves Dhaka at 6:40 am  
Leaves Dhaka at 12:45 pm  
Leaves Dhaka at 9:45 pm  
Leaves Dhaka at 7:00 am  
Leaves Dhaka at 5:00 pm  
Leaves Dhaka at 8:00 pm  
Leaves Dhaka at 9:20 pm

Palki 0171052500

Cab I 7113282

Jatri 0171540074

Nipun 9572277

R-Cab 8914782

Star Cab 9571919

Shihab 018202477 & 018228675

KGn 8620011

### 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  
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- 8850141-2  
The Russian Cultural Centre-  
9116314, 9118531, 9118314  
Drik Photo Gallery- 9120125,  
8112954, 8123412  
Press Institute of Bangladesh  
(PIB) 9330081-4