

# Peyarabagh roads in dilapidated condition



The dilapidated road conditions in Perayabagh puts people's lives at risk.

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The roads in city's Peyarabagh area has been in a dilapidated condition over the last one and a half months due to digging and lengthy repair work by Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) and Dhaka City Corporation (DCC).

The condition of the roads will deteriorate in the upcoming rainy season, local residents fear. "We cannot walk around properly due to the work on water and sewerage lines and drainage," said Habibur Rahman, a resident of Peyarabagh.

The two narrow streets popularly known as 12 Number Slum Road and Peyarabagh Road were at first dug up by Wasa during early March for laying new pipes to improve the water supply system, said a shopkeeper in the area.

Immediately after Wasa's work, DCC started replacing the sewerage lines to remove waterlogging which is a regular phenomenon in this area. The work is in progress but major parts of the roads still remain waterlogged.

Over 50,000 residents and shopkeepers of this densely-populated area are suffering from the shabby condition of the roads. Lanes and by-lanes in the area are also blocked with the construction materials.

"Hopefully the sewerage work will be done within the next ten days and that will bring to an end of the sufferings of these people," said Solaiman, a staff member of the contractors assigned by DCC.

But the contractors could not tell when the asphalt sealing of these roads will be done after the sewerage system work. The residents of the area are fearing that they will have to face further sufferings in the upcoming rainy season.

# Pantha Kunja waiting for green grass

Homeless floating people who had left the park's premises once the renovation work started, are coming back again and have already started encroaching the footpaths of the park on the Kanthalbagan side.

CITY CORRESPONDENT

The Pantha Kunja, a park near the Sonargaon intersection, has remained off-limits to the general public for nearly eight months. The park was originally scheduled to re-open in January after renovation but that plan was put back.

Although the renovation work is complete, Arkay Group, the private firm in charge of renovation and beautification, said that they were still waiting for the grass to grow inside the park.

"We plan to open the park to the public as soon as possible. The delay is happening because the grass of the meadow inside the park is yet to grow fully," said Ahteshamul Haque Babar, in-charge of the beautification project.

Babar hoped that the park would be opened by the end of May as the greenery would thrive with rainfall.

"Our emphasis is on the greenery of the park and the plaza and that is why we are taking time," he added.

Arkay Group divided the park into two parts. Renovation of one part, which it named Pantha Kunja Plaza (near the Saarc fountain) was also completed in January. This portion has remained out of bounds although the Dhaka mayor formally opened it on January 12.

Officials of Arkay Group said that they would let the public in after building a permanent boundary around the plaza. However, no fencing work was done during the last five months.

Now homeless floating people who had left the park's premises once the renovation work started, are coming back again and have already started encroaching the footpaths of the park on the Kanthalbagan side.

Meanwhile, residents of Kanthalbagan, Bangla Motor, Hatirpool and adjoining areas were unhappy with the delay in re-opening of the only quality open space in the locality. The park was cordoned off last

November for renovation and beautification under the Dhaka city beautification project.

The park has immense importance to the locals and many people used go there for jogging, walking, exercising or just to take in the clean air.

Officials of Arkay Group

admitted that they have received many letters from local residents who requested immediate re-opening of the park.

"There will be no restrictions in using the park after it is re-opened and we are thinking of turning it into a complete recreational spot. We would even

allow people to have picnic here and will try to make sure that everyone gets maximum recreation from the park," said the managing director of Arkay Group adding that special security measures will be taken to ensure a fun time.

15x3

7x3

7x2