

Death traps on Panthapath



This open manhole near the Samorita Hospital in Panthapth poses danger to commuters.

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Pedestrians and vehicles are exposed to risk of accident, as the cover of a sewerage line on Panthapath, one of the busy roads in the city, remained open for almost one month.

Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) workers had opened the cover on the western part of the Panthapath towards Russell Square for sewerage line repair work. The work is yet to start but the hole remains open.

"This is a death trap," said a shopkeeper in the area. He said accidents are happening almost every day due to the open hole. He said quite often autorickshaws and cars get their wheels stuck on one side of the hole.

The rectangular concrete cover of the sewer lines has been kept beside the hole that also blocked a part of the road. Locals said such open manholes get submerged after heavy rain and then it becomes difficult for pedestrians and vehicles to spot the holes.

Ahmed Mansur, a furniture shop owner said, "It has been almost a month that the concrete slabs are removed. We are losing customers for this."

Sharif Ahmed who lives in Kalabagan said, "On my way home, I always use the Panthapath. A few days back I suddenly fell into an open manhole on the road. I sustained serious injury in my waist. Nearby people took me to a hospital."

Morshed Alam, owner of a barbers shop on the road said, "We have made complaints to the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) but they did not take any action."

When asked, Chief Conservancy Officer of DCC Sohel Farouque said, "This has been done by Dhaka Wasa. We have asked them to take action."

A top official of Dhaka Wasa however said they would take step immediately. "We are well aware of the problem. After finishing the sewerage line work in Segunbagicha, we will start the work in Panthapath," he said.

The open manholes and sewer lines often cause serious accidents. Four-year-old Nurjahan, who fell in a manhole at Shahidnagar in Lalbagh area, met the tragic end of her life on October 13 last year.

Water Kingdom, your watery getaway

SURANJIT DEBNATH

Dhaka residents now have a great opportunity of getting rid of the monotony of city life by visiting the Water Kingdom at Ashulia, the first themed water park in the country.

The park was inaugurated through the opening of an impressive virtual aquarium tunnel from Fantasy Kingdom to the Water Kingdom last Friday. In total twelve adventures rides -- wave pools, slide world, family pool, tube slides, multi slide, lazy river, waterfall, doom slide, lost kingdom, neptune hideout, play zone and dancing zone are on offer at the Water Kingdom for a Tk 260 ticket.

Special programmes including band shows by popular groups like LRB, Shaptak, fashion shows, karaoke and fire works were arranged to mark the opening ceremony.

Experts from Canada, Australia, Thailand and the United States had worked for the last eight months to set up the Water Kingdom. According to sources, Tk 84 crore have been spent on the park.

"We have fixed the ticket price at Tk 260 only so that people from all spheres of the society can come here," said SM Kamal Uddin, chairman of Concord Communication Co.

"Fresh water is very rare in

capital and most people do not have the scope to visit sea beaches. Water Kingdom has given us that opportunity," said Naznin Ahmed of Mohammadpur who came with her family.

"I love water and I like to play in water. But that is not possible in our apartment or anywhere nearby," said Sadia Arefin Nishat,

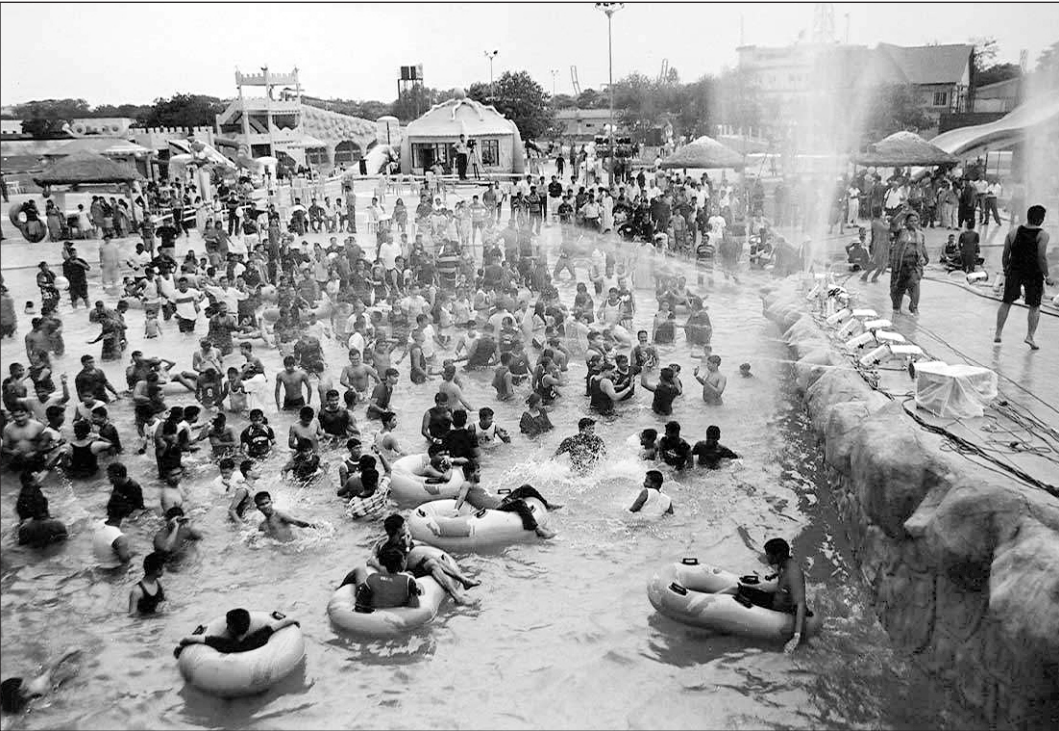
a nine years old.

Water Kingdom is open from 11am to 9pm everyday. Special programmes including cultural shows will be arranged every Friday, said park authorities.

Separate changing rooms and toilets for the male and female and lockers are available at the park. Anyone can rent swimming

costumes and towels also.

A number of bus operators of the city like Manjil Paribahan, Ababil and Hanif are providing passenger service to and from Water Kingdom. Interested people can take these buses from Motijheel, Moghbazar, Mohakhali, Shahbag and Asad Gate.



Water Kingdom, an aqua theme park is Fantasy Kingdom's latest attractio.

12x3

4x2

8x2

6x3

6x3