

# Mohammadpur residents face acute water crisis

SYED TASHFIN CHOWDHURY

Most households in Mohammadpur, an area with over 7 lakh residents, have been facing acute water crisis over the last one month.

The residents of entire Mohammadpur are receiving inadequate and irregular water supply. Some of them complained of polluted water containing sand and other particles.

Most complaints of water crisis came from the residents of densely populated Sir Syed Road, Tajmahal Road, Zakir Hossain Road, Iqbal Road, Salimullah Road, Sher Shah Suri Road and Nurjahan Road.

"We received only a few litres of water each day during the last five days," said Samia Rahman, a housewife residing in Sir Syed Road area.

During the period her family survived on water collected from relatives living in nearby areas. But now it has also become difficult as the crisis area is expanding.

"We are already facing

frequent power outages. And the irregular water supply had added to our sufferings," said a shopkeeper near Asad Gate.

Locals complained of total inaction of the Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) to resolve the water crisis.

Some house owners are buying water from the Wasa vehicles. "We have to buy around 6,000 litres of water daily for the entire building," said Nuru, the guard of a three-storyed building near Asad gate.

The most affected people are the

slum dwellers living near Mohammadpur Town Hall, the residents of Geneva Camp, Nurjahan Road and Tajmahal Road.

"We had to wait in long queues to collect water from tube-wells for the last few weeks," said a resident of Nurjahan road.

In summer the demand for water increases but the supply decreases, causing immense suffering to the city dwellers.

Some residents in the area complained of the water being dirty. "We find sand and other

particles in water even after boiling it for hours," said Samia Rahman.

Others alleged that the water is contaminated with germs that cause dysentery, diarrhoea, jaundice, hepatitis and other waterborne diseases.

Wasa officials pointed out that the layer of underground water is gradually falling beyond the reach of the deep tube-wells that can pump out water from 60.25 meters.

"This is why the supply has decreased," a senior official said.



STAR FILE PHOTO



Untidy cables dangle on electric poles in the by-lanes of the posh Gulshan area.

## The weird web of cables

FAIZUL KHAN TANIM

The outlook of the aristocratic Gulshan area has changed with broadband internet, telephone, cable TV and the main electrical lines matted and tangled from one Dhaka Electricity Supply Authority (Desco) electricity pole to another.

Residents fear incidents of electrocution, which is heard of frequently from Old Dhaka, might take over in the lanes and by-lanes of this diplomatic area because of the manner the cables are drawn.

Mohammed Mominul Islam, deputy manager (commercial operations), Dhaka Electric Supply Company Limited (Desco) said: "Apart from the hazards of untidy cables, the probability of short circuits are evident resulting in accidents, especially when unskilled cable TV and internet personnel work on these poles."

"Every pole has its own capacity. Excess cables on each pole create possibility of

accidents. It worsens when Desco workers cannot work on or fix electricity problems because of the jumbled wires," he said.

Another Desco official said before the 13th SAARC summit, scheduled in the beginning of this year, a meeting with the cable and broadband operators in Gulshan was called. These operators were asked to take control of neatening the cables, but the decisions fell on deaf ears.

A resident from Road No 37 said that thick cables of various colours sagging 15 feet or so above ground level blemish the beauty of the area, and with more than five cable and broadband service providers operating the competition in drawing the cables is extensive.

Another complained that broadband connections fail at a light drizzle, and the electricity fluctuations make bad situations worse.

The service providers take quite a long time to fix the

problem, mostly because locating the cables are time consuming.

One dangerous instance during thunderstorms is that water gets into the wires, resulting in transformers burning out and electricity flowing along all cables destroying electrical equipment in houses as well.

General Secretary of Internet Service Providers Association of Bangladesh (ISPAB) Ershad Shafi Chowdhury when contacted said that Karwan Bazar is equipped with Guy Wire -- a system by which utility cables are bundled firmly with Desco poles with four strong wires on each side of the road where cables pass through and the cables are neatly in place.

"Gulshan area will very soon be brought under that system. We had meetings with Desco whose poles are mandatory to support the wiring system," added Ershad.

Regarding the damage to personal computers that have broadband connec-

tions, Ershad agreed that when thunderstorms occur short circuits cause disruption to the service and sometimes the equipment burn out because of the high electricity voltage passing through these cables.

President of the Cable Operators Association of Bangladesh (COAB) Anwar Parvez said most cables of TV operators are orderly mounted. "It is the different coloured broadband internet, telephone and PABX cables that are dangling haphazardly," he said.

But an officer of an internet service provider in the Gulshan, Banani and Uttara areas, said that they had no choice but to use Desco poles to draw cables. "There is no underground cable system and tangled cables are unavoidable under these circumstances," he said, adding that they are fully aware of the risk of electrocution during thunderstorms.

## healthouting,taxicab&taintiming

### HEALTH

#### Hospitals

**Heart**  
National Institute of Cardio Vascular Diseases (NICVD), - 9130800, 912560-59

**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 (BIRDDEM)- 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

Rushmoni General Hospital- 8317819

#### Holy Family Hospital

8311731-25

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital- 8612550-4, 8614545-9

Bangladesh Medical College & Hospital- 8115443, 9118202,

Shamrata Hospital- 9131901

Suhrawardy Hospital -- 9130800,

#### 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,

#### Guilshan 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

Dhamondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday

Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday

Eastern Plaza-Sunday

Farmview Super Market-Sunday

Muktijuddha Jagduhar-Sunday

Dhaka Zoo-Sunday

Shishu Jagduhar-Sunday

#### TAXI CAB

#### Yellow Cab

Navana 9558065

Salida 934477, 0171620881

Cosmo 9112959 and 8127191

Cab One 7113282-3

Nihon 8624741-2

Orion 9347277

Anudip 8125285 and 8127611

Capital 9352847

#### Black Cab

Cab Ex 9358401

Cabline 8321162

JBS Cab 019364575

Sajan 018126036

Anudip -- 8125285 and 8127611

Cab One 7113282-3

#### Union

8130485

Kool 0171826731

Jatri 0171540074

Nipun 9572277

R-Cab 8914782

Star Cab 9571919

Shihab 018202477 & 018228675

KGN 8620011

#### TRAIN TIMING

#### Subarna Express

Leaves Dhaka at 4:30 pm

Reaches Chittagong at 10:35 pm

Mahanagar Prabhati

Leaves Dhaka at 7:30 am

Reaches Chittagong at 1:55 pm

Mahanagar Godhuli

Leaves Dhaka at 3:15 pm

Reaches Chittagong at 10:55 pm

Turna

Leaves Dhaka at 11:00 pm

Reaches Chittagong at 6:40 am

Parabat Express

Leaves Dhaka at 6:40 am

Reaches Sylhet at 2:30 pm

Joyantika Express

Leaves Dhaka at 12:45 pm

Reaches Sylhet at 9:20 pm

Upaban Express