

Road digging by Desco in Mirpur causes public sufferings

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Over 1,000 telephone lines of Mirpur section 10, 11 and Pallabi have been carelessly disconnected due to road digging by Dhaka Electric Supply Company (Desco) in the area, sources in the Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB) said.

"We have not been able to communicate with our family members and relatives living outside Mirpur for the last two weeks due to this problem," said a Pallabi resident whose line remains disconnected since mid-July.

Linemen and technicians from BTTB visited the spot last Thursday to check the problem. "The situation is quite grave and it will take a few days to identify the lines that have been mistakenly disconnected," said a lineman.

The road from Mirpur section 10 to section 12 was dug up by Desco about a month ago. The locals are suffering immensely due to Desco's delay in com-

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pleting the work.

"Despite Dhaka City Corporation's (DCC) promise to complete all road digging works before monsoon, Desco is dilly-dallying with the work.

"The work could have been completed if Desco was serious about it," said Omar Khaiyam, a resident of Mirpur-11. He said pedestrians, especially children, are at risk of accident as Desco has dug up five feet deep

and three feet wide holes.

Khaiyam said a few local residents have sprained their ankles while trying to cross these fissures. Moreover, rickshaw-pullers and CNG drivers do not enter the lanes and by-lanes due to the obstruction at the beginning of each lane.

We are regularly late for school or work due to this dilemma," said a Pallabi resident.

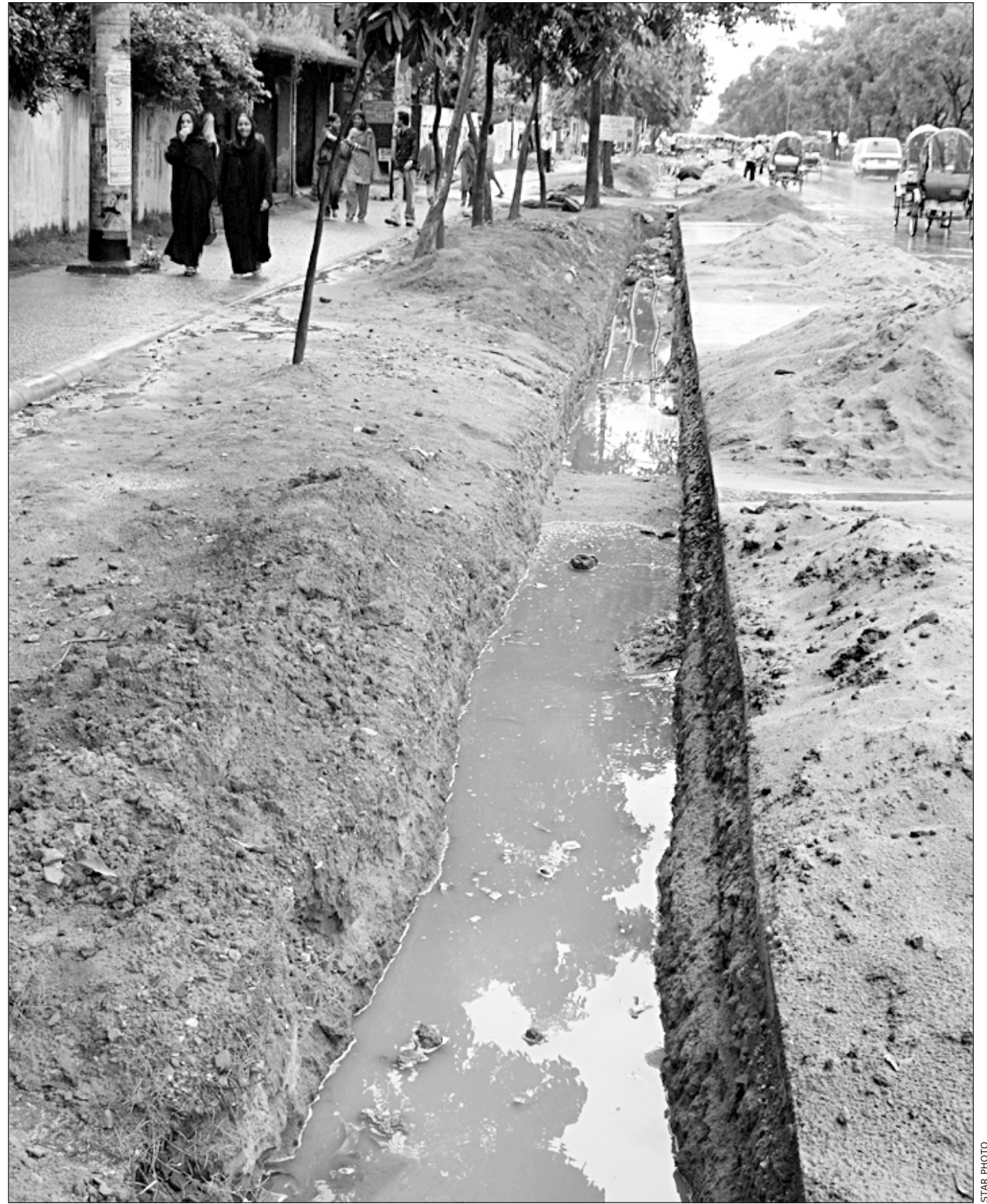
The road digging is also causing regular traffic congestion in the area. "Public and private buses picking up passengers currently halt in the middle of the street, which block traffic," said Mobin, a resident of Mirpur-12.

Frequent rain further worsens the sufferings of locals. "Rainwater fills up the holes and floods the lanes and by-lanes," said Saiful Islam, a shop-owner at Mirpur-11.

"DCC pretends to be unaware of these problems and despite filing of complaints, they are doing very little to solve this crisis. Desco should be fined for their irresponsible act," said a resident of Pallabi.

Desco officials, however, said the work will be complete within another week. DCC officials, on the other hand, said Desco would be fined for the delay.

"We will definitely fine Desco for disobeying DCC directives and for the additional sufferings of city-dwellers," said an executive engineer of DCC.



This road that was dug a month back is left unrepaired, causing sufferings to the Mirpur residents.

STAR PHOTO

10x3

10x2

10x3