

Urban slum dwellers face safe water shortage: Study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Slum dwellers of Ghortighar and Chitarpar slums under the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) and Rishipara slum in Narayanganj upazila are facing severe safe water and sanitation problems.

Around 70 percent dwellers of Chitarpar slum said neither Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) nor Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) provides direct water and sanitation services to the slum, while 71 percent dwellers of Ghortighar slum complained that they do not get safe water regularly. Whenever they get, the supply is scanty, contaminated and filled with garbage.

A six-month study titled 'Improving water and sanitation utility services for the urban poor through benchmark performance' conducted by Population Services and Training Centre (PSTC) in alliance with some key sectors Unicef, Plan Bangladesh, WSP, DSK, CUP, Prodipan and



Mostafa Kaiyyum speaks at a workshop at Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. On his right are Md Alauddin, Milon Bikash Paul and Engineer Shahidur Rahman Pradhan.

WaterAid Bangladesh disclosed it at a workshop at Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday.

With a view to building knowledge and confidence of slum dwellers' groups and civil society organisations in Dhaka city and Narayanganj town to improve their capability

for knowledgeable engagement with water and sanitation service providers and the government, PSTC and its alliances conducted the study in the three slums.

Presenting their recommendations, Anu Begum, Yunus and Rajan Chandra Das

from three different slums urged the DCC and Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) authorities to take immediate steps to provide safe water and sanitation services to their areas.

The recommendations include providing minimum 18 hours' water supply, easing connection of water supply, inspecting and repairing water line regularly, extending sewerage line, ascertaining sanitary latrine, drain and dustbin and disposing garbage regularly.

DCC Chief Executive Officer Md Alauddin at the programme said they would take proper initiatives to extend their services in the slum areas. He sought necessary support from the non-government organisations in this regard.

Coalition For the Urban Poor (CUP) Executive Director Mostafa Kaiyyum Khan and WaterAid Policy Advocacy Director Syed Ishtiaq Ali Jinnah also spoke at the workshop.



A girl watches annular solar eclipse with a telescope while others wait for their turn yesterday. The National Committee for Observation of Solar Eclipse arranged the programme near Rayer Bazar memorial in the city for common people to watch this rare event. PHOTO: STAR



Speaker Md Abdul Hamid Advocate, Deputy Speaker Shawkat Ali and Chief Whip Vice Principal Abdus Shahid place wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday.

Speaker, Dy Speaker pay tributes to Bangabandhu

UNB, Dhaka

Speaker Md Abdul Hamid Advocate, Deputy Speaker Shawkat Ali and Chief Whip Vice Principal Abdus Shahid yesterday paid tributes to Bangabandhu at Dhanmondi and the martyrs at the National Memorial.

They placed wreaths at the portrait of the father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and offered munajat, said a Parliament Secretariat release.

They also placed wreaths at the National Memorial at Savar and signed the visitors' book. Lawmakers Talukder Md Touhid Jong (Murad), Md Atiur Rahman Atiq and Md Afjal Hossain were present on the occasion.



Shahidul Islam Pannu passes away

METRO DESK

Mohammad Shahidul Islam Pannu, director, Sara Advertising Ltd, and a promising advertising entrepreneur, passed away due to a cardiac arrest yesterday at the age of 34, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, one son, mother, five brothers and two sisters.

He was laid to rest at his family graveyard in Chapain, Savar after a namaz-e-janaza at Janata Housing Jame Mosque.

His qulqhwani will be held after Asr prayers on January 30 at his residence at House # 13, Road # 5, Janata Housing, Agargaon.

Friends, relatives and well-wishers are requested to attend the qulqhwani.

Death of patient sparks violence

Faulty surgery alleged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Relatives of a female patient vandalised a private hospital at Mirpur in the city and staged demonstrations in the last two days, alleging that she died due to faulty surgery on her.

But the doctors and the authorities of Galaxy Hospital located at Mirpur Section-10 denied the allegations, saying that the operation on Razia Sultana Jui, 28, a fashion designer, was performed flawlessly.

Jui, who worked with Red Point Garments in DEPZ, died in the early hours of Sunday several hours after she underwent an operation at the hospital.

Shocked and enraged, her family members and relatives vandalised the furniture of the hospital and staged demonstrations in front of it on Sunday and yesterday. They also filed a case with Mirpur police against Dr Atiur Rahman who performed the opera-

tion and several others, including the managing director of the hospital.

Asaduzzaman Swapan, elder brother of Jui, alleged that his sister died due to faulty operation and lack of supporting facilities at the hospital.

When contacted, Dr Atiur Rahman, who is a surgeon at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital, said the operation was flawless and that the patient died not because of operation-related problems.

He also said a patient may die due to various causes and that it is not possible to know the causes of the death until autopsy is performed on the body.

However, Galaxy Hospital officials declined to make any comments, saying that they were busy in handling the angry relatives of the patient.

Mirpur police said they have launched an investigation into the matter.

German foreign secy due today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The State Secretary of the Federal Foreign Office of Germany Reinhard Silberberg will arrive here today for consultations with the Foreign Secretary Tuhid Hossain.

The Head of the Division for South Asia and the Head of the State Secretary's Office of the German Foreign Office will accompany Silberberg, says a press release.

During his visit Silberberg will also pay courtesy calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Dipu Moni.

The consultations of the foreign secretaries are taking place only four weeks after the Parliamentary election, which signals the importance Germany attaches to its relations with Bangladesh. It is also a recognition of the return to parliamentary democracy and of the efforts undertaken to secure sustainable democracy, said the release.

The secretaries will take stock of the bilateral relations and will discuss a wide range of regional and international issues of common concern with a view to refocusing and expanding the existing cooperation.

For 37 years Germany has been a reliable development partner for Bangladesh. In this period Germany has provided 4.4 billion Euro as direct bilateral assistance or indirect multilateral contributions in order to support Bangladesh on its way to eliminate poverty, protect human rights and achieve economic success, read the release.

Germany is an open market with free access for Bangladesh goods, without any import tariffs. The annual trade volume between Germany and Bangladesh is steadily increasing and set to reach about 2 billion Euro, with Bangladesh enjoying a trade surplus of more than 1.3 billion Euro annually.

Germany is the second largest export market for Bangladesh worldwide, the release further added.

HC judge MA Rashid retires

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Justice MA Rashid, a senior judge of the High Court, retired yesterday after his long 10 years in the service.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam and a number of lawyers accorded him farewell at his eijash room yesterday.

Justice Rashid said there is no scope for contradiction between the High Court Division and the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court as their jurisdiction and power are specified in the constitution.

The SC has to achieve absolute confidence of the people and the HC Division has to become self-reliant and independent in its administrative and judicial activities to establish justice in the society, he added.

The highest law officer Alam praised the justice for his competence, honesty, neutrality and speed in the disposal of cases.

Rashid was appointed a High Court judge on October 24, 1999.

Implement 30pc job quota for FFs' children

Demands Amra Muktijoddhar Santan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amra Muktijoddhar Santan yesterday demanded implementation of 30 percent quota in job and five percent quota for admission in educational institutions for the children of freedom fighters (FFs).

In 1997, Awami League government introduced 30 percent job quota for the children of freedom fighters and arranged 23rd Special BCS Examination in 2000 and Banker's Recruitment Examination in 2001 exclusively for them, said organisation President Mohammad Humayun Kabir while reading out a keynote paper at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Union.

But the BNP-Jamaat-led government postponed their almost finalised appointment under the special recruitment procedure, he added.

The organisation members also decried the appointment of Dr Sadaat Hossain, a strong supporter of that alliance, as

PSC chairman. The selected candidates of Banker's Recruitment

Salanga Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the historic Salanga Day.

On this day in 1922, many people were killed when the police opened fire on the people who gathered at Salanga Hat in Sirajganj as part of Khelafat and non-cooperation movement under the leadership of Maulana Abdur Rashid Tarkabagish.

Different political and social organisations, including Bangladesh Gono Azadi League and Maulana Abdur Rashid Tarkabagish Foundation, have drawn up elaborate programmes to mark the day. A 4-day programme will begin at Sirajganj on the occasion.

Examination are still to be appointed, they said, adding, none of the 40 FFs' children were appointed in fisheries department although the examination was held in 2006 on the basis of a circular in 2004.

Amra Muktijoddhar Santan also demanded execution of the verdict of Bangabandhu murder case, reinvestigation of the murder of four national leaders, trial of the war criminals and ban on Jamaat-Shibir politics.

Their other demands included appointment of Principal Abdul Ahad Chowdhury as chairman of Bangladesh Muktijoddha Sangsad, free treatment and travelling in public hospitals and vehicles for the freedom fighters and preservation of the killing grounds.

Organisation General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam, Gazi Shafiqul Islam, Jobaida Haque, Emdadul Haque, Nuruzzaman Bhutto, Anwar Hossain and Enamul Haque

Cabinet discusses amendment to ACC Act 2004

UNB, Dhaka

The Cabinet at its regular meeting yesterday discussed a proposal to amend the Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2004 and the proposed Bangladesh-Uzbekistan Cultural Agreement.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presided over the meeting held at the Cabinet Division conference room at the Bangladesh Secretariat.

Briefing journalists at the PID conference room, PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad said the two agenda would be placed again at the cabinet meeting after necessary scrutiny.

Ministers, advisers to the prime minister and state ministers attended the meeting. Cabinet Secretary M Abdul Aziz was present.

Jhut worker shot in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man was bullet hit by criminals due to a dispute between two gangs of criminals over control of garment jhut (scrap) trading.

The injured was identified as Jasim Uddin, 35, labourer of a jhutshop.

The victim was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in a critical condition with a bulletwound in his abdomen.

Police said three youths shot at Jasim at Al-Amin's shop at Mirpur Jhut Patti in Pallabi area at around 4:30pm.

DMP Deputy Commissioner of Mirpur Zone Anwar Hossain told The Daily Star that the incident took place due to a long-running feud between local Mamun group and Jamil group over the trading.

Police said they are trying to arrest the criminals.

Clarification

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Southeast University (SEU) has refuted a part of a report headlined '20 injured as students of 2 universities clash' published in The Daily Star on January 23.

The report had quoted Md Lutfar Rahman, Public Relations Department director of AIUB, as alleging that 'SEU students, led by some Shibir cadres, swooped on the American University of Bangladesh (AIUB) students all of a sudden, leaving their several students and security guards.

In a clarification, SEU Public Relations Officer Masud Alam said the allegation was not true.

"In fact, politics of all kinds, including student's politics, are strictly prohibited at Southeast University," he said, making a counter allegation that the AIUB students, all of a sudden, attacked SEU, leaving 10 injured and damaging properties worth about Tk one lakh.

OUR REPLY The Daily Star did not make the allegation against the Southeast University. It was a written statement issued by Md Lutfar Rahman, Public Relations Department director of AIUB.

Besides, The Daily Star reporter contacted Dr M Shamsur Ali, vice chancellor of Southeast University, who alleged that AIUB students ransacked many classrooms of SEU, and his comments were also included in the report.



Workers of Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) disconnect the connection of a bill defaulter at Azimpur in the city yesterday for failing to pay outstanding bills. PHOTO: STAR

Three-yr-old baby rescued, three kidnappers held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members on Sunday rescued a three-year-old baby from kidnappers and arrested three criminals from Sirajganj district.

The baby was identified as Md Sakib, son of Lokman Hossain, a bookshop owner of Laxmipura under Joydebpur in Gazipur, while the arrestees were Nasima Khatun, 35, Ripon Mia, 28, and Mofazzel Hossain, 26.

Sakib was kidnapped on January 22 from Laxmipura when he was playing in front of the house at noon. Later, the kidnappers made a phone call to Lokman at night and demanded ransom of Tk three lakh. He informed Rab-1 of the

matter on January 23 and filed a case with the Joydebpur Police Station on the following day under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act.

A Rab-1 team led by Capt Arifur Rahman rescued Sakib from Ullapara upazila of the district on January 25 and arrested the criminals by communicating with them as the relatives of the boy.

He told The Daily Star that Ripon is a tenant of Lokman who is involved in a kidnapping gang, led by Majid Sarkar, husband of Nasima, adding that Rab officials introduced themselves as milk traders in Joydebpur.

Rab men are trying to arrest other members of the gang, including its leader Majid.

Tk 3 lakh outstanding Wasa bills realised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The mobile court of Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) in a drive in the city's Kotwali, Lalbagh and Hazaribagh areas yesterday realised Tk three lakh outstanding bills, says a press release.

The drive was conducted at seven commercial establishments and residential buildings under the Wasa Revenue Zone-2.

Special Magistrate of Dhaka Wasa Kazi Wasiuddin led the drive. The special drive that began on Monday would be conducted in Dhanmondi, Mohammadpur and New Market areas today. The drive ends tomorrow.