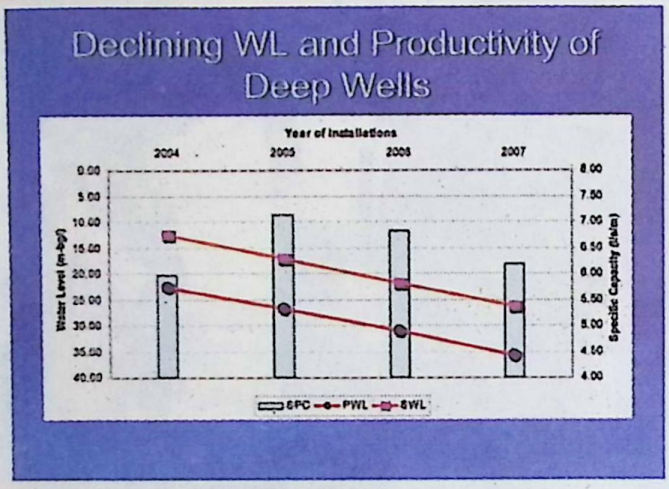
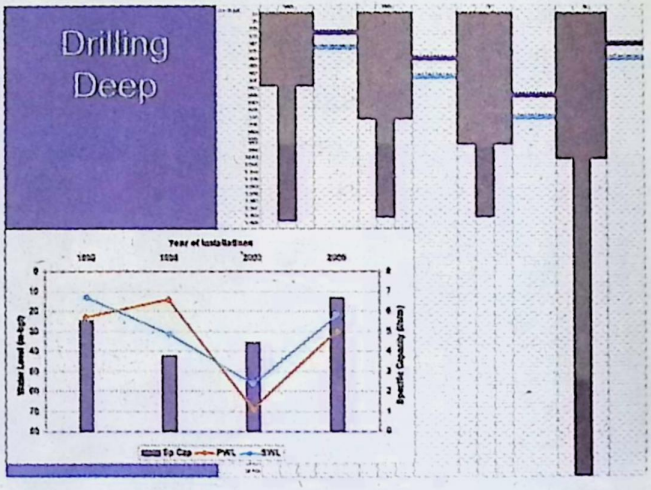




GRAPHS: COURTESY PROFESSOR KAZI MATIN U AHMED.

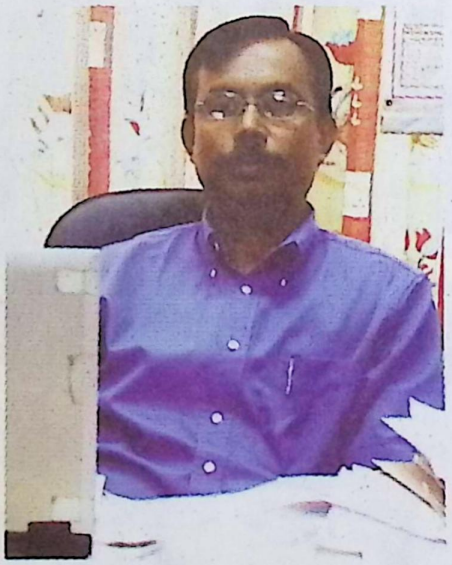
It's not just the middle income groups and poor who are suffering; an acute water crisis is making life in the poshest areas a living hell.

Senjuti Khan, a resident of Niketan, Gulshan, says, "For the last two months residents of our apartment building have been collectively buying water from Wasa. The share of water that we get each day is too little to lead normal household activities. After completing our daily chores we have to go to some relatives' house to take a shower." The situation deteriorates further when Wasa officials of Zone Five sometimes refuse to sell emergency water.

Similar ordeals occur in most parts of the city. Zahidul Khan, a resident of Dhanmondi, says, "We get a little water only for 15 to 20 minutes after midnight. But my neighbours, mostly the residents of the apartments store their huge reserves with powerful illegal lift pumps. As a result we don't get water normally. We even spend sleepless nights collecting a little water from the supply line to be used the following day."

Badrul Ahsan, who lives in Adabor, Shyamoli remarks: "The little water that we get in the supply line is straw coloured," he adds.

In neighbourhoods of Old Dhaka or the central parts of the city, residents have resorted to collecting water from nearby water pumps, as the water they get from the main line is sticky and stinky. In Old Dhaka particularly, the water stays sticky all year round. The Member of Parliament of Dhaka 7 constituency has applied for an exclusive connection to his house and neighbours from the local pump house to avoid the smelly water from the Wasa pipelines.



Professor Kazi Matin U Ahmed

The Member of Parliament of Dhaka 7 constituency has applied for an exclusive connection to his house and neighbours from the local pump house to avoid the smelly water from the Wasa pipelines.

Dr. Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin MP, says, "Over the last few years we have been getting malodorous water in the supply line. I'm keeping contact with the concerned ministries to solve the problem, since we are long-time victims of the crisis."

Commenting on the ongoing situation, Professor Muntasir Mamoon, an eminent historian says, "The root of every crisis in the city is that everything is done on an ad hoc basis. Every government blames the lack of co-ordination between the utility agencies for most of the crises, however, no government has gone for any specific planning. If this continues, what can we expect from a government that has been committed to so called 'change'. Instead of making irresponsible comments each and everybody should work with some specific agendas. If the ongoing water crisis in Dhaka is not addressed properly it's not unlikely that the fate of the city would be similar to Mohenjo-daro, an Ancient Indus Valley civilization."