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Restore canals, wetlands to stop waterlogging

Suggest experts as water bodies being lost due to unplanned urbanisation

TAWFIQUE ALI

Mindless destruction of natural water bodies in and around Dhaka coupled with flagrant disregard for urban planning of successive governments have brought the capital to its knees, said noted urban experts.

The Government must recover rivers and water bodies from encroachers and institute a single authority for a handy drainage system to save the capital from waterlogging, they said.

Prof Nazrul Islam, a noted urban researcher and currently the chairman of

University Grants Commission, said the government must ensure flow capacity of canals and rivers and recover flood retention ponds in and around Dhaka city.

"The government has to retrieve the flood flow zones from unauthorised housing projects, put a functional drainage system in place and recover water bodies and reservoirs," he said.

A high-powered authority at the Prime Minister's Office is imperative in this regard to help coordinate the city governance through different agencies, he suggested.

Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage

Authority (Wasa) has to update and implement the drainage management master plan while government should adopt and apply a comprehensive physical development policy and urbanisation plan.

Prof Sarwar Jahan of urban and regional planning department of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) and president of Bangladesh Institute of Planners, said, "Dhaka is not a planned city. The city was ill-planned."

All the water bodies, wetlands and

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Genocide still haunts survivors

EMRAN HOSSAIN

It was on a Friday in the end of March in 1971 when Samiran Nesa last saw her neighbour Abdur Rahman being dragged away by Biharis from a road near the place now known as Jalladkhana in Mirpur.

Rahman appeared on the scene after the Azan for Juma prayers was announced and he was never seen again.

"I just saw two Biharis surrounding him on the road which now leads before the Desco office near Jalladkhana. I did not

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Children visiting the Jalladkhana in Mirpur-10 look at the names of 400 killing fields across the country where the Pakistani army and their local collaborators in 1971 killed freedom fighters and dumped their bodies.

PHOTO: SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN

OnlinePoll

Do you agree with AL General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam that the last BNP-Jamaat alliance government was mainly responsible for bringing state of emergency in 2007 the country?

☐ Yes (61.3%)
☐ No (38.1%)
☐ No Comments (0.6%)

Total votes: 882

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think unplanned urbanisation is mainly responsible for the severe waterlogging in the capital?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

JS body formed to probe graft in LGRD

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A three-member parliamentary sub-committee was formed yesterday to investigate the anomalies and corruption indulged in organisations under the Department of Cooperatives in the last seven years.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on LGRD and Cooperatives ministry constituted the committee with M Ashraf Ali Khan Khasru as the convenor at its 10th meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan.

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PADMA BRIDGE COST Govt plans to issue bonds for \$500m

IMF to give low-interest loan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is planning to issue bonds to meet \$500 million expected fund gap for the Padma Bridge project.

Following an inter-ministerial meeting at the finance ministry on implementation of World Bank financed programmes and projects, Finance Minister AMA Muhith told reporters yesterday that \$1.8 to \$1.9 billion will be required to complete the Padma Bridge.

He also said the government might face a funding gap of around \$500 million, but bridging the gap will not be a major problem as it is thinking of issuing bonds to cover the deficit.

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HC DIRECTIVE Govt asked to procure quake rescue equipment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court in a verdict yesterday directed the government to procure necessary rescue equipment in case of any earthquake disaster in the country.

The HC also directed the government to form a committee headed by the secretary to the home ministry to prepare a list of necessary equipment

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Cut emission level by 45pc within 2020

Vulnerable countries urge developed ones

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The most vulnerable countries (MVCs) demanded the developed countries to reduce their emission by 45 percent in aggregate against 1990 levels by 2020 and make available fund of \$150 billion a year to help protect the victims.

Civil society representatives from the MVCs made the call at a three-day international civil society conference on the rights of the most vulnerable countries in climate negotiations ended at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel here yesterday with a 'Dhaka Declaration.'

They also demanded that annex 1 Parties (developed

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Titans MD sued for bribery

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A CNG filling station and conversion workshop owner yesterday sued the managing director and two others of Titans Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Ltd for

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Prayer Timing

July 30		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-20	5-55
Zohr	1-45	2-15
Asr	6-00	6-15
Maghrib	7-50	7-55
Esha	9-15	9-45

Source: Islamic Foundation



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