

Wasa can drain out only 20mm rainwater a day

Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday said the drainage system of Dhaka Wasa has the capacity to drain out highest 20 millimetre rainwater a day, an amount insufficient to cope with the heavy rainfall due to climate change impacts.

Dhaka city only has 160 square kilometres of drainage network against the actual requirement of 260 square km, they added.

The speakers said this at the discussion jointly organised by Nagarik Sanghati and Bangladesh Development and Environment Forum (BDEF) at Mukti Bhawan in Purana Paltan area.

Poorly planned urban development combined with insufficient drainage network, causing immense suffering to city dwellers during every monsoon, they mentioned.

They called for necessary steps immediately to reduce waterlogging problem in the city, otherwise it would no longer be a liveable place.

Criticising the role of Dhaka Wasa and Dhaka City Corporation, the speakers said a system of accountability should be maintained in the two government organisations.

Majority of the funds aiming to develop the drainage system is actually used to provide salary and other

amenities for project officers, often wasting valuable foreign donations, they noted.

Demands to free the canals in and around the city from encroachers were also placed at the meeting.

Chaired by BDEF President Sarder Amin and moderated by Nagarik Sanghati General Secretary Sharifuzzaman Sharif, the discussion was addressed by Kazi Md Sheesh, former chief engineer of Dhaka Wasa, Enamul Haque, former chief engineer of Water Development Board, GM Nasir, member of Rehab executive committee, and Mihir Biswas, joint secretary of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon, among others.



Karmojibi Nari forms a human chain at Muktangan yesterday demanding steps to punish perpetrators who are committing violence against women across the country. (Story on Page 5)

Utilise communal harmony in nat'l dev

President tells Puja body members

BSS, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday said the existing communal harmony of the country could be utilised to expedite the national development process.

"Bangladesh is a glittering model of communal harmony in the global arena," he said when an eight-member delegation of Gulshan Sarbajanin Puja Udjapan Parishad led by its general secretary Panna Lal Dutta called on him at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.

Parishad's Vice-President Kanutosh Mojumder and member Major General (Retd) Jibon Kanai Das were present on the occasion.

During the meeting, the president said in Bangladesh, people belonging to all caste and creed, have been practising their religions freely and peacefully since time immemorial. "It's a matter of pride and pleasure for all of us," he added.

The president also greeted the Hindu community on the occasion of Janmastami, birthday of Lord Krishna.

"I hope the bond of peace, unity and harmony will be further strengthened through celebrating the Janmastami," he added.

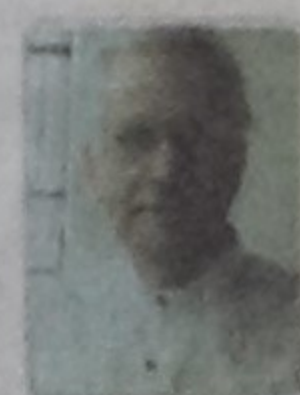
Zillur expressed his happiness

by knowing that Gulshan Sarbajanin Puja Udjapan Parishad has been celebrating Durga Puja colourfully in Gulshan area in the city since last year.

"I hope, the Hindu community will celebrate the Durga Puja this year in a befitting manner and I urge all concerned to extend their support in this regard," he said.

Members of the delegation informed the president about their various activities and sought his all-out support.

Late Anwar Zahid



On the occasion of our father's 1st death anniversary Friends and relatives are requested to pray for the Salvation of the departed soul.

Shoma and Antu

Two robbers arrested

UNB, Bagerhat

Detective police arrested two suspected robbers and seized a firearm and bullets in a special drive in the district yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of DB police conducted the drive at different places in Sadar upazila to

track down the robber gang who committed a daring robbery here on Tuesday night.

During the raid, they detained Rahul Amin Mollah, 24, the driver of the microbus used for committing the robbery, from his village home at Dema Hemayetpur in the upazila.

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Corporate Office: Ali Mazhar, 1173/1207 Sadarghat Road, Chittagong, Bangladesh. Tel: +880 31 2854901-10. Fax: +880 31 610101. E-mail: mail@bsrm.com. Web: www.bsrm.com
Dhaka Office: Mahabul Centre (2nd & 4th Floor), 35/A Purana Paltan Line, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh. Phone: +880 2 8313135, 9358135, 8311994. Fax: +880 2 8312905. E-mail: dhaka@bsrm.com

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It's not only the Peri-Peri that makes our chicks spicy, but the fact that our legendary recipe has been such a fiercely-guarded secret, that the mere thought of it will make you crave the irresistible flavour. Now, we are in Gulshan to tempt your taste-buds with flair (and more than a little flare). It's the greatest thing to happen since we opened in Dhanmondi a few years ago.



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