



Raw sewage has been flooding nearly half a kilometre stretch of Ganaktuli Lane in the capital's Hazaribagh since Monday, a problem occurring at a regular interval because of a blocked underground sewer. Dhaka Wasa is currently working to clear the pipe, said officials.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Part of Bhagalpur without water supply for months

Residents want Dhaka Wasa to install pump

HELEMUL ALAM

After the water tap ran completely dry at her house three months ago, Saleha Begum visited the nearby Durga temple to collect water for a few days. But soon it turned out to be unviable and she was forced to start buying water. The temple did not have enough water to fill all the pitchers that were queued up every day.

"My husband runs a scrap store and his income is meagre. So it is very difficult for him to spend an additional Tk 100 every day to fetch 10 pitchers full of water by a rickshaw-van. We have no choice; we are bound to do it to meet our regular demand," she said.

A part of Bhagalpur in the capital's Hazaribagh, where Saleha lives, has been seeing the water crisis for several months, and a few months ago almost a hundred

households ran out of water. Officials say the water pump in the area is unable to meet the demand of a swelling population.

Saleha and her neighbours now regularly travel at least 2km from their house to Kamrangirchar to have their pitchers filled. Each pitcher of water costs Tk 10, and Saleha needs 10 for bathing, drinking, and cleaning at her four-member household.

"We are facing the crisis for the last several years, but it grew acute three months back," she said.

Locals and officials of Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) said the population had got four times bigger in the last five years.

Nimai Pal, a local resident and businessman affiliated with the city corporation,

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Actor Sirajul passes away

STAR REPORT

Sirajul Islam, the veteran actor and film director who appeared in over 300 films and won the National Film Award in 1985, died of old-age complications in his Niketan residence in the capital yesterday. He was 78.

Sirajul was buried at Banani graveyard following Asr prayers, said his son Mobassherul Islam.

Born in Hooghly district of the then undivided Bengal, Sirajul came to live in Dhaka with his parents in 1947 and was immediately drawn to theatre. He was actively involved with the theatre troupe Oboshor till his last days.

He made his directorial debut in 1980 and made the star studded and commercially successful film "Shonar Horin" in 1981. He also participated in numerous radio shows in the mid 60s.

He left behind his wife Marufa Islam and three children.

19 passport 'brokers' jailed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court backed by Rapid Action Battalion convicted 20 illegal passport brokers in the capital yesterday.

They were arrested near the Immigration and Passport office in Agargaon.

Of them, 19 were jailed for three months each and fined Tk 5,000 each while the other was fined Tk 10,000, said Executive Magistrate Anisur Rahman, who led the drive.

Some of the detainees admitted that they promised people to get passports in a short time and without verification, Lt Col SM Masud Rana, commanding officer of Rab-2, told a press briefing on the spot. The illegal brokers took money from passport-seekers but sometimes deceived them by not giving passports, he said.

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