

# MONSOON PLEASURE AND PAIN



(Clockwise from top) Monsoon rains swept the capital yesterday with students here on the Dhaka University campus clearly enjoying the moment. However, with the rainwater unable to drain out due to clogged up sewers under major roads, others suffered, struggling to get across roads such as this one connecting Mirpur and Kalshi. The inundation resulted in vehicular congestion like this at Kalabagan, peaking in the major roads around the city in the evening, as per traffic police sources, despite it being a weekend. People had a hard time crossing the Rajarbagh outer circular road for the mud dug up for the construction of the Moghbazar-Malibagh flyover. Meanwhile, the downpour washed away parts of the Demra-Amulia-Rampura road making movement risky and revealing the shoddy construction done last year.



PHOTO: STAR

## PREVENTING WATERLOGGING IN CTG CITY BELA urges mayor to modify, implement master plan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA) yesterday stressed the need for modifying and implementing Chittagong city's master plan to solve the waterlogging problem.

At a mass hearing organised by BELA in a local hotel with civil society members and affected residents, Chief Executive Rizwana Hasan of the association urged Chittagong City Corporation's (CCC) mayor to develop an action plan and form a committee in every ward with locals and experts for ensuring proper action.

At the event titled "Requisites for addressing waterlogging in Chittagong city", town planner Subhash Barua suggested construction of a water reservoir with a capacity of 3,500 crore litres in Bhatiari-Sitakunda area to end waterlogging.

Prof Sikandar Khan, East Delta University's vice-chancellor, mentioned that the problem has become acute due to unplanned development.

Mayor AJM Nasir Uddin noted that CCC cannot do many things due to a lack of coordination with Chittagong Development Authority.

He, however, said, "We are conducting campaigns to make the residents aware of dumping wastes in particular places, instead of discarding those at random, till December 31, and will start taking action against the offenders from January 1, 2016 to prevent the drains and canals from being clogged."

Former president of Institution of Engineers, Chittagong Delwar Hossain Majumder presented the keynote paper at the event.

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## BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FOR EDUCATION, HEALTH

# Neglect to bring bleak future

Experts tell dialogue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Decreasing investments in education and health sectors will have adverse impacts in the long run, said experts yesterday, calling for increased budgetary allocations in human resource development.

"Things may glitter in the short run if higher investments are made in physical infrastructures than in social sectors, but the future will be dark," said Prof Siddiqur Rahman, former director of the Institute of Education Research (IER), Dhaka University.

In the proposed budget for the 2015-16 fiscal year, the government allocated Tk 31,618 crore for education, which is 10.71 percent of the total budget -- it is a decline from 14.3 percent in the 2009-10 budget although the amount went up.

Meanwhile, the proposed health budget is Tk 12,695 crore, which is 4.3 percent of the total budget, a decrease from 5.1 percent in the 2011-12 budget.

Meanwhile, the allocation for infrastructure is much higher in the proposed budget for 2015-16 fiscal year. The transportation and communication sector got 23.8 percent and local government and rural development got 18.4 percent of the total budget.

Education and health are two fundamental aspects that impact future growth and sustainability of development, said Dr Siddiqur Rahman at a dialogue on "Invest-

ment in Education for Ending Child Marriage".

Ain o Salish Kendra, Terre des Hommes, Women and Girls Lead Global and World Vision Bangladesh organised it at Brac Centre Inn in Dhaka.

IER Assistant Professor Mahbubur Rahman said authorities seem to look at education budget as consumption, which is a wrong notion.

He said the allocation for education is a capital that helps build skilled human resources and has positive impacts in productivity.

Chandan Z Gomes, advocacy director at World Vision Bangladesh, said over 1.5 million children do not go to school despite the country's significant progress in education.

He said the dropout rate is also high, which is a result as well as a cause of child marriage, adding that 66 percent of children get married before the age of 18 despite it being the legal age for marriage.

Addressing as chief guest, Education Secretary Nazrul Islam Khan said it is true that the share of the education budget is declining, but the government is now focusing on job creation.

Tania Haque, associate professor of women and gender studies, Dhaka University; and Mahmudul Kabir, country director of Terre des Hommes, the Netherlands, also spoke.

## Secularism waning

FROM PAGE 3

system in creating religious tolerance, Vice Chancellor of IUB Prof M Omar Rahman said, "It is essential to make the present generation aware about the religions of others as well as theirs."

Quoting the mystic song writer Lalon Fakir, folklore specialist Prof Shamsuzzaman Khan said secular views were spread in villages by "bauls" (mystic minstrels) and "bayatis" (folk singers) during the 17th century.

"But today they cannot sing Bangla songs in villages," he said, adding religious intolerance and extremism silenced these secular voices.

Discussing Prof Emanuel's paper, Liberation War Museum Trustee Mofidul Hoque quoted Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore's 1905 lecture in explaining how the division between Hindus and Muslims would be like separating a single soul.

"We are in grave danger now," said Kamal Lohani, noted cultural personality, adding that the country had failed to retain its secular nature as stated in the constitution.

Chairing the session, writer Selina Hossain said, "Those who belong to the majority should not look down on the minorities from the position of power."

Prof Korunamoy Goswami will present a paper on secularism in Tagore's thoughts from 10:00am to 1:00pm at Bangla Academy today, while Prof Ali Riaz will present a paper titled "The Future of Secularism" at IUB from 3:00pm to 5:30pm tomorrow.

Cultural programmes will follow the seminar, from 5:30pm to 8:00pm.

## Safe food, iftar items

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liver diseases, diarrhoea, and dysentery, they observed.

To stop the widespread food adulteration through commissioning of separate courts, the law was formulated but it is not implemented properly, they alleged.

They also demanded an end to mixing formalin, carbide or any kind of chemical with fruits.

## Dhaka gifts 2 elephants to Cyprus

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The two female elephants, reared under the supervision of Bangladesh Forest Development Corporation, are Asian elephants. Both will be kept in Pafos Zoo in Cyprus, a member state of the European Union.

ABM Shahidullah, chief veterinary officer of the hospital, accompanied the elephants on their journey to observe whether the animals face any difficulties in their new location. He would also attend a seminar

there and give a lecture on the lifestyle of Asian elephants.

"Cyprus wanted two elephants from Bangladesh two years ago," Shahidullah had said on Friday.

The process of sending the animals took time as their blood samples were sent to the laboratories in Belgium, London and Cyprus to determine if they had any disease.

A huge number of Bangladeshis study and work in Cyprus.

## Road crash deaths elicit little public

FROM PAGE 3

Md Ali Reza, general secretary of Biplobi Sarak Paribahan Sramik Federation, said jaywalking and makeshift structures on road are two of the major reasons behind

road accidents.

Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, vice chancellor of Dhaka University, who was present as the chief guest, emphasised awareness campaigns to lower road accidents.

## Concert Against Sexual Violence

Raju Square, TSC, Dhaka University  
4 pm - 10pm on Sunday, June 14, 2015

Featuring:

- The Armeen Musa Band, Baul Express, Gaaner Dol O Krishnakoli, Gaaner Dol Gayen, Gaan Poka, Joler Gaan, Jagoron, Madol, Synergy, Mobasher Chowdhury (of Old School), Shohojia, Shironamheen, Shayan, Shobhyota, Shany, and others.

আড় ডেইরি  
লাবান  
৫০০ মি.লি.

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