RAMADAN 2, 1436 HIJRI





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BEHIND WATERLOGGING IN DHAKA

Two-thirds of Wasa area lacks drainage

Poor planning, filling up of canals aggravate situation every monsoon

TAWFIQUE ALI

Life in Dhaka city virtually comes to a standstill every time there is a monsoon rain. Many areas go under water due to scanty storm drainage system and the indiscriminate filling up of water retention areas by private and government entities over the years.

Shantinagar, Khilgaon, Bashabo, Malibagh, Shantibagh, Rajarbagh, Mughdah, Mohammadpur, Badda and different parts of Old Dhaka are among the areas that experience the worst of waterlogging after a shower.

Just a third of the 360-square kilometre Wasa service area is covered by storm-water drainage system. The Dhaka master plan area, however, is 1,528 sq km, officials said.

Wasa has a storm-water drainage system master plan for the capital, but its implementation will depend on the availability of funds, they added.

Canals, rivers and water retention areas collect, carry and retain rainwater and are connected with each other as a drainage network. But in recent decades, the city canals have either been grabbed or turned into box culverts for road construction, said Khondaker M Ansar Hossain, an urban planner who worked as a technical expert on Detailed Area Plan (DAP) for Dhaka.

The government had ignored repeated warnings of experts not to allow water SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

AVAILABLE DRAINAGE SYSTEM

• 320km large diameter concrete drains

• 10km box culvert on canals

WHAT TO DO

• 65km canals as natural drainage

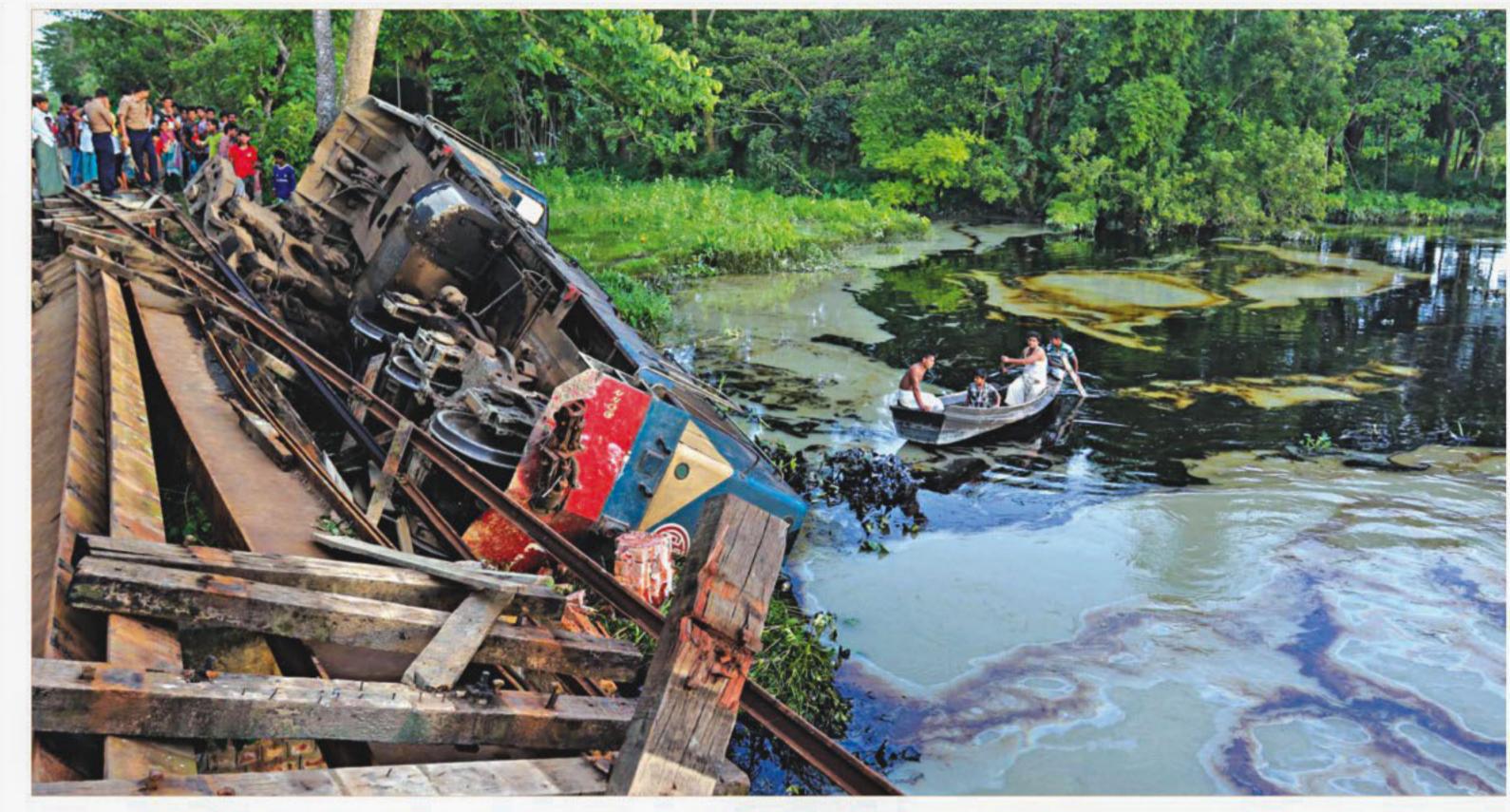
Expansion of drainage systems in city

No solid-waste dumping in drains, canals

Reclaiming canals, water retention ponds

Cleaning roadside drains before monsoon

Restoring canal-river-water body network



The engine of a furnace oil-carrying train that derailed as a bridge over a canal crumbled in Khitabchar area under Boalkhali upazila of Chittagong yesterday. A thick layer of oil spilled from tanker wagons floats on the water. PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Three oil wagons RAMADAN ESSENTIALS plunge into canal Prices hiked on

Oil spill creates environmental concern about Karnaphuli

SHAHADAT HOSSAIN, Ctg

A train carrying furnace oil derailed and three of its wagons fell into a canal when a bridge gave way at Khitabchar of Boalkhali upazila yesterday, spilling oil into the water body and posing threat to the environment.

The canal flows to the Karnaphuli river, some 10 to 12 kilometres off the spot where the accident happened around 1:30pm. Experts fear the oil would soon spread in the river.

A thick layer of oil was floating on the canal water. The spilled oil was getting into nearby vegetable fields as well.

Railway sources said the train was carrying the oil for Dohazari Peaking Power Plant from the port city and each

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rising demand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Traders hiked prices of essentials and vegetables yesterday, cashing in on the increased demand on the first day of Ramadan.

From brinjal, cucumber, green chili, potato to onion and chicken, consumers had to pay more yesterday than a couple of days ago. "The price of brinjal is too high. I just dropped the item

from my shopping list," said Raihan Rashid at Mirpur-1 kitchen market. The vegetable is used for making snacks to break fast. Its

prices shot up to Tk 100 a kilogram, up by Tk 50 in just four days. The prices of cucumber and green chili doubled to Tk 60

CHECK IT OUT! SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

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WATER WOES IN CITY

WHY WATERLOGGING

Waterlogging in monsoon even after a little rain

Only one-third of 360 sqkm Dhaka Wasa

service area is covered by drainage system

No storm drainage system in most parts of city

Available drainage system clogged with wastes

Mindless filling of canals, water retention areas

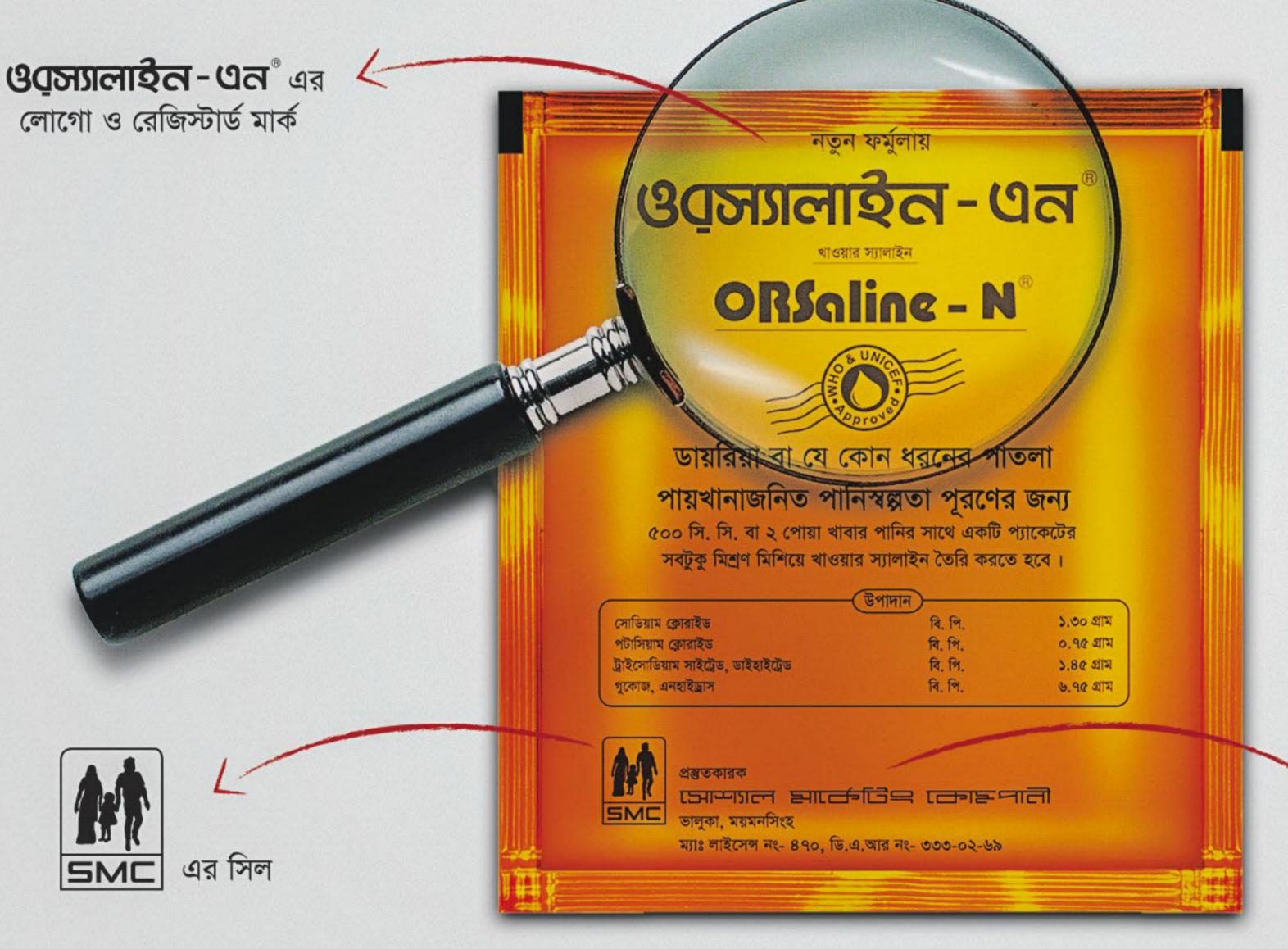
Waste dumping block natural drainage system



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