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WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

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INT'L CRICKET MEET

PM Sheikh Hasina inaugurates ICRC int'l tournament for the physically challenged

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PETRAEUS'S PROPOSAL

The former CIA director wants to use Al-Qaeda to fight ISIS

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Drainage scanty, mostly clogged

Poor, haphazard drainage system behind waterlogging in Dhaka city even after moderate rain; filling up of wetlands aggravates situation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over a dozen government agencies are involved in maintaining the storm drainage in the capital. Yet the entire system collapses every time it rains, even when moderately, leaving most parts of the city waterlogged and throwing life out of gear.

The main reasons for the failure in dealing with waterlogging in the capital are a lack of coordination among the authorities concerned, solid waste clogging up drains, and filling up of canals and other water retention bodies, according to experts and high officials of the agencies responsible for drainage development and maintenance.

A single authority to look after the storm drainage system is a must to address waterlogging in the city, said Mayor Sayeed

Khokon of Dhaka South City Corporation.

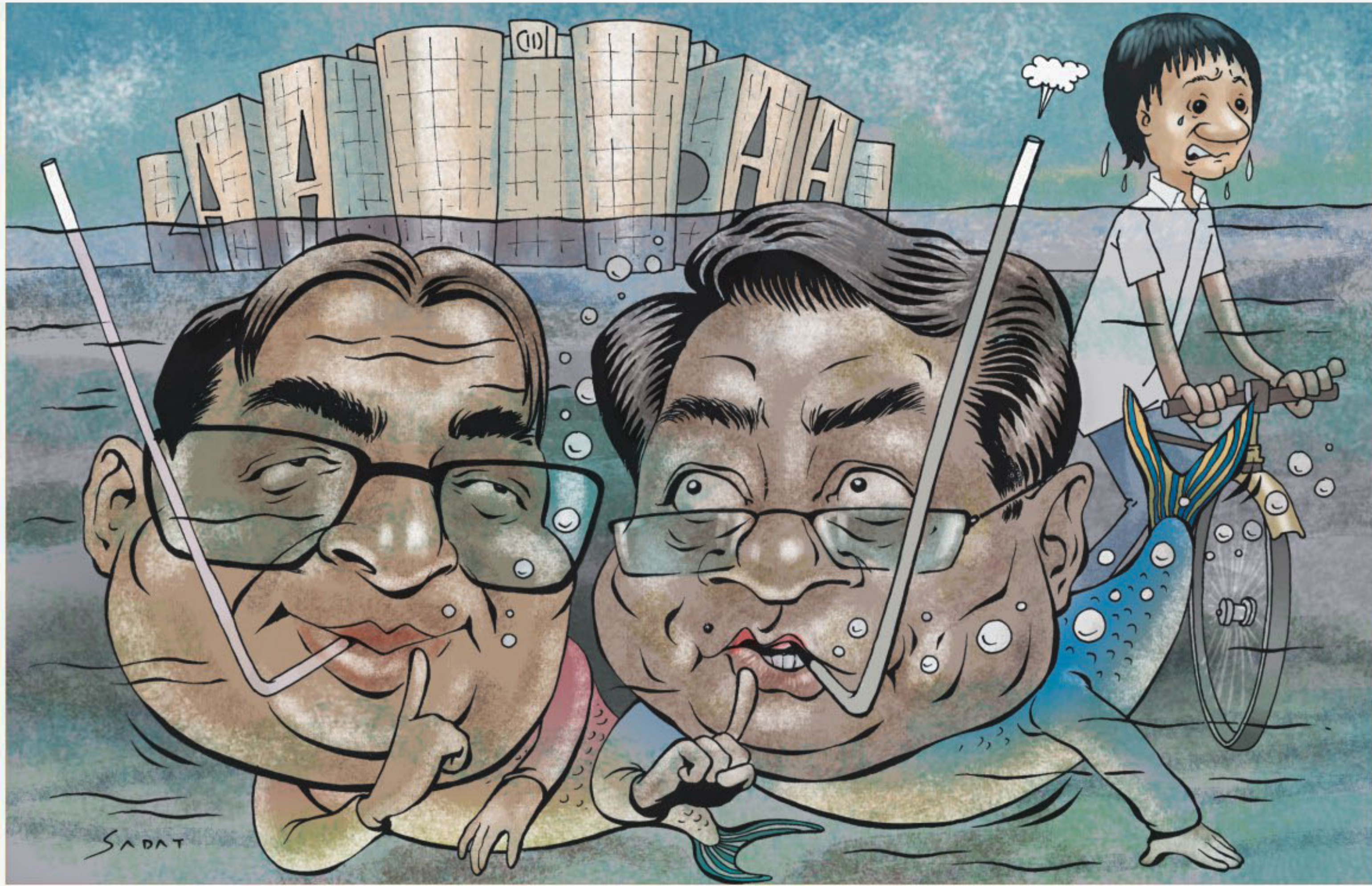
And because of the absence of such an authority, none of the government agencies knows exactly how Dhaka's drainage system functions, said experts.

Only 22 percent of the 360-sqkm area under the Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) in Dhaka is covered by storm drainage. So, more than one-fourth of the city area has to depend on narrow open drains and canals for water to recede, which is far from enough.

Then again, solid waste clogs the 320-km storm drainage.

What's worse is that the Wasa cleans up the drains only once a year, according to SDM Quamrul Alam Chowdhury, deputy managing director of the agency.

To improve the waterlogging situation, the Wasa in 2012 installed some large



WHY WATERLOGGING

- No coordination among drainage maintenance agencies
- No storm drainage system in 88pc of 360-sqkm Dhaka Wasa area
- Available drains mostly clogged with solid waste
- Drainage systems cleaned only once a year
- Filling up of canals by land grabbers
- Agencies' lack of knowledge on how drainage system really works

WAYS OUT

- Expansion of drainage systems
- Introduction of a single authority designated for drainage system
- Increasing frequencies of drain clean-ups
- Reclaiming canals, water bodies
- Preventing waste dumping in drains
- Strong govt actions to stop grabbing of canals



ANNISUL HUQ
MAYOR, DHAKA NORTH

Nobody knows the exact state of storm drainage facilities in the capital. Dhaka Wasa and the city corporations pass the buck between each other. I have instructed the ward councillors to come up with ideas on how to contain waterlogging in the city.



SAYEED KHOKON
MAYOR, DHAKA SOUTH

Around 14 government agencies including the city corporations and Dhaka Wasa are responsible for the upkeep of the city's drainage system, but there is no coordination among these organisations. The DSCC is cleaning the surface drains as an immediate step to ease waterlogging.



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Lift trouble for patients

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Mahtab Islam was relieved to hear from doctors that they had successfully operated on his 55-year-old mother, Alesa Begum, yesterday morning.

Alesa was one of the five patients at Ward 501 who underwent cervical surgeries at the Emergency and Casualty Complex of Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday.

Fear overrode the joy of Mahtab and

A patient on a gurney being taken upstairs via the staircase yesterday as the lone lift to the fourth floor of the DMCH's Emergency and Casualty Complex has been broken for the past three days. Below, a woman, oblivious to the situation, waits on the ground floor for the lift.



5 took part in Ananta killing

Confesses arrestee; charges pressed in Oyasiquer murder

STAR REPORT

Five people, including two students of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST),



hacked Ananta Bijoy Das to death for "his write-ups", claimed CID, quoting one of the "attackers".

Suspect Mannan Rahi gave his confessional statement before Judge Anwarul Karim of the Sylhet Metropolitan Magistrate's Court-3 yesterday, reports our Moulvibazar correspondent.

Mannan, a student of English department at SUST, was arrested at Kanaighat in Sylhet on August 28.

Mirza Abdullahel Baqui, special superintendent of the Criminal Investigation Department, said, "Mannan confessed that he, another SUST student Abul Khair and three others stabbed Ananta to death for his write-ups on Islam."

Based on information divulged by Mannan, the CID, which is investigating the case, arrested Khair, an honours final-year student at the university, in Sylhet

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Rain-induced floods hit a dozen dists

STAR REPORT

Heavy rain has deteriorated the flood situation inundating fresh areas in over a dozen districts of the North and the Northeast.

A few lakh people in those regions were suffering due to lack of fresh water and food. Some families were in trouble with their cattle and poultry while many farmers saw their crops getting destroyed.

The floods snapped road commu-

nication, eroded embankments and disrupted school activities in some areas. Some schools went under water and a few were devoured by rivers.

The Met office said the country had already had over 40 percent above the usual rain in the monsoon and it feared more was to come from Friday next, worsening the situation.

The flood forecasting and warning centre said low-lying and char areas were inundated afresh as water levels of major rivers were above their

danger marks.

As the water level of the Brahmaputra-Jamuna were rising, many areas in Kurigram, Gaibandha, Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari, Bogra, Jamalpur and Sirajganj went under water, official sources in the Water Development Board (WDB) said.

Heavy rain over the last two days flooded many places along the Jamuna and Bangalee rivers including areas under Shariakandi, Sonatola

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A man rows a raft made of banana trees to get to higher ground after his house at Rohodaha in Sariakandi of Bogra went under water, like the ones in the background.

PHOTO: STAR



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