



An aerial view of the subsided section of Jahanara Gardens Road next to an excavated piece of land in the capital.

# Hundreds await water, sewerage service as road subsides

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nearly 400 families residing on Jahanara Gardens Road, a dead-end alley off Green Road near Farmgate intersection in the capital, have been out of water supply since yesterday morning. The supply of water, dispersing of sewage and vehicular movement remain disrupted in the area as a long section, almost as wide as the road, alongside a large excavated area of a construction site suddenly subsided. The incident took place soon after the heavy downpour in the early hours yesterday. The road collapsed around 6:30am and gas pipeline underneath it also developed a leak, Ruhul Amin, a senior technical official at Titas Gas, told The Daily Star.

A team of Titas first response crew repaired the leak around 7:15am, he added. Almost all utility services including water, sewerage and gas got cut off due to the road collapse. Power supply in the area remained uninterrupted as the electric poles carrying the power cables were not damaged in the incident, said Sushil Roy, caretaker of a residential building in the area. He said gas supply in the area was restored around 11:00am, but the Dhaka Wasa (Water Supply and Sewerage Authority) is yet to restore water and sewerage lines. The construction work, of a 10-storey building by Akankha Group, started around six months back and cracks started to appear on the road over the

last few days while piling work of the building was going on, said locals. The portion of the road that caved in had been damaged due to the ongoing work of the building right next to the road that is the only entry and exit point for 371 families, said locals. Rebutting the allegation, SM Mahbubur Rahman, general manager of Akankha Group, said a leaking sewerage line under that portion of the road had caused the subsiding triggered by the heavy rainfall in the morning. Tutu Saadullah, president of Jahanara Gardens Welfare Association, said the narrow road meant for light vehicles could not withstand excessive weight of heavy construction equipment including cement mixer trucks.

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PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## Missing youth's skeleton found in Gazipur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Police recovered the skeleton of a youth from a septic tank at one of his friends' house in Gazipur yesterday. The youth had gone missing six months ago from Dokkhinbag area in the district.

Police arrested four people -- Humayun Kabir, his father Ali Afsar and his uncle and aunt -- in this connection.

The deceased, Shakhawat Hossen, 30, son of Alauddin in this area, used to carry passengers on his motorcycle in the area.

His family said local friends called him out of his house at about 10:00pm on November 16. He had been missing since then.

At that time, his motorcycle was abandoned two kilometres away from his house, they said.

Police have been investigating the incident since Ayesha Akter, mother of Shakhawat, filed an abduction case with Kaliganj Police Station at that time.

Sub-inspector Mojibur Rahaman said his two friends, including Humayun, called him out of his residence.

Police sent the skeleton to the Dhaka Medical College morgue.

## An end to another dream

DU CORRESPONDENT

Johny Uddin did not think that yesterday would be the last day in his life.

He, along with three of his friends, was enjoying swimming in the pond at Zahurul Haq Hall of Dhaka University, but the joy turned into sorrow.

Johny, what his friends said, was visiting the dormitory to swim in the pond. After he swam a few yards, he could not move forward due to fatigue. At one stage, he disappeared in the water. At that time, "none of us dared to rescue him", said Mohshin, one of the friends.

Later, the three and students residing in the dormitory joined a rescue operation of divers of fire service, leading to the recovery of Johny's body.

As a student of applied chemistry and chemical engineering of DU, Johny's dream was to be a great chemical engineer, said his classmates.

They cannot console themselves after losing a friendly, smiling and energetic friend.

One of Johny's uncles said he had been a bright student since his childhood and got golden A+ both in the SSC and HSC examinations.

In the last month, another DU student, Bayezid Bostami, met similar tragic end in the pond of Shahidullah Hall, another dormitory of the university.



Johny beside the pond at Jahurul Haq Hall where he drowned yesterday. The photo was collected from his Facebook account.

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