



DRAINAGE deplorable

Moderate spell of rain deluges the capital though 7 authorities take care of the network

TANVIQUE ALI

Inadequate storm-water drainage system managed by seven different authorities with little coordination among themselves is the reason why Dhaka streets suffer deluge every time there is moderate rain.

The authorities do their job haphazardly. They hardly know what the others are doing, say officials concerned.

In a well-managed network of storm drainage system, rainwater instantly runs into the low-lying retention areas. But, it takes hours for rainwater runoff if the network is faulty or destroyed, leading to immense public sufferings.

The worst-affected areas in the capital include Shantinagar, Khilgaon, Bashabo, Malibagh, Shantibagh, Rajarbagh, Mugla, Ahsanmadpur, Badda and different parts of Old Dhaka, say the officials and urban planners.

Each of the seven authorities 'looks after the network under its jurisdiction' and none of them is assigned to do the job single-handedly, said Tassem A Khan, managing director of Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa).

The six other authorities are the two city corporations, Water Development Board, Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha (Rajuk), Cantonment Board and large private housing developers like Bashundhara, he said.

'Dhaka Wasa with 370km storm drainage pipelines covers only one-fifth its service area of 400sqkm.'

The two city corporations maintain over 2,000km of feeder drains (open and small diameter pipes) to carry rainwater, and liquid waste from homes into canals and wider diameter storm sewer system, according to Sirajul Islam, chief town planner of Dhaka South City Corporation.

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A Dhaka Wasa employee at a manhole opened to speed up draining of rainwater on a street in Motijheel of the capital around 11:30am yesterday. Rain since the wee hours of yesterday inundated many streets of Dhaka.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

FRAGILE DRAINAGE SYSTEM

- » 7 authorities deal with city's storm drainage system haphazardly
- » Wasa covers one-fifth of 400 sqkm area with 370 km storm drainage line
- » 2 city corporations maintain 2,000 km feeder drains for storm water passage
- » 26 out of 65 canals remain; most of them clogged with solid waste
- » Unplanned urbanisation, destruction of wetlands; flood flow zone made damage irreversible

WAYS OUT OF WATERLOGGING

- » Entrusting a single agency/forming a drainage authority
- » Increasing large-diameter storm drainage pipelines, enhancing pumping capacity
- » Collecting solid waste fully to keep canals, drains flowing
- » Reclaiming flood flow zone, retention areas, canals
- » Cleaning storm drains before monsoon

City people suffer on waterlogged roads

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Daylong sporadic downpour coupled with a collapsed traffic system caused indescribable hardships to the city dwellers yesterday.

Hundreds of people suffered due to the snail-paced vehicular movement on busy streets in waterlogged Dhaka. The 28mm of rainfall submerged many city neighbourhoods, exposing the vulnerability of the capital's drainage system very early into the monsoon season.

Roads behind Banglabhaban, the official residence cum office of the President, were inundated in the rain and many parts of the concrete roads were washed away.

As a result, traffic division of Dhaka Metropolitan Police diverted Gulistan bound buses from Tikatuli area and directed them to go around Motijheel.

'Due to accumulation of rainwater, potholes were created in several places.'

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TOP QUOTE

Bangladesh has set an example by containing terrorism through successful operations by law enforcers and the armed forces with people's support.

PRIME MINISTER SHEIKH HASINA AT PPS'S 40TH FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY FUNCTION YESTERDAY

GAZIPUR BOILER BLAST

Three of the dead made accused

STAR REPORT

Police have sued three dead staffers of Multifabs Ltd over Monday's boiler explosion at its garment factory in Gazipur, raising doubts among the victims' families as to whether the persons responsible would be brought to justice.

Abdur Rashid, assistant sub-inspector at Chakrabarti Police Camp, filed the case with Joydebpur Police Station on Tuesday night against the three boiler operators, who were killed in the blast while on duty. Ten unidentified persons were also made accused.

The three operators were Abdus Salam, Ershad Hossain and Mansurul Huq, according to the first information report.

Police brought six charges, including murder, causing grievous injuries, and negligence in duty against the accused.

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GULSHAN ATTACK

Families of 20 victims to get compensation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Each family of 20 foreign and Bangladeshi nationals who were killed in the Holy Atrian cafe terror attack in the capital's Gulshan on July 1 last year will get 15,000 euros or equivalent to Tk 13.95 lakh as compensation.

The finance ministry yesterday informed the home ministry about the government decision.

The government needs 3 lakh euros or Tk 2.79 crore for the compensation.

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BUSINESSES IN DHAKA'S RESIDENTIAL AREAS

HC orders removal within 10 months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday asked owners of all unauthorised commercial structures to remove their installations from the residential areas of the capital, including Gulshan, Banani and Baridhara, within the next 10 months.

There is, however, a window of opportunity for them, as the court said they could seek permission from Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha (Rajuk) to turn the residential buildings into commercial structures within the period to continue their business operations. In that case they would have to pay relevant fees.

If Rajuk approves their applications, they will continue their business activities.

Otherwise, Rajuk can demolish or remove the unauthorised structures as per law if owners fail to shift them within the given time, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam told The Daily Star after the judgment.

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'KIDNAP' OF FARHAD MAZHAR

Police 'hunting' for microbus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives are trying to find the microbus in which writer and poet Farhad Mazhar claimed to have been forcibly taken to Khulna early Monday morning.

The police have collected that morning's CCTV footage of the Gabtoli area where the mobile phone of Farhad was seen active. They are trying to track down the owners of some vehicles seen in the footage, Farhad's family friend said quoting police officials.

Mearwhile, a team of Detective Branch (DB) of police, which is investigating the incident, travelled to Khulna from Gabtoli yesterday to find more sources of CCTV footage.

Golam Mostafa Razi, additional deputy commissioner of DB west division, told

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*Source: National Institute of Kidney Diseases & Urology (NIKDU) website

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