



PHOTO: STAR

Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) brings out a procession from its headquarters in the capital's Gulshan-2 yesterday. The march was held to create awareness about controlling Aedes mosquitoes that transmit viral diseases like chikungunya and dengue, posing a serious health threat.

Waterlogging a never-ending crisis in Khulna city

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

Due to unabated encroachment of canals and a lack of proper drainage and sewerage system in Khulna city, waterlogging has become a perennial problem for the dwellers, especially in the rainy season.

For the residents, rain is neither a blessing nor it brings any respite. It rather begets waterlogging, overflowing of drains and inundation of most of the roads, shops and houses.

According to them, due to a poor drainage system, rainwater mixed with sewage continues to escalate sufferings of around 1.7 million people living in 45.65 sq km area under 31 wards in the riverine divisional city.

Even after a light rain, areas such as Dak Bangla Mor, Picture Palace

Crossing, Shibbari Intersection, Old Jessore Road, Clay Road, KD Ghosh Road, Cemetery Road, Sir Iqbal Road, Moylapota Mor, Gallamari Mor, Rupsha Ghat, BL College Mor, Phulbari Gate, Sonadanga Central Bus Stand Intersection, PTI Mor, Royal Mor and Shantidham Mor go under knee-to-waist-deep water.

Nasim Ahmed, a resident of Sir Iqbal Road area, said, "Anytime it rains, water gets inside our house. We cannot even use the kitchen or bathroom."

"The streets also stay inundated. We have to wade through filthy water mixed with sewage," said a frustrated Nasim.

Idris Miah, a rickshaw-puller of Rupsha area, said, "We don't usually pull rickshaws amid rain. Even vehicles try to stay off the roads."

Sheikh Ashraf Tutul, a shopkeeper

on Mirzapur Road, said, "Water also enters the shops damaging our goods. Many of us do not open our businesses during rain."

Many of the locals said most of the city drains are clogged with polythene, plastic bottles and household garbage. They are not properly cleaned by the authorities concerned, alleged locals.

According to the Khulna City Corporation (KCC) sources, the KCC has spent over Tk 150 crore for excavation and re-excavation of the canals and improving the drainage system.

But due to unabated encroachment by the influential locals and incessant dumping of waste, most of the city's 47 canals do not flow properly and the waterlogging crisis remains at large, they added.

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Jahangirnagar University students Puja Biswas of international relations, left, and Sarder Zahid of English departments during a hunger strike until death at the Central Shaheed Minar on the campus yesterday. Zahid started the strike around 2:00pm yesterday demanding withdrawal of cases filed against 56 fellow students, including himself, over allegation of vandalising the residence of the vice chancellor. Puja, who also faces the case, joined the protest a couple of hours later.

PHOTO: MD ASADUZ ZAMAN

CTG WATERLOGGING

Tk 6,000cr project being taken to end woes: Minister

BSS, Ctg

A Tk 6,000 crore project is being taken at the directive of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for a permanent solution to the waterlogging problem in the port city of Chittagong, said Housing and Public Works Minister Engineer Mosharraf Hossain.

The project is being undertaken in line with experts' opinions, he said while exchanging views with the journalists at Chittagong Press Club (CPC) on Friday night.

Mosharraf hoped that the project would soon be approved by the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecnc).

He underscored the importance of coordination among public utility organisations including Chittagong City Corporation, Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) and Wasa to turn Chittagong into a world class city with all civic amenities.

Outlining planned development in Chittagong including four flyovers, an elevated expressway and Karnaphuli tunnel, the minister said the ancient Muslim Hall, a centre for cultural activities, will also get a facelift at a cost of Tk 300 crore and the DC

Hill Park would be modernised.

The minister said a modern cineplex would be set up in the city to enhance entertainment facilities for the city people.

Mentioning the steps taken for the rootless people, the minister said the government has taken steps for making planned residential areas in all upazilas and 1,000 slum families have already been accommodated in apartments.

Nearly 10,000 more families will gradually be accommodated in the apartments, he said.

In response to a demand of the journalists, the minister announced that a journalist village will be set up to solve their housing problem.

CPC president Kolim Sarwar presided over the programme while former ambassador Nurul Alam Chowdhury, Chairman of Chittagong Zila Parishad MA Salam, vice president of BFUI Shahidul Alam, president of Chittagong Union of Journalists Reaz Haidar Chowdhury, chairman of Chittagong Journalists Cooperatives Housing Society Swapnil Mallik, CPC senior vice president Kazi Abul Monsur and general secretary Shuklal Das also spoke.

Law enforcers

FROM PAGE 3
of a serious public wrath soon as "people are more organised and united against the autocratic rule than any time before".

"I call upon the government to back off from the anti-people and repressive path immediately. Or else, you'll have to face the fate of all other autocrats of the world," she said.

[See editorial on this issue on page 6]

Youth 'rapes'

FROM PAGE 3
was returning home, Shamim's friend -- Liton and Shohidul -- also snatched her valuables.

Following the incident, he filed a complaint with Dhamrai Police Station yesterday. Since then, Shamim and Liton were threatening him to withdraw it, alleged the father.

Rezaul Haque, officer-in-charge of the station, said they were trying to arrest the youths.

Dr Mannan's anniversary of death today

CITY DESK



Awami League lawmaker of Katiadi-Pakundia constituency in Kishoreganj.

A Language Movement veteran and Liberation War organiser, Dr Mannan died of old-age complications at a hospital in the capital last year, said a press release.

He joined Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University -- previously known as the Institute of Postgraduate Medicine and Research (IPGMR) -- in 1969 and initiated treatments for neurological disorders for the first time.

Founder of Neurology Foundation and Epilepsy Association of Bangladesh, Prof Mannan was awarded Ekushey Padak in 2015 for his contributions to medical sector and social services.

He founded Dr Abdul Mannan Women's College in Kishoreganj and several educational and social welfare institutions. He also served twice as the president of Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council.

Obituary

CITY DESK



Protima Das Gupta, wife of banker Dilip Das Gupta, passed away at 1:40pm on Friday at a

hospital in Dhaka. She left behind her husband and two daughters. She was cremated in the capital's Rajarbagh Kali Mandir.

CURBING MILITANCY

Political will, reform in education sought

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A reform in the education system and political will and a socio-cultural movement can help youths choose the right path, speakers told a discussion yesterday.

They said youths should also be engaged in social dialogues so that policymakers can listen to them in order to eliminate the menace of militancy.

Sammilito Samajik Andolon and Bangladesh Rukhe Darao organised the discussion on "Militant Activities in Bangladesh: Basic Things to Do" at Dhaka Reporters' Unity in the capital.

Discussants said although the government has its initiative, a promised national consensus against militancy is yet to be formed.

Dr Sarwar Ali, a trustee of the Liberation War Museum (LWM), said although political failure has been blamed widely, problem of militancy is deeply rooted in the society.

Present-day Bangladesh is different from what it was during the Liberation War while the global scenario has also changed by this time, he said. "If we cannot under-

stand this, we won't be able to reach our goal."

Reading out the keynote paper, economist Prof MM Akash said there would be an end to the stigma of militancy if its financing source can be disconnected. "For this, first we have to identify its economic basis."

Prof Nur Mohammad Talukder, member secretary of Platform against Communalism and Militancy, said political leaders while assuming power had patronised Qawmi education. But they did not take enough measures to modernise its education system.

Cultural personality Ramendu Majumdar said cultural activists were vocal against changes in textbooks but the government kept mum, which surprised the countrymen. Educational institutions can play an important role in curbing militancy.

LWM Trustee Ziauddin Tariq Ali presided over the discussion. Historian Prof Syed Anwar Hossain, left-leaning politician Pankaj Bhattacharya, rights activist Rokeya Kabir and Dhaka University teacher Robayet Ferdous also spoke.

Peak season, poor catch



Labourers sitting idle at Port Road Hilsa Wholesale Market in Barisal on July 10 as they had no work due to poor supply of fish.

PHOTO: STAR

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barisal

Zila Matsya Aratder Samity.

Although the peak season for catching hilsa is going on, supply of the fish is very poor to Port Road Wholesale Market in Barisal as fishermen are reluctant to fish in the Bay amid inclement weather.

Consequently, most of the day labourers are sitting idle at the market where fish come from Barisal division and Madaripur and Shariatpur districts.

Moslem Sarder, top labour leader at the market, said now only 300-500 permanent labourers work where there were 1,200-1,500 labourers at this time last year.

At least 20 traders out of over 100 kept their stores closed, said Farid Mia, owner of Dina Matsya Arot.

Presently, only 300-500 maund of hilsa are selling every day but the figure was 1,500-2,000 at this time last year, he added.

During a visit to the wholesale market, this correspondent found that some labourers were waiting to be hired while some were sleeping and gossiping.

The number of temporary labourers decreased to 5,000 from 20,000, said Nirob Hossain Tutul, secretary of Barisal

The fishermen said they cannot stay in the sea and rivers for a long time and have to return with less number of fish.

Siraj Majhi, a fisherman from Bhola, said he brought only 40 maunds of hilsa as he had to return from the sea within a short time. Other times, he had brought 200 maunds, he added.

"Due to inclement weather, we cannot dare to go to the deep sea," he further said.

Moslem Mia, another fisherman, said he had to return with only 10 maunds within 10 days, although he had caught over 50 maunds last year.

Similar comments came from

Farhad Sarder.

Talking to this correspondent, District Fishery Officer, Barisal Tapan Chandra Paul acknowledged the fact of poor supply of hilsa due to depression over the Bay.

He, however, said the overall situation might get normal within 10 days.

The peak season for catching hilsa is between July and mid-October, said Bimol Chandra Das, another district fishery officer.



Protesting the alleged disruption of a meeting by law enforcers at Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Rab) President ASM Abdur Rab's Uttara residence on Thursday, JSD forms a human chain in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR