



YESTERDAY'S
TEMPERATURES

DHAKA
H 35.0L 27.4

MYMENSINGH
H 31.5L 27.0

CHITTAGONG
H 33.5L 26.6

SYLHET
H 33.3L 25.5

RAJSHAHI
H 36.2L 27.0

RANGPUR
H 35.3L 27.6

KHULNA
H 34.5L 27.5

BARISAL
H 33.6L 26.0

COX'S BAZAR
H 33.8L 26.0

Rain accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over Sylhet, Mymensingh and Chittagong divisions and at some places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna and Barisal divisions with moderate heavy fall of about 10 to 20 mm. Heavy rain, squalls and gusty winds may occur over the latter part of the country, says Met office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:32pm and rises tomorrow at 5:42am.

Once Dhaka was adorned with several hundred ponds. Like canals, only a handful exist now. But they are also in death throes due to negligence of the authorities concerned. Although, according to the Playground, Open Space, Park and Natural Water Body Protection Act 2000, filling up of any water body including pond is illegal, it's going on unabated. The Daily Star found 63 ponds in the maps of undivided Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) in its 28 wards out of 90. A survey for the map was carried out between 2003 and 2011. But many of the water bodies were filled up before the period and also even after the survey. We are publishing the twenty first report of the series today covering the then DCC ward 12 and 10.



The reservoir at Road Research Institute.



The pond at Paikpara Government Staff Quarter in Mirpur is being maintained properly.

The pond at Panchtola Staff Quarter lies neglected.

PART 21

Once vibrant, now lies neglected

Even a year ago, the reservoir inside the Radio Staff Quarter in Kalyanpur used to be vibrant with activities.

Children, under the supervision of guardians, used to swim in its clean water. For many, the reservoir was also a source of drinking water.

But the condition of the pond is appalling now. According to locals, the quality of the water deteriorated drastically after fish was released into it.

"I used to swim in it regularly. I even learnt to swim here," said Shahadat Hossain Ridoy, a sixth-grader. "But I stopped swimming from this year as the water became dirty," he said.

Many said the water started to get dirty after the authorities concerned started to use the reservoir for cultivating fish. The authorities released fish again around four months back, they said.

Utrni, an eighth-grader, was fetching water from a nearby well. She said, "Very few people use the pond now. Before, we used to collect water from it for our household chores."

Abdur Rashid, deputy station officer of Radio station, said they purchased the land during the latter part



The pond at Mirpur Second Colony.

of the 30s. The total area including the pond is 19.72 acres.

"We handed over around 4.47 acres of land including the pond to the Bangladesh TV and Film Archive Institute," said Rashid. "National Institute of Mass Communication (Nimco) also received 2.40 acres."

He said the ponds need maintenance.

PONDS IN SECOND COLONY

Of the two ponds at Mirpur Second Colony, one has been filled up completely while the other partially.

Kutub Chowdhury, a resident of the colony, said the ponds were there since the Pakistan period.

Darus Salam Madhomik Bishidyalaya was constructed filling up one of the reservoirs.

The other pond is still alive. A primary health care centre and a school were constructed after filling up a portion of it, said locals. The reservoir used to be surrounded by trees, they added.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

People to the rescue

HELEMIUL ALAM

Fayaz Rahman, general secretary of the Bangladesh Rural Development and Cooperatives for repairing the affected roads, said CCC officials.

The CCC spent Tk 500 crore from 2013-14 to 2016-17 fiscal in road maintenance and development.

This time it sought Tk 500 crore from the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives for repairing the affected roads, said CCC officials.

Also, the ongoing construction works of a flyover at the mile long control over the streeting after hitting a pothole.

Last week, Rifat Binte Inam, a Chittagong College student, was badly injured as she fell after a rickshaw hit it a pothole in CDA Avenue near Nirmala area last week.

From a rickshaw in the low-lying areas under knee-to waist-deep water for hours numerous times during this monsoon, worsening the condition of the roads.

Also, the ongoing construction works of a flyover in different thoroughfares have deteriorated the situation further.

For example, Bahaddarhat to Kamapuli Shah Amanat Bridge Link Road is in a derelict state. Many portions of the road have become damaged and bumpy, causing the commuters experience moon ride on their way.

Residents of Bahaddarhat, Kamapuli, and Mirpur have been suffering from a marriage ceremony in C&O Colony area last week.

They started from their house on a CNG-rickshaw. It took 20 minutes to reach their destination. Not only the journey was bumpy, they also had to face a different problem.

"Once we got off the vehicle, we found that both of us were covered in dust," said Tapati.

The couple had to commute through two

He said they started looking after it from 2006. "We've been taking care of it ever since. We release fish in it and sell those to generate income."

Asma Akhtar, daughter of a Bangabhaban staff who lives at the quarter, said the pond also enhanced the living standards in the area. "Everyday, the pond area gets a walk with people—walking or gossiping beside it."

Her mother, Nazma Bano, was on an evening stroll by the reservoir. She paused, took a deep breath and said, "Even the air is fresh here."

Saiful Islam, president of the Kalyan Samity, said not just the pond, the condition of the quarter was also not good before. "We took the initiative to clean the pond as well as improve the condition of the area."

He said they gave the pond to the mosque committee so that they can maintain it properly. "We cultivate fish in it by leasing it from the mosque committee. The money is then used for the develop-

ment of the area including the pond."

He said they have already applied to the Public Works Department (PWD) for constructing two ghats (landing spots), a walkway on the north side, a baily bridge and benches.

The project is already approved by the authorities concerned, he added.

"You should drop by after the project is finished. The pond and its surrounding area will be more vibrant then," he said.

PONDS AT ROAD RESEARCH INSTITUTE

There are six ponds inside the Bangladesh Road Research Institute in Paikpara, which are being maintained by the authorities concerned.

Mohammad Bulbul Hossain, executive engineer at the institute, said the total area of the institute is around 40 acres.

The land was acquired in 1952. The reservoirs were dug up around that time.

Bulbul said they cultivate fish in the ponds. Though they have a plan to con-

struct a "road research training wing", they will not fill up the reservoirs to do so.

"We will continue to protect those," he said.

PANCHTOLA STAFF QUARTER POND

While the pond inside the Paikpara Staff Quarter is a glaring example of how a reservoir should be cared for, the one inside the Panchtola Staff Quarter lies neglected.

A large portion of it has already been grabbed and filled up.

Mohammad Jahangir, a former staff of the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh, said structures have been built illegally on its eastern side.

"I used to bathe in it in the 90s. But the water became dirty due to dumping of waste from the nearby residences."

He also alleged that due to a rivalry between "two groups" in the area, no one takes any steps to renovate the pond.

(Edited by HASAN MEER)

Rain leaves 300km roads battered

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Cg

Around 30 percent of the port city roads are in dire dilapidated conditions due to the onslaught of rain during this monsoon, escalating sufferings of the commuters and residents.

Around 300km city roads out of 1,066km were affected this monsoon, highest in the recent years, according to the Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) sources.

During monsoons, around 100km roads were affected in 2014 while 150km in 2015 and 110km in 2016, said CCC officials.

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"Once we got off the vehicle, we found that both of us were covered in dust," said Tapati.

The couple had to commute through two

roads -- Kamapuli Shah Amanat Bridge to Bahaddarhat Road and Bahaddarhat to GEC Road -- on that day. The former became dilapidated due to the construction work of a flyover.

The most affected roads are Port Connecting Road, Bahaddarhat to Kamapuli Shah Amanat Bridge Road, Bahaddarhat to Kalurghat Road, Bahaddarhat to GEC Intersection, Muradpur to Oxygen Intersection, Sholahashar Gate 2 to Bayezid Bastami Road and Agrabad Access Road.

During a visit, it was seen that potholes and dust engulfed Bahaddarhat to Kamapuli Shah Amanat Bridge Road. Vehicles were moving at a snail's pace to avoid unwanted accidents on the 7km road.

Some of the portions of the road, including Tulstoli, Kalamia Bazar, Rahat Pool and Bahaddarhat 1Km Road, were in a deplorable state.

Abdul Halim, driver of a city bus, said it took around 45 minutes to pass the road due to its condition. "It's not supposed to take more than 25 minutes. Driving accident, I remain cautious while feeling anxious," he said.

Condition of the other roads including Bahaddarhat to GEC, Bahaddarhat to Kalurghat and Muradpur to Oxygen Intersection remained the same during a visit last week.

Contacted, Anwar Hossain, superintendent engineer of CCC, said the CCC had already started its road repairing works.

"We have filled up the potholes in many roads using bricks. Once the monsoon is over, we will start carpeting the roads. One third of the affected roads have been repaired this week."

"Also, we will start renovation works on Port Connecting Road and Agrabad Access Road shortly with funding from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)," he said.

Meanwhile, many of the commuters and drivers said the bricks used for filling up the potholes washed away due to the rain.

Mohammad Farkhan, a rickshaw-puller, said bricks that covered the potholes in Chawkbazar KB Aman Ali Road were gone after a few days of rain.

Asked, superintendent engineer Anwar Hossain said they could not go for full carpeting on the affected roads before the dry season as rain is the number one enemy of bitumen, a vital equipment for the road-carpeting works.



Two Buddhist children pray in a temple in Chittagong city's Nondon Kanan yesterday, marking Modhu Purnima, a full moon festival celebrated in Bangladesh and Thailand. On the day Buddha retreated to the wilderness of Parileyya forest to bring peace between two warring families of disciples. According to legend, a monkey and an elephant named Parileyyaka fed him during this time, the elephant bringing fruit and the monkey bringing a honeycomb. The monkey was so excited when the Buddha accepted his gift that he began leaping from tree to tree and fell to his death. However, he was immediately reborn in Tavatimsa as a result of his generosity.

UN allocates Incorporate climate issue

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To complement the response led by the government, the humanitarian community has developed a six-month response plan, which the CERF allocation will contribute to in terms of funding.

The response plan requests US\$ 12 million to support 330,000 flood affected people in six of the worst affected districts -- Gaibandha, Dinajpur, Kurigram, Jamalpur, Nilphamari and Sirajganj.

This is the fourth time Bangladesh has experienced flooding this year and the latest flood has coincided with the rice planting season.

Consequently, the response plan outlines the planned life-saving and protection assistance activities of the UN agencies and NGOs, as well as the early recovery actions required to restore access to basic services and rehabilitate community infrastructure.

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people will be living in areas at high risk of cyclones by 2050, compared to 83 million at present.

An additional 7.6 million people will be exposed to very high salinity by 2050, according to "Climate and Health Country Profile 2015", released in November 2015.

World Health Organization and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change prepared the profile.

Diarrhoeal deaths attributable to climate change in children under 15 is projected to comprise about 8 percent of the number of diarrhoea-related deaths projected in 2030. It will rise to 13 percent by 2050. By 2070, over 147 million people will be at risk of malaria assuming a high emissions scenario, it said.

Heat-related deaths in the elderly (65+ years) are likely to increase to almost 30 deaths per 100,000 by 2080 compared to the estimated baseline of fewer than 4 deaths per 100,000 annually between 1961 and 1990.

Thakshaphon said there are some common diseases including malaria, dengue, chikungunya, diarrhoeal diseases, and respiratory illness in the South East Asian countries that are sensitive to climate change.

"The mortality and morbidity could increase if adequate adaptation measures are not taken," he said.

Asked what Bangladesh should do right now to minimise the climate change effect on public health, Thakshaphon said policy makers should chip in to the process and more investment is required for it.

Referring to the recurrence of flood in Bangladesh, he said, "You know which part of the country and which communities are more vulnerable to flood." Building health systems and having more doctors there is a must, he said.

"In this situation, we [Bangladesh] need good preparedness and management," he added.

Swarn Kumar Sarkar, director of Communicable Diseases, Dr Pem Namrang, director of Family Health, Gender and Life Course, and Dr Mohammad Jamshed, regional advisor for Neglected Tropical Diseases of WHO South-East Asia Regional Office, also spoke on eliminating hepatitis and measles, controlling rubella and vector control respectively.

Shamila Sharma, communication officer of WHO South-East Asia Regional Office, gave an overview of the meeting.

Dhaka city

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recalled his role in reorganising Awami League during the post-75 period. "The party has lost a dedicated soldier of Bangladesh," she said.

The premier prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family.

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State Minister for Health Zahid Maleque, secretary of the ministry of Health, Hossain Khan (health services division), Dr Md Sirazul Islam (health education division), and director General of Directorate of Health Services Prof Dr Abdul Kalam Azad were present on the occasion, among others.

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guard shortly. The work would start in November, he said.

The components of the project include excavating 13.98km canals, constructing two pumping stations at Shimali (seven pumps having 5.5 cumec capacity) and Adamjee Nagar (six pumps having capacity of 5.5 cumec each), setting up three pumping plants at Padga (having capacity of 0.28 cumec each), Shyamapur (having capacity of 0.14 cumec each) and Panthala (12 pumps having capacity of 0.28 cumec each).

FROM PAGE 3

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