

THE DAILY Star ON FRIDAY

SECOND EDITION
www.thedailystar.net

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24 PAGES PLUS THE STAR PRICE : Tk 12.00

REGD. NO. DA 781 | VOL. XXVII NO. 291 | KARTIK 26, 1424 BS | SAFAR 20, 1439 HIRE

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STAR WEEKEND



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The British minister quits over unofficial meetings with Israeli officials

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Sewage taints rivers, canals 80pc of city's human waste goes directly to water bodies; water becomes untreatable

TAWFIQUE ALI

In the absence of modern treatment facilities, a cringe-worthy 80 percent of the capital's sewage goes directly into rivers and water bodies.

The mindless dumping through the city's storm drainage system is wreaking havoc on the water sources and eventually affecting public health.

At its plant in Narayanganj's Pagla, Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) is able to treat sewage from only 20 percent of the city area, according to official documents.

"It is really deplorable that 80 percent of the waste produced by 1.75 crore people in the capital has increased many times the pollution of rivers around the city, turning it very difficult to treat the water," a local government ministry letter reads.

The letter addressed to the housing and public works minister on June 7 says that rivers are being contaminated by septic tanks illegally dumped to the storm drains.

The LGED and Cooperatives Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain in his letter called upon the housing minister to make Rajdhani Unnayan Karrtipaklha (Rajuk) ensure proper septic tanks at every house and prevent such connections while issuing building permits.

The 1984 building construction rules dictate that each owner should set up septic tanks or soak pits and manage the sewage on their own. But to avoid cleaning costs, most

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