



This is the main road in Savar Tannery Industrial Estate. No matter it rains or shines, the roads inside remain muddy all the time. In the absence of a proper drainage network, toxic water submerges the roads, making it difficult for the workers to move through. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: AKLAKUR RAHMAN AKASH

Same old problems

AKLAKUR RAHMAN AKASH, Savar

Toxic liquid waste discharged from the newly-located Savar Tannery Industrial Estate has been a cause of concern for the workers.

As the liquid waste spill out of the drain and spread over the roads inside the industrial estate in the absence of a proper drainage network, the workers have to navigate their way through the roads submerged by untreated chemical-mixed water.

To save the river Buriganga, the tanneries were relocated to the Savar's tannery estate from the capital's Hazaribagh. But the situation has not changed for the better.

During a recent visit to the estate, the roads were found to be in a terrible state. Many roads developed potholes, collecting liquid waste.

Talking to The Daily Star, some tannery workers complained that the sorry state of the roads had been hampering their day-to-day activities.

Ismail Hossen, a worker, said they cannot move freely as some parts of the roads are always waterlogged and muddy.

During monsoon, it is very difficult to

walk, he added.

Another worker, Ruhul Amin, said they used to work in a polluting environment in Hazaribagh.

The working condition in Savar is no better, he said, adding that the road remains muddy no matter it rains or not.

Moreover, there is no light on the streets, creating an uncomfortable situation for them while moving during night.

Jamil Khan, a worker of Apex Tannery, echoed Ruhul Amin.

SAVAR TANNERY INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

He added that the authorities have to develop the road communications for ensuring better working environment for the workers.

It is worth mentioning that thousands of tannery workers at the tannery industrial estate on August 24 demonstrated to realise their basic workplace rights and facilities.

Like the workers, owners are also not happy with the facilities.

Abu Abed, owner of Sunlight Tannery, said, "We came here for good but infrastructure is not up to the mark."

Due to the battered condition of the roads, they have to pay extra for transportation purpose, said Abu Abed.

If the roads are not repaired immediately, the situation will take a turn for the worse, he said, adding that the authorities were yet to take any steps in this regard.

On the other hand, the discharge of untreated toxic waste has ripple effect too. If it rains, the situation gets worse. During the heavy rainfall around a month back, the liquid waste mixed with rainwater spread over a portion of the adjoining Zauchar village, posing a health threat to the locals.

Nayon Mia, a resident of the village, said his area remained waterlogged for days even after the rain had stopped.

And the toxic waste discharged from tannery mixing with rainwater polluted the area, he said.

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Serve people with positive attitude: President

UNB, Dhaka

President Abdul Hamid yesterday asked public officials to come up with a positive attitude to take government services to the doorsteps of common people and work sincerely staying above any controversy or influence.

"You (public officials) should remember that the government as well as your families are run by taxpayers' money. The services you provide to them at your workplaces is your duty and responsibility, not your mercy or gift," he said.

The president made the remarks while addressing the inaugural ceremony of Officers' Club Dhaka's golden jubilee celebration at its premises in the evening.



The president with top former and current bureaucrats.

Mentioning that the present government is implementing various projects for the welfare of the country's people, he said many of the government officials are directly or indirectly involved in formulation and implementation of these projects. "Your enabling role is also very important in policy formulation of the government."

As per the country's

constitution, Hamid said, people are the source of all power and that is why priority must be given to their welfare.

Stressing the need for taking steps to bring transparency, accountability and pace at the workplaces of all government officials, he said they must perform their duty with honesty, sincerity and neutrality, staying

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Primary final exams begin today

BSS, Dhaka

Primary School Certificate (PSC) and Ebtedayee examinations will begin across the country today with 30,96,075 students appearing.

As many as 28,04,509 examinees will sit for PSC examinations while 2,91,566 students will appear in Ebtedayee examinations this year. Primary and Mass Education Minister Mostafizur Rahman told journalists on Wednesday.

Of the total PSC examinees, 12,99,985 are male and 15,04,524 female while among the Ebtedayee examinees, 1,53,152 are male and 1,38,414 female, he added.

The total number of this year's examinees are 1,34,213 less than those of

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As if the footpath was all theirs! Medical promotion officers neatly parked their motorcycles on the walkway and the road in front of Dhaka Medical College Hospital while managing their business in and outside of the hospital. Consequently, pedestrians are being forced onto the road. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



Dr. K.F.M. Ayaz

MBBS, M.Sc. MD (Internal Medicine)
Consultant – Internal Medicine

Dr. K.F.M. Ayaz is a specialist in Internal Medicine who completed his MBBS in 1998, Masters in Biomedicine from Linköping University, Sweden in 2003 and MD in Internal Medicine from Dhaka University in 2010. He became a Fellow of the American College of Physicians in 2017.

For the last seven years he was working as Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine of Dhaka Medical College before being promoted as Associate Professor.

During his tenure at Dhaka Medical College, he had worked at the Department of Medicine and was associated with establishing the first Geriatric Ward and Rheumatology OPD Clinic at DMCH. Dr. Ayaz was part of the team that developed the Chikungunya management guideline for the Bangladesh Society of Medicine. He has also conducted a number of funded clinical researches on rheumatology and infectious diseases.

Dr. K.F.M. Ayaz is currently the General Secretary of the Hepatitis Working Group of the International Society of Chemotherapy and Infection and a member of the Governor's Advisory Council of the American College of Physicians Bangladesh Chapter. He is a life member of the Bangladesh Society of Medicine, a member of Asia Pacific Association of Medical Toxicology and Toxicological Society of Bangladesh. He was the assistant editor of the Journal of Medicine for three terms and currently a member of the Editorial Board. Dr. Ayaz has attended and presented scientific papers in numerous national and international seminars.

Apart from all fields of Internal Medicine he has a special interest in Infectious Disease, Rheumatology and Geriatric Medicine.

Dr. K.F.M. Ayaz is now available in Apollo Hospitals Dhaka for regular consultation

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Religion dictating social life

Says Prof Ali Riaz; also sees a decline in democratic values in the country

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Democratic values in Bangladesh are dwindling, while influence of religion in politics and society is rising, despite a substantial growth of the economy and the middle class, said an eminent scholar of politics and governance yesterday.

The middle class, which is traditionally a strong force that helps promote democracy and liberal policies, has not been able to play its role, said Ali Riaz, professor of politics and government at Illinois State University, US.

"Bangladesh was created on the basis of democracy, human dignity, equality and social justice. But, it has failed to institutionalise democracy, and now there are questions if the country, which has experienced authoritarian rules



Speakers at the seminar.

PHOTO: STAR

several times, is again walking the same path," he said.

The prolific researcher on South Asian politics made the observations in a keynote paper "Politics of Bangladesh, Rising Middle Class and a Few Questions" presented at a seminar organised by the Centre for Governance Studies (CGS) at the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) yesterday.

He said though religion-based politics was banned in the 1972 constitution, it was withdrawn towards the end of the 1970s, while Islam was recognised as state religion.

And, since the 1990s, influence of religion has increased not only in politics, but also in society and daily lifestyle, he said. Also Islamist political parties grew in numbers, he said.

Apart from that, presence of Islamist militant organisations was noticed, Ali Riaz said. "The most notable is the presence of Islam in social life."

On the other hand, after the 2008 elections all thought Bangladesh could see an end to authoritarian government, but changes to the constitution and behaviours of the ruling party suggested something else, he said.

The 2014 election was held without participation of almost all the opposition parties, and the arrangements made by the ruling party before and after the polls raised serious questions if those were in any way democratic, he added.

Ali Riaz said these changes came despite a rise in the middle class, which grew to 20 percent of the population now from 9 percent a decade back.

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