

Heavy rain spells misery for Khulna residents

Over half of the city waterlogged due to incessant downpour

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

Heavy rain turned many parts of Khulna city into swamps yesterday, paralysing normal life and creating a traffic chaos. Thoroughfares, lanes and bylanes were partially or fully submerged in those areas, causing immense sufferings to city dwellers.

According to the Met office, 115 millimetres of rainfall, highest in the year, was recorded in the city till noon yesterday. Amirul Azad, senior met officer of Khulna, told The Daily Star that within a span of nine hours (from 3am to 12pm) 115-millimetre rainfall was recorded in the city.

Over the years, waterlogging has become a perennial problem in the city, especially in rainy season. Experts said due to unabated encroachment of waterbodies and a lack of proper drainage system, all it takes is a little rain and the city goes under water.

Whenever it rains, water overflows from drains and inundates most roads, shops and houses, said residents.

They alleged that the sufferings of around 1.7 million people living in 45.65 sq km area under 31 wards in the riverine divisional city persist due to indifference of the authorities concerned.

Visiting areas including Khanjahan Ali Road, Lower Jashore Road, Rupsha Strand Road, KDA Avenue, Iqbalnagar, Tutpara, Gallamari, Moilapota, Dakbanglo, Santhidham Mor, Phulmarket and Press Club, this correspondent saw that most roads went under ankle to knee-deep water.

People of low lying areas such as Bastuhara, South Pabla, Dayana and Boyra were the worst sufferers. Many enclosures washed away in Dayana and South Pabla areas.

Due to incessant rain, business establishments in many areas had to remain shut. Besides, many kitchen markets including Sheikhpara, Bastuhara and Boikali went under water. Almost all the city slums got inundated.

Many vehicles were found stranded on waterlogged roads at Dakbanglo and

Shibbari Mor. People were seen wading through filthy water to go to their destinations. Some were busy protecting their homes and shops from water while others were trying to drain and scoop water out.

This time, children did not have to suffer much as they were mostly home since schools had been closed because of Eid vacation.

Rajesh Golder, a resident of Pabla Sabuj Sangha area in Daulatpur, told The Daily Star that most of the city drains are not properly cleaned. "They are filled with polythene, plastic bottles and household garbage."

Baby Begum, a teashop owner in Bastuhara area, said, "This [waterlogging] has become a common phenomenon in the area. My store went under knee-deep water." She said despite rain and waterlogging, she opened her store for business.

"We don't have sufficient drains here. Many kept their stores shut but I cannot afford to do that," she added.

Locals blamed the authorities for their continuous misery.

Sheikh Ashrafuzzaman, secretary general of Greater Khulna Unnayan Sangram Committee, said the major election manifesto of the KCC mayor was to free city's 22 canals. "But we are yet to see any result," he said.

"Due to encroachment by influential locals and continuous dumping of waste, most canals do not flow properly and the waterlogging crisis remains at large," he added.

According to KCC sources, it has around 550 employees to clean and maintain 2,187 drains.

Contacted, Mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque said during high tides in Bhairab and Rupsha, drain water cannot flow into the rivers properly as the rivers' water level goes over the sluice gate. "As a result, tidal water also enters the city's drainage channel. In addition, when it rains, water

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



Once again, incessant rain brought immense sufferings to Khulna city residents yesterday. Top, with his wife and child sitting on the rickshaw-van, a man helps the puller wade through knee-deep water in Bastuhara area. Bottom left, life goes on amid rain. A woman buys vegetables from a vendor in Boira area. Right, an inundated Bastuhara area.

PHOTO: DIPANKAR ROY

'Zia initiated toxic politics in the country'

Says former SC justice Shamsuddin Manik

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former Supreme Court Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik yesterday at a programme blamed former President Ziaur Rahman for initiating toxic politics and his party Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) for patronising militant forces in the country.

"Zia masterminded Bangabandhu's assassination and his party BNP along with its associate Jamaat dreamed of transforming the country into a Wahhabi state [fundamentalist form of Islam] by patronising militant forces later," he claimed while speaking at a discussion at Jatiya Press Club.

Bangladesh Online Activist Forum (BOAF) organised the discussion on "Series bombing - 2005: Fundamentalism, militancy and today's Bangladesh".

On August 17, 2005, some 500 bombs went off at 300 locations in 63 out of 64 districts across the country, by banned militant outfit Jama'atul

Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB).

Claiming that the masterminds of such militant attacks and killers of Bangabandhu are from similar platforms, Manik demanded forming a judicial investigation commission to look into the incidents, including August 21, 2004 grenade attack on an Awami League rally, and to uncover the mystery behind August 15, 1975.

"Zia hatched a blueprint of Bangabandhu's assassination in the USA in 1973, and such truth should be unveiled before the nation," said the former justice.

Terming Zia a follower of Abdul Monem Khan -- a governor of the then East Pakistan -- he said Zia had supplied illegal arms to some students, by forming a party named "Hizbul Bahr" according to the "shape" of Monem Khan's "terrorist organisation National Students Front" in erstwhile Pakistan.

He further urged the government to uproot

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Rab arrests trucker with 26,000 yaba pills in port city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-7) members arrested a truck driver and recovered around 26,200 yaba pills from his truck during a drive in the port city's Bakalia area yesterday.

The arrestee was identified as Mashiur Rahman Liton, 35, from Galachipa upazila of Patuakhali district, says a press release from Rab-7.

On information, a Rab-7 team conducted the drive and intercepted the truck coming from Cox's Bazar around 5am. After searching inside the truck, the officials recovered the pills, the press release added.

During primary interrogation, Mashiur admitted that he had been transporting yaba pills from Cox's Bazar to Chattogram city but did not disclose the names of those he was working for.

He is being interrogated for further information, added the press release.



Traders unload sugarcane transported by boats to the Mahilara Bazar in Barishal's Gouranadi, where they are sold at a wholesale market every Saturday and Wednesday. Depending on size, each stick of sugarcane can sell from anywhere between Tk 1 to Tk 25. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Boosting Halda's broodfish stock

Hathazari admin to release 1 lakh fry in the river

MOSTAFA YOUSUF, Ctg

With an aim to boost broodfish stock in Halda, the Hathazari upazila administration has taken up a project to release one lakh fry in the river.

To this end, the upazila administration collected one kilogramme of eggs during spawning period when the mother fish laid eggs in May. Now they are transforming those into fry in a pond, and will release those in the river in the beginning of next month.

Halda river is the lone source of natural carp breeding in South Asia.

Ruhul Amin, upazila nirbahi officer of Hathazari, told The Daily Star yesterday that they initiated the project as there is a decline in the number of mother fish over the years, due to various manmade hazards.

The administration bought the spawn on May 30 for Tk 65,000, he added.

"We are trying to rid the river of pollution, grabbing, sand lifting and netting of broodfish. We are being vigilant in this regard and observing the situation round the clock," he added.

The UNO said this year ahead of spawning, at least 35 mother fish were netted to death, decreasing the number of broodfish.

"Considering all aspects, we decided to boost the fish stock. We hope to get one lakh fry from the spawn we collected. They have already turned five-inch long in the last two and a half months," he added.

According to zoologists, the fry will be preyed upon if its length is less than six inches.

Prof Manzoorul Kibria, an eminent Halda researcher, praised the initiative taken by the administration. "It will help the river and increase the broodfish stock, which will eventually result in good spawning," he added.

"Broodfish is a key part of Halda. If we can increase its stock, it will also add value to our national economy," Prof Kibria said.



The UNO of Hathazari inspecting broodfish fry at a pond. The administration collected 1kg eggs in May and grew those to fry stage, inset. They will be released in Halda next month to increase broodfish stock in the river. The photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

ixora
3 Bedroom Apartments
at Sector-7, Uttara
(One Apartment Per Floor)

Please Feel Free To Call
Tel: (+8802) 55068001-5
01713 018407
01714 039846
01714 016717

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Senior Superintendent
Chattogram Central Jail
sisctg@prison.gov.bd

Memo No. 58.04.1500.111.04.018.19.6671

Date: 07-08-2019

e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concerned that the following tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal:

Sl No	Tender ID No.	Name of work	Publishing date & time	Closing date & time
1	348664	Unnatamaner Mashur Dal (Mota)	08-Aug-2019 19:00:00	29 Aug-2019 13:00:00
2	349047	Unnatamaner Chholar Dal	08-Aug-2019 19:00:00	29 Aug-2019 13:15:00

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Kamal Hossain
Senior Jail Super
Chattogram Central Jail
031-610762 630581

GD-1365