



The capital's Moghbazar flyover is almost always jam-packed with fast-moving vehicles crawling at a snail's pace. Yesterday noon was no different, as cars, bikes and auto-rickshaws battled to get down from the pathway. And the roads under the flyover are not much better off. This whole situation is not surprising for those who have been dealing with Dhaka's traffic for years on end.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Toilets continue to be a privilege

MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

Sixty one percent of Bangladesh's population still do not have access to safely managed toilet facilities, UN Water data suggests.

Despite this, budget allocation in this sector is highly inadequate, and this needs to be addressed properly, according to experts.

"There is progress in the sanitation sector in the country. But if we consider the parameters of sustainable development goals, we have many things to do, especially allocate adequate budget and plan comprehensively," Zobair Hasan, research director at Development Organisation of the Rural Poor (DORP), told The Daily Star yesterday.

In 2021-2022 fiscal, the total allocation for the WASH sector was Tk 5,932 crore or only Tk 247 per capita.

This is much lower than the global standard of Tk 1,186.

The SDG 6 states that adequate sanitation and

6th WEEK
19 November
WORLD
TOILET
DAY

61pc of population out of safely managed toilet facilities
Budget allocation for WASH sector Tk 5,932cr in 2021-2022 fiscal
96pc of rich have sanitation coverage while 46pc of poor have the coverage
76pc of population have access to improved toilets
There should be at least one toilet for every 10 members of a household
At least one toilet against every 50 students in schools
There is progress in the sanitation sector... but if we consider the parameters of SDGs, we have many things to do, especially allocate adequate budget and plan comprehensively.
ZOBAIR HASAN Research Director at DORP

hygiene services at home, in education settings and workplaces are essential to make sure that women can participate in society on equal terms.

The country, however, has big gaps in these indicators, data showed.

There should be at least one toilet for every 10 members of a household while at least one toilet against every 50 students in schools, according to the sector development plan (SDP) of the government.

In reality, however, people living in slums and rural areas do not have an adequate number of facilities. There is one toilet for every 300 students in different educational institutes in the country.

The progress in ensuring safely managed toilets for all is very slow, according to the UN Water data.

In 2000, only 23 percent of the population had access to safely managed toilets and it reached 39 percent in 2020.

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Dengue fear still looms over Ctg



FILE PHOTO

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Residents of Chattogram are still dealing with the dengue menace even in November. This is not a regular occurrence, as the Aedes mosquito population starts to decline during the dry season.

This correspondent contacted a number of doctors specialising in medicine and paediatrics in different hospitals of Chattogram, and they said they were receiving a good number of dengue patients every day, which is quite unusual in November.

Many children are testing positive for dengue and several were brought to hospitals in critical condition, they said.

According to the Chattogram Civil Surgeon Office, in the current month, three succumbed to the disease in the past 18 days, while two of them died in a span of 24 hours in Chattogram city on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The two deceased are Saddam Hossain Al Quadri (35), a teacher at Gauchiya Tayabiya Sunniya Dakhil Madrasa in Sitakunda upazila, and

- Hospitals receiving good number of patients daily
- Many children testing positive, brought to hospitals in critical condition
- In Nov, 3 died in past 18 days
- 150 people tested positive this year; of them, one-third detected this month
- Stagnant water at construction sites, late onset of dry season key reasons

Sabina Miraz (4) from the city's Bayezid Bostami area, said Dr Elias Chowdhury, civil surgeon of Chattogram.

Both died at Chattogram Maa-O-Shishu Hospital, he said.

Contacted, Dr Fahim Hasan Reza, assistant professor of the hospital's paediatric department, said Saddam died around 8:30pm on Wednesday, while Sabina died on Tuesday.

Dr Elias said 150 people tested positive for dengue in this year so far. Of them, one-third of cases were detected this month.

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No fault of their own

90 families suffer as Titas cut off gas line of Japan Garden City building saying authorities didn't pay bill on time

ASIFUR RAHMAN

Ninety families living at Mohammadpur's Japan Garden City have not been able to cook anything since Wednesday, as Titas cut the gas line of Capital Apartment building.

And the residents have little to no idea when the connection will be restored.

Titas said authorities of Japan Garden City, a residential project of Japan-Bangladesh Joint Venture Company, did not pay the gas bill for 300-400 consumers for a long time.

According to Titas, authorities of the residential project haven't paid gas bills amounting to over Tk 58 lakh, and it incurred an additional Tk 2 lakh as penalty. They have been served with

We all have receipts of the payments. There are 90 families residing in the building, and most have children and elderly. The disconnection has left us in immense trouble.

KAJAL ANWAR
General secretary of the building's owners association

several notices, but they didn't pay heed. So, Titas had no other option but to disconnect the lines.

However, residents of the apartment complex said they have been paying regular gas bills to Japan Garden City authorities.

"We all have receipts of the

payments. There are 90 families residing in the building, and most have children and elderly. The disconnection has left us in immense trouble," Kajal Anwar, general secretary of the building's owners' association, told The Daily Star yesterday.

"Titas had said the connection would be restored by today [yesterday] noon. But now, they told us they will make a decision on Sunday," he said.

Abu Bakar Siddique, a resident of the building, said, "Why do we have to face this situation even after paying the bills?"

"We have regularly given our bills to Japan Garden City authorities. But we don't know if they submitted them or not," the retired college teacher said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Antibiotics only with prescription

Says health minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The increasing use of antibiotics to fatten cows needs to stop to control antibiotic resistance, Health Minister Zahid Maleque said yesterday at an event at the Directorate General of Drug Administration, marking World Antimicrobial Awareness Week 2021.

A 2019 study by the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) showed that antibiotic drugs have been losing their capacity to kill germs rapidly.

The minister urged medicine sellers not to sell antibiotics without prescriptions.

"If you do this, you will be fined and jailed. The cabinet already has approved the regulation in this regard," said the minister.

"Once it is passed in the parliament,

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Preventing misuse of FB Zuckerberg served legal notice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four concerned citizens yesterday sent a legal notice to Mark Zuckerberg, chief executive officer of Meta, the owner company of Facebook, and four others, requesting them to take necessary steps in three days to prevent misuse of Facebook hampering religious and communal harmony in Bangladesh.

Lawyer Tapas Kanti Baul served the notice on behalf of the four citizens through email to five respondents, saying that they (notice senders) are alarmed at the spread of fake and distorted news and contents, misinformation and mal-information (text, image, audio, video etc) on socio-religious and political issues causing violence in the name of religion in Bangladesh.

The notice senders are Saleem Samad, a

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Luring with deals, discounts DB busts fraudster who swindled over hundreds of travel agents on social media

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Boran Uddin posed as a Bangladeshi expatriate living in Dubai or Qatar, working for an international travel agency.

He would first open a WhatsApp or social media account using a Dubai or Qatar's SIM card. He would then join different social media groups run by Bangladeshi travel agencies.

The 37-year-old would post on the groups, mentioning how he has some airline tickets bought at a discount price from the Middle East. Putting the tickets up for sale, he would invite customers to buy paying 50 percent of the amount in advance.

Once a buyer was found,

Borhan would ask them to send money to his wife Humayra Akter Munni's bank accounts, saying that she lives in Bangladesh. At times, he would provide mobile financial service (MFS) numbers too.

But as soon as the interested buyer would deposit the money, Borhan would switch off his WhatsApp or social media account and simply disappear, before repeating the cycle with someone else.

The Cyber and Special Crime Division of police's detective branch (DB) unearthed these details after arresting Borhan from Chattogram's Satkania area on November 12.

Junaed Alam Sharker, additional deputy commissioner of DB police, told The Daily Star that they conducted a drive and arrested Borhan after receiving complaints from a travel agency owner.

"Borhan was involved with this type of fraudulence for the last five years or so. We have come to know that he defrauded over hundreds of travel agents so far," said Sharker.

Due to Borhan's activities over the years, a group of travel agents even declared a Tk 2 lakh bounty for his arrest. The Daily Star has obtained a copy of the bounty declaration.

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Love is there, not resources

Central Veterinary Hospital in Dhaka struggles with staff shortage, broken equipment, out of date premises

DIPAN NANDY

By Monday morning, it was two whole days of anxiety for Riya. On Saturday, her pet cat -- who's a few months pregnant -- had gone missing. Thankfully, the cat eventually returned on Monday, but not without some nasty bruises on her head.

Without delay, Riya took her to the Central Veterinary Hospital, which happened to be right beside the Old Dhaka resident's house.

Located at Kazi Alauddin Road, the hospital sees around 200 to 250 patients everyday, according to authorities. Over the years, it has become the go to place for pet owners or animal rescuers of Old Dhaka, while people from New Dhaka often visit too.

There are state-of-the-art digital X-rays, ultrasonography, primary surgery, pathological labs for the animals that come here for treatment. Apart from this, an endoscopy machine has also been installed recently.

But for all its importance, the actual condition of the hospital isn't very good. This means that despite their best wishes, neither the doctors nor the authorities can deliver as much as they can.

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The doctors here only have affection for their animal patients, but as luck would dictate, the dearth of resources makes it hard for this love to be turned into timely and effective treatment. The photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

'We demand better food at hall canteens'

DU CORRESPONDENT

Leaders and activists of the left-leaning Samajtantrik Chhatra Front held a human chain on the Dhaka University campus yesterday, demanding lower price and better quality canteen food at the university.

They said ever since the halls reopened after 18 months of closure due to the lockdown, the price of food has been increasing on one hand, while its quality has been falling.

"Canteen owners told us they have no option but to hike the prices as food prices have increased at the kitchen markets. But when we faced similar situation in the past, food price at the canteens were still stable, as the authorities used to intervene," said Salman Siddiqui, president of the organisation's DU unit.

"But now the hall canteens are controlled by private owners, which is why they don't care about students' welfare," he alleged.

"Another reason is that many leaders who eat at the canteens don't pay the bills, shifting the burden on to general students," he said.

Speakers at the programme asked for the university authorities to pay subsidies to keep food prices stable, if necessary.



PHOTO: STAR