



Many low-lying areas of Chattogram city were submerged yesterday, after light rain in the morning. Commuters had to wade through murky waters just to reach their destination. They said this has become a common sight since the city's waterlogging problem has not improved even after so many years.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

## Port city drowns after drizzle

Mega project still hasn't improved waterlogging problem, say residents

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

A drizzle in the morning was all it took to submerge Chattogram city's low-lying areas yesterday, resulting in residents, commuters and pedestrians having to deal with muddy and waterlogged roads.

Although Chattogram Development Authority (CDA) has been implementing a Tk 5,617 crore mega project to address waterlogging in the city since 2017, city dwellers alleged that they are not seeing any benefits even four years after the project's commencement.

"We see that CDA has been working on many canals [36 canals] and drains for the last four years, but the waterlogging problem did not improve in our area," said Abdur Razzak, a resident of Chawkbazar area.

Even though the mega-project was approved in August 2017, with the latest deadline being June 2022, only 65 percent of the work had been completed by April. The third extension, till December 2023, is awaiting Ecnc's approval. If approved, this will increase the cost by around 70 percent, to Tk 9,526 crore.

Yesterday, it was seen that roads in low-lying areas, including Chawkbazar, West Bakalia DC Road, KB Aman Ali Road, Katalganj, Kapasgola,

**CDA has been working on many canals [36 canals] and drains for the last four years, but the waterlogging problem did not improve in our area.**

Abdur Razzak, Resident of Chawkbazar

Bahaddarhat, Muradpur, Sholashahar, Halishahar, Agrabad CDA, Chandgaon and Shulakbahar, went under knee-to-waist-deep water.

Chattogram Met office recorded 48 mm rain in 24 hours till noon yesterday, said Bishwajit Chowdhury, officer of Chattogram Met office. Residents of the affected areas blamed authorities for the situation, saying that they failed to improve the waterlogging situation in over a decade.

Contacted, Lt Col Shah Ali, project director of CDA's mega-project, said, "The project work is ongoing, so it cannot be said that the project will not bring benefits." He claimed that people were already getting benefits. "Before the project started, rainwater used to inundate roads for hours, but now, the water recedes in 20 minutes."

Lt Col Ali said the temporary dams built in canals were being opened, so that water can flow through the canals.

# The girl who wrote her own fate

Zannatul Sarkar Champa: newspaper hawker, UP member, an inspiration

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

Hailing from Pabna's Chatmohar upazila, Zannatul Sarkar Champa had to lead a hard life at a very early age. She was born in an impoverished family, at Mollikbain village in Parshodanga union.

In the middle of their childhood, Champa and her brothers were abandoned by their father, when he got married a second time. Champa was only in school back then. After a few years, her brothers went their separate ways, seeking jobs as day labourers,



while Champa started working at a textile mill.

In 2005, she got married when she was an SSC examinee. But Champa's new journeys always seemed to end on a bad note. She got divorced within a year, owing

to her husband being a drug abuser.

Once again, Champa was left stranded. This time on the streets.

But even such an obstacle couldn't break her. She landed a temporary job at an insurance company after completing her HSC exam. Fate, however, was cruel as usual. She couldn't continue her job for being transferred to another district in 2008.

A resilient Champa started selling newspaper in Chatmohar Bazar to survive, while facing widespread criticism.

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**When I was selling newspapers, many people passed snide remarks at me for being a woman. But I never judged any type of work. Besides, their criticisms never paid for my food or shelter, so I never bothered to pay heed to them. I had to survive with dignity.**

ZANNATUL SARKAR CHAMPA



Zannatul Sarkar Champa on her way to deliver newspaper to locals in Pabna's Chatmohar upazila. Despite countless hurdles, Champa overcame all barriers and became a Union Parishad member to further serve her community.

PHOTO: STAR

## Judge impersonator sent to jail

He used police escort to avoid traffic

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

A man called 999, the national emergency helpline, identifying himself as a Supreme Court justice, and used police escort while going to his village in Chandpur's Matlab South upazila on Friday.

But he was far from a Supreme Court judge. After realising the fraud, police arrested Arif Hossain Prokash alias Biplab Prodhan (45) from Uttar Dighaldi village on that day.



He was sent to jail yesterday. Describing the incident, Chandpur Additional Superintendent of Police Sudipta Roy said around 11:30am on Friday, Biplab got stuck in a traffic jam while leaving Dhaka in a rented car. During this time, he called 999 for police assistance to get out of the jam. The request was relayed to Cumilla Police Control Room, which informed Chandpur Police Control Room without any verification.

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## Two held with 3 geckos in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-7) yesterday arrested two persons with 3 geckos, locally known as "takshak", in Hathazari upazila of Chattogram.

Acting on a tip off, forest officials with help of Rab-7 conducted the drive and seized 3 geckos from a microbus around 11:00pm, said Fazlul Kader Chowdhury, ranger of Hathazari Forest Range.

A case was filed with Hathazari Police Station under the wildlife act, he added. The reptiles were handed over to the forest department.



Let's Build A Beautiful Tomorrow

## Owners of land plots are invited to discuss their proposals

Dhanmondi, Gulshan, Banani, Old DOHS, Uttara, Banasree, Kalabagan, Pallabi, Mirpur DOHS, Shyamoli, Monipuripara, Green Road, Wari, Bashundhara, Shantinagar, Moghbazar, Eskaton, Segunbagicha, Paribagh, Indira Road, Mohammadpur, Lalmatia, Khilgaon, Malibagh, Bashabo & Siddheswari.



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