

SOUTH PAHARTALI

Denied of civic amenities despite paying taxes

“The streetlights on our area road are currently dysfunctional. After repeated requests to the ward councillor, the authorities fixed some of the lights, but they became dysfunctional again within a short time.”

SIFAYET ULLAH

A home to around two lakh people, South Pahartali area under ward-1 within Chattogram City Corporation is grappling with a severe lack of civic amenities.

Modern drainage and proper waste management systems, wider roads, and functioning streetlights remain elusive for its residents, despite decades of appeals to the authorities.

The persistent neglect by officials concerned has left the inhabitants with no choice but to resort to throwing waste in open spaces and water bodies, as there are no designated spots for disposal.

Adding to their frustration, residents are compelled to pay city taxes without getting any benefits in return, said Mohammed Harun, a resident of the ward's North Fatehabad area.

Other residents this correspondent talked to echoed the same.

Covering approximately 24 square kilometres, the dire situation continues to paint a grim picture for the ward's inhabitants, who yearn for a better quality of life.

While visiting the ward, this correspondent saw a canal near the councillor office filled with household waste.

Many residents had resorted to connecting their sewage lines directly to the canal due to the absence of a proper waste dumping zone and sanitation system.

Mahbubul Alam, a resident of Chowdhuryhat area, said, “We are forced to throw garbage and sewage into canals as there is no dumping zone.”

Moreover, the lack of a modern drainage system leads to waterlogging in various parts of the ward, even after a drizzle.



Kamruzzam, a resident of Sandwip Colony area, said, “We have to depend on tube wells for drinking water as there is no water supply system.”

During a visit to Fatehabad City Corporation College Road within the ward, this correspondent observed that the road's narrowness allowed only one truck to pass through at a time, leading to frequent traffic congestion.

Anik Acharjee from Acharjee Para said, “This narrow road is regularly used by heavy vehicles, which often block the road.”

Besides, many areas of the ward suffer from inadequate street lighting, forcing residents to rely on outdoor lamps while walking at night.

The dysfunctional streetlights due to a lack of proper maintenance remain a persistent issue.

Mohammed Hossain of Mahmudabad area said, “The streetlights on our area road are currently dysfunctional. After repeated requests to the ward councillor, the authorities fixed some of the lights, but they became dysfunctional again within a short time.”

Contacted, Ward Councillor Gazi Shafiqul Azim, admitted to the claims made by locals.

“We have already selected land for a dumping ground and have also written to the higher authorities to bring the ward under the sewerage system,” he said.

According to CCC, Chittagong Municipality was formed in 1863. In 1977, the government changed the name of Chittagong Municipality to Chittagong Pourashava.

Since then, the South Pahartali ward has been under their jurisdiction.

A new park to be set up on Karnaphuli bank

ARUN BIKASH DEY

To save the Karnaphuli from encroachers, the Chattogram City Corporation and district administration have jointly initiated a project to build a park on the river bank in the port city's Firingi Bazar area.

Termed “Karnaphuli Lookout”, the park will stretch across 12.45 acres of government khas land.

It will have a ferris wheel, kid's zone, boat museum, open stage, walkways, picnic spots and courts for tennis, basketball, and volleyball, said district administration officials.

“I was looking for suitable lands for such parks since I joined officer about seven months ago. I am happy we finally found one and I urge all to look for lands so that we can have such parks in all 191 unions in the district,”

“Building new parks and amusement centres in the city was one of my election pledges and I am happy that I have been able to keep my promises,” said CCC Mayor Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, who visited the park spot on July 12 with Deputy Commissioner Abul Bashar Mohammad Fakhruzzaman.

Building parks and playgrounds will not only be beneficial to locals but also help prevent encroachments and pollution, said the deputy commissioner.

“I was looking for suitable lands for such parks since I joined officer about seven months ago. I am happy we finally found one and I urge all to look for lands so that we can have such parks in all 191 unions of the district,” he added.

At present, the work of land development is underway, he said.



Kalurghat Bridge across the Karnaphuli in Chattogram will remain closed for three months from August 1 for repair works as railway finally looks to mend it before they launch rail services from Dohazari to Cox's Bazar. The 700-foot bridge has served as the only roadway to the port city for the residents of Boalkhali upazila, who will now have no land route to travel to the city. The authorities are planning to launch ferry services for commuters during the stipulated period. Established around the 1930s, authorities allowed all kinds of vehicles to ply it in 1958. After serving for decades without any maintenance, the bridge was labelled as dangerous in 2001. Now, vehicles plying the bridge face difficulties as the deck and iron fencing on both sides have become worn out and holes have developed on the surface, creating a risk of accident.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

BAKALIA ACCESS ROAD New road brings relief to commuters

SIFAYET ULLAH

“I don't have to waste hours in traffic anymore thanks to the newly-constructed Bakalia Access Road,” said Sajeda Akter, a school teacher, who used to get late for work regularly due to gridlock at Kotwali intersection while travelling from Chattogram's Karnaphuli upazila to the city's Chawkbazar.

Constructed by Chattogram Development Authority (CDA), this road will ensure easy and safe commute for thousands residing in the eight upazilas located in the southern end of the district.

According to CDA sources, they undertook a project in 2015 to construct a link road from Sirajud-Doula to Shah Amanat Bridge, following the city's master plan formulated in 1995.

The project commenced on September 6, 2016, with a budget of Tk 205 crore and was supposed to be completed by June 2019.

Following delays due to complications in land acquisition

processes, the project was extended till June this year, while its budget got increased by Tk 15 crore, said Kazi Kader Neawz, the project's director.

Visiting the 1.5 kilometre and 60-foot wide road on Tuesday, this correspondent found the physical works completed. The workers were seen carrying out cleaning and beautification work.

“I will soon move to another project within a week as our works here are over,” said Mohammed Joshim, a worker who has been employed in this project for the last two and a half years.

The construction of this road had led to an increase in land prices and local businesses, said Mozammel Hoque, owner of Mahin Sanitary, located near the road.

A letter seeking permission to officially inaugurate the road has already been sent to the ministry, informed the project director.

“We will inaugurate the road as per the higher authorities' instructions. Meanwhile, vehicles will continue to ply it,” he added.

