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CYCLONE REMAL DHAKA dwellers suffer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka dwellers woke up to the sound of clouds rolling in, winds howling and rain falling heavily yesterday.

According to Bangladesh Meteorological Department, the capital experienced 151-millimetre rainfall from 6:00am to 6:00pm yesterday, causing inconvenience for commuters.

The rain continued till 7:00pm, till the filing of this report. Anything above 89mm is defined as very heavy rainfall, according to Met Department.

"Rain will continue throughout the night and will stop on Tuesday morning (today)," said meteorologist Bazlur Rashid.

Due to the scarcity of public transport during the rain, people had to wait a long time to get to their destinations.

Although a lot of people were seen strolling with umbrellas, they offered little protection due to the gusty wind.

Many city roads, including Green Road, Nazirabazar, Siddique Bazar, Kamalapur, near Dhanmondi Hawkers Market, Kazipara, Shevrapara, Motijheel, Malibagh, Khilgaon, Banasree, and Rampura areas went under ankle-to-waist-deep water. The entire New Market area was also seen submerged in water during a visit yesterday afternoon.

Fazle Rabbi, a resident of Banasree, said, "I left for Dhanmondi for work in the morning. When I stepped out, I found almost no CNG-run auto-rickshaws on the road. The one or two I managed to find demanded higher fares than usual."

Many transports also got out of order while plying the waterlogged Dhaka streets, as this correspondent saw two out-of-order human hauliers being pushed by their helpers on Green Road.

Many trees were uprooted on the roads due to whirlwinds, including at Green Road, Uttara, Gulshan, Dhaka University area, Kakrail Gate, Dhanmondi, and Mohakhali, further disrupting vehicular movement.

According to the DSCC, at least 50 trees were uprooted in its areas. People with no emergency commitments mostly stayed home, with many students deciding not to go to school. Examinations were also cancelled at some schools.

Anowar Mia, a rickshaw puller at Indira Road, said, "I did not get many passengers after office hours in the morning, as the number of passengers is very few."

Dhaka South City Corporation yesterday launched a control room to deal with waterlogging due to the rainfall. Also, 91 teams were working at the field level to resolve rainfall-related flooding in DSCC

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Several areas across Dhaka battled winds, rains, and waterlogging as a result of Remal. The photos show some of the scenes throughout Dhaka from yesterday as people struggled to navigate the city. The photos were taken on Green Road, Mirpur Road in Dhanmondi and Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in the afternoon.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON, AMRAN HOSSAIN AND PRABIR DAS



Deaths, waterlogging and suffering

Port city goes under water

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Aftab Mahmud, a resident of Chandgaon Residential Area, left home at 8:30am amidst incessant rain.

He found the roads submerged in waist-deep water. With no vehicles available, he trudged through the filthy water for an hour to reach Muradpur, just two kilometres from his residence. This is where this correspondent met him.

Still seven kilometres away from his office, a frustrated Aftab said, "I don't know how I will go to my office. I have an emergency meeting."

Aftab's plight was shared by thousands of port city residents, particularly office-goers.

The torrential rain, influenced by Cyclone Remal, submerged Chattogram's low-lying areas yesterday, including but not limited to Chawkbazar, Bahaddarhat, Badurtala, Kapasgola, Shulakbahar, Katalganj, Muradpur, GEC Intersection, CDA Avenue, Bakalia, Agrabad, Halishahar, Chattogram Port Residential Area, Sholashahar Rubi Gate, Pathorghata, and Chandgaon.

Even the road in front of the mayor's residence in Bahaddarhat was flooded, leaving him stranded. The flooding rendered motorised vehicles almost

useless in these areas. Meanwhile, two people died.

An unidentified youth died after falling into Kalabagicha canal near Asadganj Dried Fish hub. When locals took him to Chattogram Medical College Hospital, the duty doctor declared him dead, said OC Bablu Kumar Paul of Pathorghata police station.

With him, at least nine people died by falling into open drains of Chattogram since 2017.

Besides, Saiful Islam Hridoy, 26, died when a wall collapsed on him at an under-construction site in Baizid Bostami at 8:30am, said OC Sanjoy Kumar Sinha of Baizid Bostami Police Station.

According to the met office, the city recorded 242mm rainfall in last 24 hours till 9:00pm yesterday. Besides, 148.4mm of rainfall were recorded between 6:00am and noon, and 132mm between 6:00am and 9:00am. They explained that the high tide starting at 8:00am exacerbated the situation, as tidal water combined with heavy showers led to widespread flooding.

Many who stayed back were not spared either, as water entered into the ground floor of residential buildings and tin-shed houses.

"Rain may continue for the next 24 hours," said MHM Mosaddek, forecasting officer of Chattogram Met Office.

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