

First monsoon downpour submerges Khulna

Tk 823cr drainage project fails to stop waterlogging

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

The first heavy downpour of this monsoon since Monday has left most areas of Khulna city under knee-deep water, while adjoining low-lying areas were submerged under waist-high water – exposing the inefficacy of the Tk 823 crore drainage improvement project of Khulna City Corporation (KCC).

The rain began overnight on Monday and continued till yesterday noon, triggering widespread waterlogging and causing severe disruption to the daily life of city dwellers, including day labourers, office-goers, and schoolchildren.

"In the 24 hours till 6:00am on Tuesday, 36mm of rain was recorded, while 47mm was recorded between 6:00am and 12:00pm on Tuesday. This pattern of intermittent rainfall is expected to continue until June 20," said Animesh Chandra Dhal, assistant meteorologist at the Khulna office of the Bangladesh Meteorological Department.

City dwellers blamed clogged drains and sewer systems, encroachment, and the lack of renovation of the city's 22 canals, along with the filling up of natural reservoirs and rivers, as the main reasons behind Khulna's longstanding waterlogging woes.

According to KCC's Conservancy Department, the city has a 1,165-kilometre drainage network. Most of the drains constructed under the drainage improvement project are now clogged and require manual cleaning – making regular maintenance difficult and inefficient.

Key areas of the city – including Ahsan Ahmed Road, Royal Intersection, Khan Jahan Ali Road, Bastuhara, Baipatpara, Chanmari, Labonchhara, Tutpara, Mistrupara, Mujgunni Road, and Rupsha Notun Bazar – have been severely affected. The stretch from Dakbangle Intersection to Ferryghat Intersection remained submerged under knee-deep water.

"While heading to work this morning, I found the entire road flooded. My motorcycle was halfway under water. I had to tread through Sabuj Sangha Field and Notun Rasta to reach the main road, facing immense hassle. Apart from the Khulna Jashore highway, almost all roads became waterlogged amid the rain," said Tushar Kanti Das, a resident of Ward 6.

Locals from wards 6, 7, and 9 said the rainwater is supposed to drain through the Bastuhara and Karigor Para canals into the Mayur river, but without regular maintenance, these canals can no longer function effectively.

After being re-elected in 2018, former KCC mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque made mitigating waterlogging his key campaign promise. A Tk 823 crore project was



Overnight rain that continued till yesterday noon left Khulna city waterlogged, severely disrupting daily life for day labourers, office-goers, and schoolchildren.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Badruzzaman elected fellow of Academy of Science

CITY DESK



Prof ABM Badruzzaman, vice chancellor of Buet, has been elected as a Fellow of the Bangladesh Academy of Science in its 16th council meeting on May 18, said a press release.

This honour recognises his contributions to engineering and environmental science.

A PhD holder from the University of Virginia, Dr. Badruzzaman is renowned for his research on arsenic contamination and water quality. He has received international accolades, including the Prince Sultan Award (2012) and ITEX Gold Medal (2019).

Ninth grader found dead in M'singh

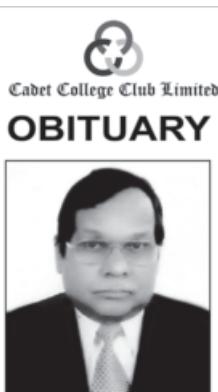
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Police recovered the decomposed body of a ninth-grade student from a septic tank in Phulpur upazila of Mymensingh early yesterday, three days after he went missing.

The victim, Md Abu Raihan, 17, was the son of Tofazzol Hossain from Merigai village. He was a student at a local high school.

Quoting family and locals, police said Raihan was allegedly in a relationship with a neighbouring girl. Her family had recently assaulted and threatened him over the matter.

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OBITUARY

Dr. Zagrul Rahman Khan, PhD, M/No. 00001 (FCC, 2nd Batch) Honourable Founder (Donor) Member of Cadet College Club Ltd and an Ex-Cadet of Faujdarhat Cadet College has breathed his last around 04:00 pm on Monday, 16th June 2025 (Innah Lillahi Wainna Ilahi Rajiun). He was 81.

He left behind his 02 sons, 01 daughter, relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death. He was Founder President of Cadet College Club Ltd, Former Chairman of Old Faujians Association OFA and Member of Dhaka Club Ltd., Member of Gulshan Club Ltd., Member of Uttara Club Ltd., Baridhara Cosmopolitan Club Ltd and many more. He was double MA in Economics and Political Science from University of Dhaka and then his PhD from USA too. He was a Businessman and Chairman of Ambar Group.

May his departed soul rest in eternal peace. AMEEN.

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E-mail: indsecy@moind.gov.bd

Company Secretary & CCO, Karnaphuli Fertilizer Company Limited (KAFCO) IDB Bhaban (13th Floor), E/8-A Rokeya Sharani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh.
Email: khwaja.s.rahman@kafcoabd.com
Phone: +8802223374660-64

Decline in WASH budget concerning

Says joint budget tracking analysis by PPRC, WaterAid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) and WaterAid Bangladesh have expressed deep concern over the declining budget allocation for the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) sector in the proposed Annual Development Programme (ADP) for the 2025–26 fiscal year.

In a joint budget tracking analysis released yesterday, the two organisations noted that WASH allocations have dropped from Tk 182.28 billion in 2022–23 to a proposed Tk 109.01 billion for the upcoming fiscal year.

Although the proposed allocation marks a slight increase from the current year's revised ADP figure of Tk 91.41 billion, it remains far below what is needed to meet growing sector challenges, they said in a press release.

"This sharp decline undermines efforts to ensure citizens' rights to safe water and sanitation," the statement read.

The policy brief also highlighted stark inequities in budget distribution.

Dhaka Wasa alone is set to receive over Tk 31.4 billion, while allocations for the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) – which is responsible for providing WASH services nationwide – have been reduced, they stated.

Only 7 out of 12 city corporations received WASH allocations, leaving out Rajshahi, Rangpur, Cumilla, and Sylhet, among others.

"Intra-urban disparities continue to persist, with Dhaka North City Corporation and Gazipur receiving the lion's share once again," the analysis noted.

Speaking on the findings, Hossain Zillur Rahman, executive chairman of PPRC, said, "Water and sanitation are not merely technical issues. They are fundamental human rights and essential to health, dignity, and resilience. Budgetary priorities must reflect this, especially as climate pressures grow and inequalities deepen."

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Legal Notice

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)

COMPANY MATTER NO. 996 OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF:

K.M. MOBARAK HOSSAIN -Versus-
K.M. RAKIB HASAN AND OTHERS

.....RESPONDENTS

Notified that an application under Section 233 of the Companies Act, 1994 read with Rule 8 of the Companies Rule 2009 has been filed by the applicant praying for establishment the right of the minority Shareholders and also prayed for direction to disburse the payments and bills from the Respondents No.4 and 5 Bank which was moved on 16.06.2025 before the Hon'ble Company bench comprising with Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohel who after hearing the same was very much pleased to admit the application directing to notify the parties and also directed to publish the notice in the DAILY STAR and the DAILY KALERKONTCHA and further directed to file compliance within 04 weeks from date, therefore, if any one interest, requested to appear before the Hon'ble Court within or before 24.07.2025. Copy of the application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of necessary costs.

Through,

Md. Rezan Islam 17.06.2025
Md. Rezan Islam Advocate for the Petitioner
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email: rezaulislam80@gmail.com