

Tangail: A town of garbage, traffic jam

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Tangail*

Tangail has turned into a town of traffic jam and garbage due to negligence of the authorities concerned.

Increased population, encroachment on roads and footpaths, markets and establishments without parking spaces and plying of a large number of auto-rickshaws are reasons behind the traffic jams. Several illegal auto-rickshaw stands at different spots make the situation worse, causing sufferings to the people.

Most of the ponds, water bodies, playgrounds and open spaces in the town have been taken up for construction of different structures in the name of development.

Conscious residents fear that the town will become unlivable within a few years.

There are around 3,000 legal battery-run auto-rickshaws and as many illegal ones in the town, creating traffic jams on New Bus Terminal-Mymensingh Road, Old Bus Stand to Baby Stand Road and Nirala Intersection to Zila Sadar Road.

The traffic system was first hampered when the municipality constructed Poura Super Market on place of the Old Bus Stand during the '80s, narrowing the Zero Point and Mymensingh Road, several senior citizens said.

In 2003, the municipality constructed

several markets in the middle of the town from Old Bus Stand to Nirala Intersection, making the main road narrower.

Construction of the markets not only killed the Victoria Canal, the main water drainage system in the town, but also disrupted the overall traffic system, they said.

The town has no waste management system. As a result, garbage is dumped at different points under the open sky. Private hospitals and clinics also dump their medical wastes besides the roads, polluting the environment and spreading diseases.

"The municipality was established in 1887. A municipality should have a master plan comprising proper traffic and waste management systems," said Zafar Ahmed, former panel mayor of the municipality, adding that freeing roads and footpaths from the grabbers and also barring heavy vehicles from entering the town during daytime can ease the traffic situation.

Deputy Commissioner Khan Mohammad Nurul Amin said traffic jam and lack of waste management are the main problems. "I am talking with the authorities concerned to solve the problems. The help of public representatives will also be required for that," he added.