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IMF HAILS PROGRESS

Its deputy MD speaks on the economic prospects and challenges facing Bangladesh

PAGE B4

SPYING AGAIN

Germany summons US envoy to do some explaining

PAGE 14

IT'S PETRA

Petra Kvitová wins her second Wimbledon title by crushing Eugenie Bouchard

PAGE 54

BASIC chairman bows out

Muhith signals Bacchu will face prosecution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the clamour for his dismissal growing louder, Sheikh Abdul Hye Bacchu, the main accused behind BASIC Bank's current financial straits, has stepped down from the post of chairman.

The resignation, handed to Finance Minister AMA Muhith on Friday night, comes just two months before the expiry of his second term as chairman of the troubled bank.

By resigning from the post, Bacchu has not gotten away with his misdeeds, the minister told reporters at his office yesterday. "Resignation does not give a solution -- the prosecution will go on."

Muhith said the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) had already started investigation into the issue, and those found liable would be brought to trial, as was done in the case of Sonali Bank.

Asked if he had asked the controversial BASIC Bank chairman to step down, Muhith said: "I don't want to talk about it."

"He will be relieved of his duties, just as he sought. He would have been dismissed anyway -- we nominated him [for the bank] after all. In a sense, it was wise [of him]."

Meanwhile, a close aide to the departing BASIC Bank chairman told The Daily Star that Bacchu had always intended to see out his second term but changed his mind after the government higher-ups asked him to quit without further delay.



SEE PAGE 9 COL 5



Argentina striker Gonzalo Higuain (R) celebrates his all-important goal against Belgium during their World Cup quarterfinal in Brasilia yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Higuain fires Argentina into semis

AFP, Brasilia

Gonzalo Higuain smashed home an early goal as Argentina dashed the World Cup dreams of much-fancied Belgium with a 1-0 win in the quarterfinals in Brasilia on Saturday.

Higuain struck in the eighth minute at the Mane Garrincha National Stadium to send Argentina into the last four for the first time since 1990 and thwart Belgian hopes of avenging their defeat in the 1986 semi-finals.

The only black mark for Argentina was an injury to influential midfielder Angel Di Maria that forced him off in the first half and may yet deny him a chance to play in the semi-final.

"It was our best game of the World Cup," said Sabella.

"It is a great joy for this team, for the people for my family and for everyone. This was the best game for Argentina in terms of balance and all aspects of its game. However, the injury to Di Maria is a big blow."

Hours after Neymar was ruled out of the tournament due to injury and James Rodriguez was eliminated with

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Netherlands beat Costa Rica 0 (4) - 0 (3) on penalties and will face Argentina in the semifinal

Colombia, Lionel Messi gave further evidence to suggest the World Cup may yet belong to him.

He illuminated Argentina's play with his tricky and incisive passing and although he failed to score, Higuain's goal was enough to see off Belgium's 'golden generation', for whom the occasion proved a step too far.

A symbol of Belgium's travails, star player Eden Hazard was booked for a crude challenge on Lucas Biglia and then replaced by Nacer Chadli with 15

minutes remaining.

Showing three changes to the team that had laboured to beat Switzerland in the last 16 -- Jose Maria Basanta, Martin Demichelis and Biglia coming in -- Argentina were quick to put Belgium on the back foot.

Messi was at the forefront, freeing Ezequiel Lavezzi for a low cross that Vincent Kompany hacked clear and then playing a central role in Argentina's opener with a pirouette and pass to Di Maria.

Di Maria's subsequent pass was intended for the overlapping Pablo Zabaleta, but it flicked off Jan Vertonghen's right foot and into the path of Higuain, who lashed in his first goal of the tournament.

Messi then produced a cleverly weighted pass to Di Maria, who shifted the ball onto his left foot, only for Kompany to block.

Though seemingly anodyne, it was a moment that could have lasting repercussions for Argentina.

Di Maria injured himself while shooting and had to trudge off in the 33rd minute, with Benfica's Enzo Perez coming on.

Belgium seemed slightly inhibited, but after Kevin De Bruyne saw a 25-yard shot boxed away by Argentina goalkeeper Sergio Romero, Kevin Mirallas headed narrowly wide from a Vertonghen cross.

Belgium coach Marc Wilmots pushed Marouane Fellaini further forward in the second half, but Argentina continued to threaten.

Higuain twice came close to

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1



NEYMAR OUT OF WC Brazil numbed

AGENCIES, Undated

Brazil forward Neymar has been ruled out of the World Cup after fracturing a vertebra in his back in the closing stages of the 2-1 quarterfinal win over Colombia on Friday in a major blow to the host nation.

Neymar, who has scored four goals in the tournament, will miss the semifinal against Germany in Belo Horizonte on Tuesday and the final should they progress. He is expected to be out for several weeks.

Many Brazil fans had gathered outside the Fortaleza hospital, shouting "Forca Neymar" (be strong Neymar) as the player was being wheeled into the building.

"Unfortunately, he's not going to be able to play," said Brazil team doctor Rodrigo Lasmar.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 5

Must they dig roads in rain?

Development, people suffer alike for tardy city corporations

Life choked

People grapple with rain, road digging, poor drainage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Life in the capital nearly came to a halt yesterday, with a downpour flooding many streets and alleys.

An already poor drainage system put city residents commuting to and from their workplaces in trouble.

Accessing some roads was very risky as there were large potholes under knee-deep water due to construction of a flyover and digging up of roads by Dhaka Wasa and city corporations.

Preparing for the next BCS exams, Rushnan Farah could not attend her coaching class in Mouchak as she could not get out of her house near Shahjahanpur Police Station.

"There's knee-deep water just outside the collapsible gate of our house," she said.

Nazrul music exponent Sadya Afreen Mallick reached Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue from Mohakhali in around two hours, which is usually a 40-minute trip.

"I had to wait for a long time at every traffic signal today. Each time the signal turned green, traffic police allowed only a few vehicles to pass," she mentioned.

Domestic worker Farzana Begum had to come out for work. On her way to Siddheswari from Shantibagh, her sari got wet almost up to the waist as she waded carefully through the muddy water at Malibagh intersection.

"I am more concerned about potholes on the road than my clothes getting soaked. Who will save me if I fall into a pothole?" she asked.

Beginning around 9:00am, the rain also caused suffering for Eid shoppers. Dhaka Met office measured 52 millimetres of rain till noon yesterday.

Many streets in Old Dhaka, Mirpur, Mouchak, Green Road, Baridhara, Kakrail, New Market, Sukrabad, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Shantinagar, Fakirapool, Gulistan, Banani and Gulshan were inundated.

Rain water and overflowing sewers flooded all the streets

SEE PAGE 9 COL 2



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Though the digging for laying utility lines has been done, brick chips are still piled up on a road in Mirpur area of the capital. Besides, the narrowed down road is also muddy due to rains. The photo was taken yesterday.

HELEMUL ALAM

Dhaka city dwellers continue to suffer as road digging goes on in many areas in the middle of the monsoon for laying utility lines or some roads where the work has already been completed wait to be repaired by the city corporations.

From tender floating to levelling of dug-up roads, the corporations have failed to

deliver the goods in time, causing prolonged sufferings to people.

Heaps of mud, bricks and brick chips, sand and pipes have narrowed the roads, resulting in horrendous traffic jams. And the situation turns worse on rainy days.

Some roads, as in Uttara, Gudaraghat of Badda and near Rampura Bazar where digging ended a few months ago, are still in a pitiable condition. But, sources said, the

utility service providers had paid the corporations in advance for the repair.

The city corporations leave dug-up roads to be levelled on their own instead of doing it by using a compaction machine, according to officials concerned.

An executive engineer of Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) said the corporation did not have a small compaction machine which would have helped them

finish the levelling rapidly. However, they are trying to buy one.

Asked why they had to dig up roads in the rainy season, Syed Quadrat Ullah, additional chief engineer of DNCC, said some of the work started late because of the time-consuming bidding. It takes two and a half months to complete the tender process and a few more months in case of re-tendering.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

