



Sludge brought out during cleaning of underground sewers in the capital's West Raza Bazar lies out on the street, posing the risk of being washed into the drains during rains and causing blocks and waterlogging. The photos were taken on April 20.

PHOTO: TRIBENI CHAKMA



GDP growth minus dignity pointless

Noted personalities tell two-day BIDS discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mere economic growth, at any cost and devoid of human dignity and equal rights, will be disastrous, noted personalities told a discussion in the capital yesterday.

"Economic growth would hardly mean anything without dignity, security, rights and sense of ownership of the people," said noted human rights activist advocate Sultana Kamal while conducting the session.

Tragedies like the Rana Plaza collapse, Tazreen factory fire and every day road accidents will keep recurring unless corruption stops, she said. Economic growth through corrupt means at the cost of people's dignity and equality is not acceptable as corruption kills a society, she said, adding that a state is never sovereign unless and until every individual citizen is.

The Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) organised the two-day discussion, "Critical Conversation 2016: The Bangladesh Journey", at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

Bangladesh has made remarkable progress in economic growth, poverty reduction, lowering mother and child malnutrition and advancing women over the past couple of decades despite poor or a lack of governance, said BIDS Research Director Dr Binayak Sen.

Even if governance is found statistically uncorrelated with economic growth, it is important for fostering human development and social cohesion, he said.

Misgovernance influences inequality which, in turn, affects democracy, said Binayak while giving a presentation on "democracy, governance and development".

Barrister Tania Amir, a senior Supreme Court lawyer, said it was critical to examine at what cost the economic growth was achieved. The question is whether it is holistic and sustainable, "otherwise we end up in a society not sustainable", she said.

"Mere economic growth blatantly disregarding other indicators of human wellbeing is cancerous. The growth

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Student bodies call hartal today over Tonu murder

DU CORRESPONDENT

A half-day hartal will be observed today across the country, demanding justice for the murder of Comilla Victoria College student Sohagi Jahan Tonu and also protesting the ongoing incidents of murder, enforced disappearance and rape.

On April 7, the two left-leaning students' alliances -- Progressive Students' Alliance and Anti-Imperialist Students' Union-called the hartal, putting forward a six-point demand including quick disposal of all murder and rape cases, ensuring capital punishment for rapists, and taking measures for preventing pornography and drugs.

Holding a protest rally at

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Kudos to efforts of city authorities but...

TRIBENI CHAKMA

A big thank you to Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority and the two Dhaka city corporations for their frantic efforts to clear garbage and mud blocking underground sewers way ahead of the rainy season. But it apparently seems that their efforts will go in vain.

After the sewers have been declogged, the sludge has not been immediately taken away for safe disposal and instead have been left piled up out on the streets. Residents of different areas said if it rains again, the mud and garbage will flow down into the drains and again cause blockages, leading to waterlogging.

In different areas, the garbage and mud have been lying on the road for several days and it is now a common scenario that those remain present for weeks as those who cleaned the sewers, in many cases, do not bother to take it to designated spots.

Some workers employed by Dhaka Wasa cleaned storm water drains at West Raza Bazar on April 20 but the waste that has been brought out was still there till filing of this report on the evening of April 24.

Md Shaheed, 45, running a tailor's shop in the area, said the sludge was brought out and kept beside his shop two weeks back and continues to lie there.

"Drain cleaners even cleaned drains around two months back, which went back into the drain again after a heavy rain as they did not bother to take it away from the place," he said.

The garbage even caused sufferings to his customers who often objected to it, he said.

"Whenever I ask to take away the garbage, they (cleaners) just give false assurances," said Shaheed.

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Nurses voice opposition to recruitment thru exam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Nurses Oikya Parishad (BNOP) yesterday submitted a memorandum to the prime minister and health minister demanding prompt interventions in removing barriers to nurses' recruitment.

Two delegations from BNOP, an umbrella organisation of nine nurses' associations, went to the health minister's office at Bangladesh Secretariat and Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and handed over the memorandums.

"Our main demand is to recruit nurses based on merit and seniority, not through exams as declared by PSC (Bangladesh Public Service Commission)," BNOP Convener Ismat Ara Parveen told The Daily

Star.

Nurses have been demonstrating since early April protesting a PSC circular of March 28 on recruiting 3,616 senior nurses in public hospitals.

The circular says applicants below the age of 36 and attaining Bachelor of Science and diploma in nursing had to take an exam.

However, BNOP Member Secretary Mustafizur Rahman said the exam prerequisite was unjust because nurses who attained the educational qualifications a few years back and approaching the age of 36 might be left out.

Bangladesh Basic Graduate Nurses Society General Secretary Nahida Akhter said several hundred nurses gathered at

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MAJ GEN MANZUR MURDER CASE

CID gets three more months to investigate

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday gave the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), for the eleventh time, three more months to complete further investigation in a case filed over killing of Maj Gen Abul Manzur in 1981.

Judge (in charge) Rafiqul Islam of the First Addition District and Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka fixed July 24 for submission of the probe report.

The order came after CID Special Superintendent Abdul Kahar Akond, also the investigation officer, petitioned for more time to further investigate the case.

In his petition, Kahar said he had gathered important evidence of the killing, and

needed more time to verify the evidence.

The then chief of army staff HM Ershad, now Jatiya Party chief and special envoy to the prime minister, is the main accused in the case. Earlier, Ershad was exempted from court appearances.

Two others accused -- Maj (ret'd) Kazi Emdadul Haque and Lt Col (ret'd) Mostafa Kamaluddin Bhuiyan -- were present yesterday.

Manzur, the commander of sector-8 during the Liberation War, was killed in Chittagong Cantonment on June 1, 1981, two days after the assassination of the then president Ziaur Rahman.

His elder brother Abul Mansur Ahmed filed the case 14 years later on February 28, 1995.

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Uttara Bank Limited Annual General Meeting held on yesterday (Sunday) at the International Convention City. The meeting was presided over by the Chairman of the Bank Mr. Azharul Islam. The Vice Chairman Mr. Iftekharul Islam, the Managing Director Mr. Shaikh Abdul Aziz and other directors of the Bank also attended the meeting. In the AGM, Uttara Bank Limited declared 20% cash dividend for the year 2015 and passed the Annual Report 2015.

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