

Khulna Bastuhara colony waterlogged for five days

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna
Rainwater has not receded from Khulna city's Bastuhara colony even after five days, causing immense suffering to its 10,000 residents.

Due to incessant rain, two-third of the city went under water on Friday night. Although water went down from the city's other areas by Saturday, most places of the colony are still submerged.

Visiting the area yesterday, this correspondent found the roads under water. Many were forced to stay indoors, with women and children being the worst sufferers.

The residents were wading through ankle-deep water. Most shops opened but customers were sparse.

The residents said the colony gets waterlogged even after a brief rain. Despite repeated promises pledged by public representatives, no initiative has been taken to reduce waterlogging, they alleged.

Talking to The Daily Star, Habibur Rahman, a local, said there was knee-deep water on Saturday afternoon.

"A canal flowing through the area is filled with garbage. So, it cannot drain the water. Besides, two narrow sewers are in similar state," said Habibur.

Baby Begum, another resident, said several roads of the colony were repaired two years ago, but drainage system is yet to be improved.

"The floors inside my house had remained flooded since Monday. During the time, we kept valuables, including our stove, on the bed."

"My children cannot go to school due to the water," she added.

Saddam Hossain, another resident, said the canal and drains in the area have not been dredged for years.



PHOTO: STAR

Md Mahafuzur Rahman, councillor of Ward-9, said the colony is situated in a low-lying area where the sewers are narrow. Rainwater moves towards the colony from adjacent areas, he added.

"I will take an initiative to resolve the crisis after consulting with the Khulna City Corporation (KCC) mayor," said Mahafuzur.

Md Ziaur Rahman, assistant waste

management officer (B-zone) of KCC, said they cleaned the drains after the downpour, but the area is still under water since it is low-lying.

The roads in the area have no drains on both of their sides, said the KCC official. Besides, the sewers cannot be kept clean because the residents always dump garbage in those, he added.

AUG 21 ATTACK

Khaleda can not evade responsibility: Mahmud

UNB, Dhaka

Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud yesterday said BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia cannot evade the responsibility for the grisly August 21 grenade attack.

"The attack was led by Tarique Rahman with the knowledge of his mother, BNP chief Khaleda Zia," he told reporters after placing wreaths at a makeshift altar in front of Awami League central office on Bangabandhu Avenue in Dhaka.

As per confessional statement by government officials, he said the then Directorate General of Forces Intelligence tried to investigate the incident, but Khaleda rebuked them. "So, she's liable for the attack, and she can't evade the responsibility."

Hasan, also the publicity and publication secretary of AL, said the August 21 grenade attack is not only a tragic incident, but a heinous one in the history of the nation.

He said the then BNP-Jamaat-led government obstructed the investigation into the incident and its trial at every step. "Even, police charged batons on those rescuing the injured on that day to help the attackers flee the scene."

The minister alleged that the BNP-Jamaat clique is still conspiring to turn Bangladesh into a militant state. "To foil such a plot, the verdict of the August 21 case must be executed."

He also urged the country's people to remain alert about the evil activities and plots of BNP-Jamaat.

Dhaka, Washington discuss ways to address mutual concerns

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh and the United States have discussed ways to address areas of mutual concerns, including countering radicalisation and recruitment in the region.

The two countries also discussed the importance of respecting human rights and the rule of law, with an effective counter-terrorism strategy.

US Department of State's Deputy Coordinator for Counter-terrorism John T Godfrey visited Bangladesh from August

18 to 19, and discussed the issues with Bangladesh government officials and other partners.

US Ambassador to Bangladesh Earl R Miller and Godfrey met Foreign Secretary M Shahidul Haque to discuss partnering with Bangladesh on CT/CVE initiatives, said the embassy in a press release yesterday.

Godfrey also met Bangladesh's Anti-Terrorism Unit and its Counterterrorism and Transnational Crime Unit to review implementation of bilateral CT/CVE programmes, related to law enforcement and the judiciary.

BNP smells

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Describing the August 21 attack as a tragic incident, he claimed that those who conspired against the then BNP government might have carried it out.

Reacting to ruling party leaders' remarks accusing BNP for the grenade attack, Rizvi said, "Pilkhana carnage occurred during Awami League's rule. Is Awami League responsible for the incident?"

As his attention was drawn to the information minister's comment that Khaleda Zia was involved with the August 21 attack, he said they can say anything as they are now in power, but people know the truth.

DFID allocates GBP 102,625 for Mirpur fire victims

UNB, Dhaka

The UK Department for International Development (DFID) has allocated GBP 102,625 to support those affected by a massive fire at Jhelpar Chalantika slum in the capital's Mirpur area.

This new allocation aims to provide non-food items, mosquito nets, hygiene items, financial support, education, and psycho-social support over a period of 45 days, said the British High Commission in Dhaka on Wednesday.

Thousands of shanties of the slum -- set up on around 25 to 30 bighas of government wetland -- were gutted by the fire on the night of August 16.

Some 24 firefighting units brought the fire under control after frantic efforts, which had spread to several nearby buildings in Mirpur-7.

No proof of murder

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Following the writ petition, the HC on May 8 this year formed the judicial committee, led by the chief judicial magistrate of Panchagarh, to inquire into the death of Advocate Palash Kumar Roy.

The court asked the committee to submit the report before it in 30 days and also issued a rule asking authorities concerned of the government to explain why their failure to give protection to Palash inside the jail should not be declared illegal.

Deputy Attorney General Bipul Bagmar represented the state.

Fake liquor-making

FROM PAGE 5

Among the arrestees, Ekramul and Swapan used to run homeopathy pharmacies, and supplied spirit to the gang from their shops, while Nasim used to deliver the adulterated liquor to different areas on his motorbike, said Deputy Commissioner (West) Faruk-Ul-Haque of Chattogram Metropolitan Police (CMP).

Imran is the maker of adulterated liquor using the spirit, chemicals and flavours, he added.

Addressing a press conference at CMP Headquarters in Damara, DC Faruk said four persons including the three who died on August 15 brought a bottle of liquor from Nasim and later consumed it at the house of one Biswajit Mallik.

"The gang first collected empty bottles of foreign-brand alcohol from different bars and liquor shops in the city, and then refilled the bottles with the mixture of spirit and different chemicals to look like the original product, and put fresh labels on the bottle printed from the press," said

the DC.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) Mostafizur Rahman of Akbar Shah Police Station said police started an investigation about the source of liquor after the death of three people in Akbar Shah, and found a clue about Nasim and arrested him from the same area on August 20.

Later, based on his confession, police arrested Ekram and Swapan from Hazari Lane area while Imran and Jahed were detained from Andarkilla, said OC Mustafiz.

"The labels of different liquor brands were printed from the presses in Andarkilla and Pahartali areas," said OC Mustafiz.

Police official Mustafiz said the gang used to spend Tk 200-300 for each bottle and they usually sold every bottle for about Tk 1,500 to Tk 4,000.

DC Faruk said during primary interrogation, Nasim said the gang has been involved in the business for four years.

OC Mustafiz said the gang destroyed the consignment of the liquor batch, after the death of the three.

Auto-rickshaw driver returns

FROM PAGE 5

The phone belonged to Mahmudul Hasan, an executive magistrate.

Hanif handed the phone over to Mahmudul, who appreciated the effort greatly. "He [Hanif] tried his very best to return the smartphone to me," said Mahmudul.

The Deputy Commissioner of Rangpur,

Asib Ahsan, presented the auto-rickshaw driver with a flower bouquet and gift hamper. "Nothing is parallel to honesty. His example should be followed by everyone," said the DC.

"Many can afford to replace a lost smartphone, but the data inside it is more important and cannot be recovered easily," Hanif said.

Starcom to provide media solutions for NSU



CITY DESK

Marketing agency Starcom Bangladesh will be providing media solutions to North South University (NSU), said a press release.

NSU Vice Chancellor Prof Atique Islam and Starcom Managing Director Sarah Ali signed the partnership agreement on behalf of the organisations on the NSU campus in Basundhara Residential Area of the capital.

Under the agreement, Starcom will provide all kinds of solutions, including media buying and other media operational support, according to a statement.

Among others, NSU alumnus and Vice President of NAASBE (NSU Alumni Association of School of Business and Economics) Ziauddin Adil, Starcom Bangladesh Account Director Tarannum Busra Alam, NSU Public Relations Director Jamil Ahmed and Finance Director Mohammad Sayed Ahmed were present on the occasion.

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Celebration fund to be spent

FROM PAGE 3

The year-long celebration will include inaugural and concluding ceremonies; city beautification; arrangement of workshops, seminars, conferences, cultural events and exhibitions at home and abroad; making documentary and publication, and creation of mementos.

The committee will also buy non-consulting services through outsourcing process.

On July 6 last year, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, at a joint meeting of Awami League Advisory Council and Central Working Committee, made the announcement of celebrating 2020 as "Mujib Year".

Hearing on death references

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A special court in Dhaka delivered the verdict in the cases on October 10 last year.

BNP's acting chairman Tarique Rahman and 18 others were sentenced to life in prison while former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar and 18 others were given death penalty on charges of murder through criminal conspiracy.

All 38 accused were also sentenced to life in prison for causing grievous injuries to the survivors.

On January 13 this year, the HC accepted the appeals for hearing and also stayed part of the trial court verdict that fined the convicts of the cases.

The HC will hold the hearing on the death references and appeals after relevant procedures are completed.

Whose road

FROM PAGE 5

ASM Kabir, executive engineer of LGED, meanwhile told this newspaper that it was not possible for them to take responsibility of their designated share of the road [from Mayur Bridge to Joy Bangla intersection], as it did not fit the classification criteria for it to be under LGED's supervision.

"If the KDA chairman writes to the high authority of LGED and sanctions money, then we can repair the road," said ASM Kabir.

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Abu Habib Khairul Kabir
General Manager

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