

Country to face acute crisis: BNP

UNB, Dhaka

BNP yesterday warned that the country is going to face an acute crisis due to shortage of food and soaring prices of daily essentials.

"The entire nation is passing their days amid serious anxiety. Bangladesh will plunge into serious crisis," said BNP senior joint secretary general Ruhul Kabir Rizvi.

Speaking at a press conference at BNP's Nayapaltan central office, he also expressed concern that Bangladesh is moving towards "bankruptcy".

"The situation in Bangladesh can be more critical than in Sri Lanka," the BNP leader said.

He also said the condition of the people in the country is miserable as the prices of daily necessities are going up very quickly.

"Wheat can't be imported as the major countries have stopped its export. It will be impossible for people to buy flour after some days amid the abnormal rise in rice prices and the disappearance of soybean oil," Rizvi said.

He slammed the government for, what he said, its failure to stop the price hikes in daily essentials.



At the wake of the pandemic, Shakil Ahmed -- a master's student of soil science at Mymensingh Agricultural University -- decided to take up farming. In just two years, the student became the master as his yields of squash, watermelon and honey melon were bountiful. Now, Shakil spends his time teaching local farmers the use of modern methods to gain profitable production.

PHOTO: STAR

'Bangladesh a paradise for money launderers'

Claims GM Quader

UNB, Dhaka

Jatiya Party Chairman GM Quader yesterday said Bangladesh seems to have become a paradise for money launderers.

In a statement, he also demanded that a list of those who are siphoning off money abroad be published.

"A vested quarter is making money illegally and again siphoning it off abroad. As if Bangladesh is now a paradise for the money launderers," he said.

Referring to a report of Global Financial Integrity (GFI), the Jatiya Party

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3 killed as truck hits motorbike

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Three people, including a union parishad member, were killed after a truck hit the motorcycle they were on in Birol upazila of Dinajpur early yesterday. The deceased were identified as Md Rakib Hossain (25), a member of Mongalpur UP, Md Tamim (14) of Ranisankail upazila in Thakurgaon, and Sadbin Osman (24) of Borogurgola area in Dinajpur town.

They were going to Bochaganj from Dinajpur town by a private car but their car ran out of fuel at Mongalpur Bazar. They arranged a bike and were going to a nearby petrol pump to take fuel, said Hafiz Md Raihan Ali, officer-in-charge of Mongalpur Police Investigation Centre in Birol.

A truck, heading to Bochaganj, hit their bike on their way around 12:30am, OC Hafiz said. They died on the spot, he added. Police recovered the bodies and handed them to their family members. The trucker fled the scene.

Sowing knowledge, gaining yields

Young agriculture enthusiast Shakil Ahmed helping farmers in Tangail

MIRZA SHAKIL

When the pandemic hit and in-person classes at universities were suspended, Shakil Ahmed, then a final year student of agriculture department at Noakhali Science and Technology University, had returned home.

But he refused to sit idle, and so, asked his father for a plot of land to farm squash.

The yield was massive as he followed modern methods. After that, he cultivated more vegetables and fruits, including cucumber, melon and watermelon on more land. This time too, he received his expected results. Other farmers of the village were surprised and came to see how he was making it all possible. They started seeking Shakil's advice on their own farming methods.

Now a master's student in the soil science department at Mymensingh Agricultural University, the 26-year-old is teaching other farmers at Gamjani village in Tangail's Delduar upazila various modern farming techniques. He is educating them on producing more crops at a low cost using modern methods and cultivating each crop at the right time.

Jahidur Rahman Jahid, a resident of the village, said he was sitting at home unemployed after returning

from Malaysia because of Covid-19. "Following Shakil's advice, I received a good yield by planting squash in my land. He also showed me how I can profit more by cultivating wheat or maize instead of paddy," said Jahid.

Abdul Latif Miah, a farmer from Gamjani village, said, "When I wanted to cultivate maize on my land, Shakil showed me that I can cultivate potato as an associate crop with maize."



Shakil said, "Farmers are the lifeblood of our country. They are very hard working. However, they are still very neglected. Our soil is also very fertile. But most of the farmers are still cultivating in the old way."

"Many farmers still don't know when to cultivate any land. Many of them aren't aware of the quantity of fertilisers or pesticides they should use. In most cases, they do what

fertiliser or pesticide vendors suggest, and often don't have money in hand. The government's agriculture department has a lot to do for them," he added.

In the meantime, when the story of Shakil's agricultural achievements spread in the area, the upazila's agriculture officials came to inspect the field and praised his work.

This year, Shakil has planted watermelon, rock melon and honey melon on his land, and the yield has been good. In just two days after the start of harvesting, Shakil has sold fruits worth Tk 40,000.

"My intention was to cultivate these high-priced, delicious fruits since they had to be imported to Bangladesh. My aim is to reduce import dependence and spread this farming knowledge among marginal farmers across the country through my firm (Startup Farmanet Asia)," Shakil said.

"I have been successful since many who have tasted the fruits are now coming directly to my land and purchasing them. This is also creating interest among farmers in my area," he further said.

Delduar Upazila Agriculture Officer Shoaib Mahmud said, "If educated youths like Shakil get involved in agriculture, we will see further development in our country."

Bangladeshi entrepreneur opens agri school in the Maldives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Bangladeshi entrepreneur has founded the first of its kind "School of Agriculture" at MI College, an international-level educational institution in the Maldives.

This is the first public-private initiative to introduce agricultural education in the Maldives, which kicked off operations recently. The initiative is the brainchild of entrepreneur Ahmed Mottaki.

The agricultural faculty was formally inaugurated on May 10 at the academic building of MI College in the historic Addu City by Abdulla Sodig, state minister for planning and housing of the Maldives.

The ceremony, chaired by Ahmed Mottaki, was attended by the former mayor of Addu City, high-ranking education officials, academicians, and businesspeople of the country. The state minister welcomed the initiative and wished for its success and assured all-round cooperation.



Ahmed Mottaki addresses the opening ceremony of the agricultural educational institution at MI College in the Maldives.

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PHOTO: STAR

Be vigilant against arson attacks

DMP commissioner tells police regarding political programmes

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Md Shafiqul Islam yesterday directed his officials to be extremely vigilant so that no one commits any acts of arson in the name of political programmes in the capital.

The DMP commissioner gave the directive while addressing and presiding over a monthly crime review meeting of the DMP, held at Bangladesh Police Auditorium in Rajarbagh.

Addressing the meeting, the commissioner thanked the officers and forces at all levels of the DMP for keeping law and order at a satisfactory level during the holy month of Ramadan and Eid-ul-Fitr.

He also asked them to continue their regular campaigns against theft and drug trafficking. "DMP's crime division and traffic department have to work together to keep the footpaths free from occupation," he said.

Everyone should keep a watchful eye so

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Kuakata reeks!

Broken down public toilet at Zero Point polluting environment

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

The public toilet at Zero Point on Kuakata Beach in Patuakhali has now become a nuisance for tourists. A crack has developed in the toilet tank and dirty water is getting mixed with the tidal water. There are allegations that the waste from this tank is dumped on the beach. The stench is spreading, polluting the environment.

According to locals, this public toilet was built about 10 years ago, half a kilometre away from the water level of the beach. At that time tidal water wouldn't reach there.

However, due to the continuous erosion of the sea, strong tidal waves hit the public toilets now.



Often, especially during disasters, human waste gets mixed in the sea water through the gap in the lid of the toilet tank. Incoming tourists are suffering from this repulsive situation.

Debashish Mukherjee, a tourist from Barishal, said, "One has to get off at Kuakata beach through Zero Point and from there, go to the hotel again. But we are bothered by the horrid stench emanating from the toilet. It should be closed."

Another tourist Nadeem Hossain said the matter should be taken seriously by the authorities.

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh e-Tender Notice. Includes details for supply of office furniture, ferrosilicon, and other goods.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার জেলা খাদ্য নিয়ন্ত্রকের কার্যালয়, পটুয়াখালী. 'দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি' table with 25 items.