

WATERLOGGING IN CTG

Mayor blames it on port city residents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chattogram City Corporation Mayor Rezaul Karim Chowdhury yesterday said city dwellers' "irresponsibility" is a reason behind waterlogging in the port city.

People throw polythene and plastic wastes into drains and canals, cut hills and occupy canals, which cause waterlogging, he said.

Talking in a press conference after a meeting over waterlogging, he told reporters, "As the canals and drains are filled up with polythene and plastic waste, rain water cannot recede quickly, causing waterlogging."

"A layer of seven-metre polythene has been created on the Karnaphuli river bed; so it cannot contain rain water. Dredging the river has become difficult due to that," he said.

There used to be 72 canals in the city, but now the number has declined to 57. Many of those were occupied by influential people, he added.

The mayor also criticised the Department of Environment (DoE) for failing to stop hill cutting.

When journalists asked him why the CCC conservancy workers did not clean the

drains and canals, he said they cleaned those on a regular basis, but people threw plastic and polythene wastes again hours later.

"Chattogram Development Authority has been working on 36 canals under a mega project to address waterlogging. But they did not excavate soil from those, so the canals could not contain the rain water," he said.

People throw polythene and plastic wastes into drains and canals, cut hills and occupy canals, which cause waterlogging.

REZAUL KARIM CHOWDHURY
CCC Mayor

He said CDA authorities have assured him of taking necessary actions in this regard after yesterday's meeting.

"After the project's completion, we hope the city dwellers will be get relieved from waterlogging," he said.

The mayor also stated that this month had the most rain in 30 years, which contributed to the city's severe waterlogging this year.

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PHOTO: TITU DAS

Marking Monosha Puja, celebrated on the last day of Bangla month Sraban, potters spend busy days in Jhalakathi's Himanandakathi village, crafting clay pots used for the rituals. The pots, available in various sizes, are sold for Tk 150-500. The photo was taken yesterday.

Government controlling media to hide 'misdeeds'

Alleges Fakhru

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday claimed that Awami League government has been controlling the media for a long time.

"There are so many media outlets in the country, but they cannot work freely. Even after 52 years of independence, the media is not free," Fakhru said.

He made the remarks at a seminar titled "Media in Bangladesh: One and A Half Decades of NIGHTMARE" in the capital's Gulshan.

"Corporate media has been formed in the country, which are owned by wealthy individuals. They established this corporate culture to use it

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Recognise them through constitution

Speakers tell discussion on indigenous people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday called upon the government to constitutionally recognise indigenous communities in order to preserve the country's ethnic and cultural diversity.

The government is not constitutionally recognising the indigenous communities to avoid its responsibility towards them, said Prof Mizanur Rahman, former chairman of National Human Rights Commission.

He made the remark at a discussion titled "Preserving Ethnic and Cultural Diversity and the Role of Indigenous Youths for Constitutional Recognition," organised by National Coalition for Indigenous People (NCIP) at Midas Centre in the capital.

Explaining the government's reluctance in this regard, Prof Mizanur Rahman said the government does not constitutionally recognise them for two reasons.

"If the government recognises them as indigenous communities, they are entitled to get all the rights that were guaranteed by the

constitution," he said, adding that the second reason is their lack of knowledge about indigenous communities.

Stressing the need for "self-determination" of indigenous communities, he said the government misinterprets the meaning of the term.

If the government recognises them as indigenous communities, they are entitled to get all the rights that were guaranteed by the constitution.

PROF MIZANUR RAHMAN
Former chairman of NHRC

"Whenever we talk about self-determination, the government seems embarrassed as they misinterpret the term. The government thinks that they might want a separate state. However, the communities never made any such demand," Prof Rahman said.

Saying that the government's take is flawed in this regard, Prof Rahman said self-determination actually entails transformative changes for indigenous communities and their equal rights in all spheres of life, including the rights to preserve their lands.

He added that the policymakers also failed to understand the proper meaning of the term "indigenous".

NCIP Secretary General Prof Mesbah Kamal lamented the government's unwillingness to officially observe International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

Demanding constitutional recognition of the indigenous people, Prof Kamal, also a teacher at Dhaka University, urged the government to ensure self-determination of indigenous people by providing them constitutional recognition.

Fuad Chowdhury, chief executive of Deepto TV, said, "Modern states have recognised their indigenous communities and enacted special policies for their welfare. This way, the

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HC stays suspension order of CoU student

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday stayed the suspension order of Comilla University student Muhammad Iqbal Monowar for six months.

He was suspended on August 2 for reporting on a speech delivered by the university's vice-chancellor on corruption.

The court also issued a rule asking the university authorities and government to explain why the decision of suspending Monowar, also a campus reporter of the daily Jai Jai Din, should not be declared illegal.

Monowar, 24, is pursuing his masters degree in English at the university.

The HC bench of Justice Bishmadev Chakraborty and Justice Md Ali Reza issued the order and rule following a petition filed by him.

Iqbal's lawyer Shihab Uddin Khan told The Daily Star that there is no legal bar for his client to attend the classes and exams at the university following the HC order.

On July 31, a report titled "Corruption is the reason for development in Bangladesh: CU VC" was published in the daily, detailing some remarks made by VC AFM Abdul Moyeen during a university programme.

In the suspension order, it was mentioned that Monowar was suspended for "violating university discipline".

According to the order, Monowar allegedly

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Petition seeks directives to save Arial Beel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh yesterday filed a petition with the High Court, seeking its directives to save Arial Beel -- one of the largest wetlands located in Munshiganj -- from encroachment, illegal earth filling and construction.

It submitted the petition to the HC based on a report titled "Arial Beel under threat", published in The Daily Star on July 22.

The rights body pleaded to the HC to order the DC and SP in Munshiganj and the director of DoE to stop land grabbing, earth filling and construction of illegal structures at Arial Beel.

HRPB President and Supreme Court lawyer Manzill Murshid said encroachment, earth filling and construction of structures at any waterbody are punishable offences under the Natural Water Reservoir Conservation Act 2000 and the Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act 1995.

He said the HC bench of Justice JBM Hassan and Justice Razik-Al-Jalil will hold hearing of the petition today.



Locals bargaining with a hand-made bamboo fish trap seller in Salutikor Bazar of Sylhet's Gowainghat upazila. Locally known as "kuki", a bundle of 20 pieces of these traps is sold for around Tk 2,000. The product is a seasonal one as they are only in demand for a couple of months during monsoon. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

5 of a family burnt in blast at Jurain home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five members of a family were burned in an explosion allegedly caused by a gas leak in a house in Dhaka's Jurain early yesterday.

The accident took place on the ground floor of a four-story residential building in the Madbar Bazar area around 2:00am.

The injured were admitted to the Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery, said Inspector Bacchu Mia, in-charge of Dhaka Medical College and Hospital police outpost.

The victims are Altaf Sikder,

70, a snacks vendor; his wife Morjina Begum, 55; their daughter, Mukta Khatun, 30; son-in-law, Atahar, 35; and granddaughter, Afsana Akhter, 5.

Md Mahbub, brother-in-law of Altaf, said his sister's family lived in a rented space on the ground floor of a four-story house. Upon hearing the news, he rushed to the spot and took them to the hospital.

"They have a gas connection in that house. But there is often a gas shortage in the area during daytime. So, they cook their

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SYNDICATE AT SHISHU HOSPITAL NHRC to probe allegation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There has long been an allegation that a syndicate is operating within Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute (BSHI) in Dhaka that tricks families of critically ill children and gets them shifted to private hospitals.

Taking cognisance of a report by a private television channel aired on August 4, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has decided to conduct an investigation.

Besides, the commission will also write to the health directorate to look

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District: Noakhali
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.7500.000.07.007.23-2638 Dated: 14/08/2023

Invitation for Tenders (IFT for Works)
e-Tender Notice No. 15/2023-24

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of works as stated as below.

Sl No.	Tender ID No.	Procurement method	Name of works	Last selling date & time	Last date & time of tender security submission	Closing & opening date & time
1	860910	LTM	a) Improvement of Bizbag Moniruzamaner Bari - Molin Aminar Bari Road at Ch. 500-1470. [R. ID 475805279] b) Construction of 1 No. 0.625x0.600m Culvert at ch. 781m on the same road under Senbag Upazila, District, Noakhali. (Package No: IRIDP-3/NOA/DW-125)	31-08-2023 12:00pm	31-08-2023 14:00pm	31-08-2023 15:00pm
2	860911	LTM	a) Maintenance of Dakhin Manikpur Hazi Md. Hanif Road at Ch.00-1500. [R. ID 475804117] b) Construction of 1 No. 0.625x0.600m Culvert at ch. 1037m on the same road under Senbag, Upazila District: Noakhali (Package No: IRIDP-3/NOA/MW-126)	31-08-2023 12:00pm	31-08-2023 14:00pm	31-08-2023 15:00pm
3	860912	LTM	a) Improvement of Banabaria Old Patuari, House-Tongipar Bridge Road at Ch. 00-775. [R. ID 475075643] b) Construction of 1 No. 0.625x0.600m Culvert at ch. 15m on the same road under Begumganj Upazila, District Noakhali Cost of Salvage Materials BDT: 128262.00 (Package No: IRIDP-3/NOA/SW-127)	31-08-2023 12:00pm	31-08-2023 14:00pm	31-08-2023 15:00pm
4	860913	LTM	a) Improvement of Khilpara-Dottopara Road at South Ramnarayanpur Saidur Rahman contractor House to Nectar Mar pool via Kocua-Baliadhur Khilpara Road. Ch. 00-685m. [R. ID.475105465] b) Construction of 1 No. 0.625x0.600m Culvert at ch. 02m on the same road under Chatkhil Upazila, District: Noakhali. Cost of Salvage Materials BDT: 182380.00 (Package No: IRIDP-3/NOA/DW-128)	31-08-2023 12:00pm	31-08-2023 14:00pm	31-08-2023 15:00pm
5	860914	LTM	Emergency Maintenance of 10.00m Long RCC Girder Bridge on Babupur-Amirolong Road via Poranpur Madrasa Road at Ch. 1200m (ID No-475104050) [Chatkhil] (Package No: e-Tender/LGED/Noa/GOB/M/23-24/BW-01)	31-08-2023 12:00pm	31-08-2023 14:00pm	31-08-2023 15:00pm
6	860915	LTM	Rehabilitation of Kadamtala Mosque to Molker Degir Par Road from Ch. 00-1058m (ID No-475105114) [Chatkhil] (Package No: e-Tender/LGED/Noa/GOB/M/23-24/W-01)	31-08-2023 12:00pm	31-08-2023 14:00pm	31-08-2023 15:00pm

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

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GD-1223

PRAYER TIMING
AUGUST 15

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-25	12-45	4-45	6-38	8-00
JAMAAT 5-00	1-15	5-00	6-41	8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION