

Govt sinking Bangladesh on all fronts

Says BNP leader Amir Khosru

UNB, Dhaka

Slamming the government for waterlogging in different areas of Dhaka caused by heavy rainfall yesterday morning, BNP senior leader Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury said Bangladesh is sinking in all directions due to the misrule and politics of the Awami League regime.

Speaking at a discussion, the BNP leader said Dhaka is experiencing waterlogging because capable and meritorious individuals are not allowed to participate in the planning and execution phases necessary to address this issue.

"If the administration is run by partisan people, then not just Dhaka, the entire country will sink," he said.

Ganatantra Mancha, arranged the discussion at the Jatiya Press Club, marking the founding anniversary of the platform.



Away from the worries and woes of the city, this dragonfly rests on a blade of grass. The photo was taken near the Shayestabad area of Barishal Sadar upazila yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Port Road now a death trap

Guava, hog plum growers fear poor harvest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

The Port Road under Ward 10 of Barishal City Corporation has turned into a death trap, leading to several accidents in recent times.

Even though located in the city's most important commercial area, the road has been in a dilapidated state over the last four years without any step from the authorities concerned to repair it.

"The biggest hilsa wholesale trading centre in the country's southern region is at Port Road. Its sorry state is affecting our business in numerous ways," said Habib, a hilsa trader.

Ganesh Dutta, a wholesale fruit trader, echoed him.

Visiting the road recently, this correspondent saw goods-laden trucks stuck in knee-deep mud in the Launch ghat area along a 404-metre stretch of the road from Piyajpatti Junction.

The situation exacerbates during the monsoon.

Traders said easybikes and rickshaws often get overturned on this road, causing injuries to passengers.

The road does not fall under the jurisdiction of the BCC as it is located within the Barishal River Port area, therefore the task of the road's repair and maintenance lies with the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority, said Abul Bashar, executive engineer of BCC.

Contacted, Md Asaduzzaman, sub-assistant engineer of BIWTA, said he had sent a proposal for the road's renovation work in last May to the headquarters, but they have not received any instructions yet.



PHOTO: TITU DAS

Locals blame unfavourable weather, cyclone Remal



KM HABIBUR RAHMAN, Pirojpur

Growers of guava and hog plum in Pirojpur and Jhalakathi districts are worried over a possible poor production due to unfavourable weather and the aftermath of cyclone Remal.

In fact, the harvest of seasonal guava in the region has been delayed by a month already.

Guava is commercially cultivated in Pirojpur's Nesarabad and Jhalakathi's Sadar upazilas, while hog plum is grown in all upazilas in the two districts. These two fruits are main cash crops for growers in Nesarabad and Jhalakathi Sadar.

"High temperature during flowering time this year hampered production of both seasonal fruits. Then Remal caused further damage to the trees and buds. The fruits did not grow well due to a lack of rain," said Sunil Biswas, a cultivator from Adamkathi village in Nesarabad.

"Guava harvesting is expected to begin in full swing within two weeks and will continue for a couple of months. This year, however, the harvest has been delayed due to the inclement weather condition," he added.

Wholesale buyers from across the country collect guava from Nesarabad and Jhalakathi Sadar and then transport the fruits by trucks, said guava growers.

Hundreds of large hog plum trees with fruits and buds were uprooted in the two districts as Remal lashed the southern coastal belt on May 26.

Birendranath, a hog plum grower, said, "It takes at least five years for a hog plum tree to become productive, and it will produce fruit continuously for over 20 years. Many trees got uprooted in the cyclone. It will not only lower the output this year but also in future, as it will take years for new trees to

become productive."

Swapan Halder, another cultivator, echoed him.

According to the Department of Agricultural Extension, guava has been cultivated in 846 hectares of land in Pirojpur and 320 hectares in Jhalakathi Sadar.

Also, hog plum has been cultivated on 507 hectares of land in Pirojpur and 140 hectares in Jhalakathi Sadar.

Contacted, Chapal Krishna Nath, upazila agriculture officer in Nesarabad, confirmed a month's delay in guava harvesting. "Normally, guava harvest begins by mid-June every year. This year, it got delayed considerably and will begin mid-July," he said.

Ali Ahmad, upazila agriculture officer in Jhalakathi Sadar, said that the production of guava and hog plum in his upazila will be lower this year due to unfavourable weather and the impact of the cyclone.

'Rohingyas need more int'l support'

IFRC president says Bangladesh must take steps to adapt to climate change

MAMUNUR RASHID

There is a need for sustained international attention and support for the Rohingyas until a solution is reached to get the displaced people back to a safe country, said Kate Forbes, president of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

"Yes, we want them [Rohingyas] to continue living in a safe space in the future. But that's not going to be today, not going to be next week, it won't even be next month," she told The Daily Star in a recent interview.

"In the meantime, we, the humanitarian sector, the IFRC and other large players, have an obligation to tell the story that is still here. The needs still exist."

Kate Forbes came on a five-day visit to Bangladesh on June 2. She visited the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar and travelled to Koyra upazila, which was affected by cyclone Remal.

The IFRC president met with key government officials, including Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Foreign Minister Hasan Mahmud, to discuss the impacts of climate change and strategies for managing disasters and pandemics.

About her visit to the Rohingya camps, Kate said the Bangladesh government and the people deserve praise for providing a safe space for these displaced individuals.



She said she discussed with government officials as well as ambassadors about the increased conflict within the Rohingya camp and a solution to that.

Speaking about climate change, strengths and weaknesses of Bangladesh's disaster management strategies, the IFRC president said, "One of the main issues here is the lack of innovation. In the past, inadequate forecasting has led to the loss of thousands of lives because people were unaware that a cyclone was approaching. They had almost no knowledge about it."

"We understand that as climate change intensifies, the severity of disasters here is also increasing. Therefore, we need to be prepared, alert the people, and help them adapt to these changes. We must raise awareness among a larger number of people and support those who are at risk so they can develop their plans to tackle these disasters effectively."

She said that Bangladesh's present disaster management system is blunt and emphasised the need for more proactive measures.

Calling upon Bangladesh to adapt the strategies that many parts of the world have made, she said, "We need to look at how we manage rainfalls so that we don't lose our topsoil, and can still plant trees and crops."

It's also crucial to start conversations in schools about the impacts of climate change and how it affects us, she added. "At an individual level, we each have a responsibility in this effort," she said.

Speaking about future activities of the Red Crescent Society in Bangladesh, Kate said they can train more volunteers and engage more people so that they can make a difference.

Man stabbed to death in Dhaka

UNB, Dhaka

A 50-year-old man was stabbed to death by unidentified miscreants in Kadamtali area of Dhaka on Thursday night, said police.

Deceased Md Mahbub Alam was a resident of Dakshin Dhaniala area.

The victim's brother Rafiqul Alam said miscreants stabbed Mahbub in an alley around 10:15pm.

Hearing screams, locals took him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where physicians declared him dead around 11:00pm, he said.

The hospital's police outpost in-charge Md Bachchu Mia said the body was kept at the morgue.

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As flood worsens, food crisis

FROM PAGE 5
The local authorities are working to provide continuous support to the flood-affected people in the district. However, it has become apparent that the relief assistance for the people has been much less than required.
Meanwhile, the

Brahmaputra was still flowing 31cm above danger level yesterday noon while water levels of the Dudhkumar and Dharla rivers went below danger level by 8cm and 5cm respectively, according to BWDB sources in Kurigram.
"Many schools are now

closed due to flooding. The affected students will be enlisted once the schools reopen. New books and study materials will be provided to the students who lost those in floodwater," said Nibez Uddin Sarkar, district primary education officer in Kurigram.

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