

Students transforming Bagerhat town

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Like elsewhere in the country, students armed with shovels, sacks and brooms have taken to the streets to clean up key areas such as Market, Sadhana Mor, and the Bus Stand in Bagerhat town.

They have also taken up the role of traffic management in absence of police.

Over the past few days, their efforts have paid off, as the once cluttered and dirty areas have been transformed.

Gone are the heaps of trash that once littered the streets, and in their place is a cleaner, more organised environment.

Local residents have taken notice, with many expressing their gratitude and admiration for the students' hard work.

Shahid Sheikh, a local, could hardly contain his amazement at the changes. "It feels like we are in a foreign country. The students are changing the face of our town," he remarked.

Hasib Sheikh, a rickshaw puller, echoed this sentiment, praising the students' conduct and dedication. "Their behaviour is exemplary. The country is safe in their hands," he said. However, he also voiced concerns about ongoing fears of robbery at night.

The students themselves are motivated by a deep sense of civic duty. One of the volunteers said, "We believe that by cleaning up our town and ensuring the safety of our community, we are contributing to a better future for everyone."

"We also patrol the streets at night to protect our community from robberies," said another student.



People swarm an ATM booth of a bank in Savar's Hemayetpur area as all other nearby machines are closed. For the last two days, many could not withdraw money from ATMs as they had all run out of cash. The photo was taken yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

CCC restarts cleaning operation in port city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Much to the relief of the residents, conservancy workers of Chattogram City Corporation have restarted waste removal activities in the port city following a four-day break on Thursday.

According to CCC sources, about 10,000 tonnes of garbage were accumulated in the city in four days between Sunday and Wednesday as CCC conservancy workers were unable to work.

CCC Chief Executive Officer Sheikh Muhammad Touhidul Islam supervised the activities at the field level by going to different wards along with CCC acting Chief Conservancy Officer Abul Hashem, said sources.

"We have not been able to work at full pace for the past few days, for which around 10,000 tonnes of garbage have accumulated in the city," said the CCC CEO.

"We are facing challenges in cleaning operations, as every ward office has been affected in one way or another," he said, adding, "The equipment used in cleaning activities are kept in the ward office and about half of those were

vandalised and torched."

"A total of 12 ward councillors' offices were vandalised on Monday, while 12 CCC vehicles, including four from the conservancy department, were damaged," said Tauhidul.

"However, our manpower is intact. We are working with the equipment we have left. We expect to be able to clean the city within a few days," he added.

The city corporation's workers have finally started cleaning activities after four days. It has brought massive relief to us, as we faced difficulties in walking through the roads with piled up garbage.

TAHMINA BEGUM
A resident of Askar Dighir Par

In a meeting with heads of various CCC departments, instructions were provided to ensure the presence and performance of CCC employees, said Tauhidul, adding that steps were being taken to

speed up CCC's activities.

Meanwhile, residents in different areas of the city felt relieved as the cleaning operations restarted in the port city.

"The city corporation's workers have finally started cleaning activities after four days. It has brought massive relief to us, as we faced difficulties in walking through the roads with piled up garbage," said Tahmina Begum, a resident of Askar Dighir Par area.

Nazrul Islam, a resident of the city's Battery Goli area, also expressed satisfaction as the CCC conservancy workers started cleaning activities.

"We could not walk on the road, as malodour used to come from the garbage accumulated by the road. Now most of the garbage has been removed from the area," he added.

Meanwhile, CCC Mayor Rezaul Karim Chowdhury was not present at the office on Thursday as well. He could not be contacted over the phone as his cellophane was found to be switched off.

Earlier, the CCC CEO said as there is no security provided by police at CCC, the mayor is not coming to office.

Ex-BCL leader detained while fleeing country

UNB, Ctg

Law enforcers detained former general secretary of Chattogram city unit of Chhatra League Nurul Azim Rony from Dhaka airport while he was leaving the country early yesterday.

Rony is also a member of Youth and Sports Sub Committee of the central Awami League.

Sources at the airport said the immigration police detained him at the airport.

He was scheduled to board a plane but his planned destination could not be known.

On July 16, students called for a rally in the city's Sholoshahar area. Rony also held a counter programme at the same spot.

At one stage of the programmes, some miscreants allegedly led by Rony opened fire on the students, leaving several injured.

Some relief in kitchen

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Vegetables were being sold for at least Tk 10-40 less compared to last week.

Bitter gourd and long beans are now available at Tk 70-80 per kg, down from Tk 100-120 per kg. Pointed gourd, ladies' fingers, radish, snake gourd, and luffa are now being sold at Tk 30-50 per kg, compared to Tk 50-80 last week.

Each piece of gourd is being sold at Tk 50-60, down from Tk 80-100, and papaya is now available at Tk 30 per kg, down from Tk 50-70 per kg.

Meanwhile, the price of onions has increased by Tk 10 per kg.

Onions are now available at Tk 120-130 per kg, up from Tk 110-120.

Several traders attributed the good supply of products in the markets to the lifting of the curfew, which has brought about some stability in the country.

Additionally, the prices

of all types of fish have decreased by Tk 20-200 per kg within one week.

Sukkur Ali, a fish trader at Karwan Bazar, said that the supply of fish was not adequate in the markets due to the imposition of a curfew and unrest in the country.

"As the curfew has been lifted and the situation is improving, the supply in the markets has increased. Most importantly, it is the season for some fish, especially hilsa, which has led to the decrease in prices," he said.

Furthermore, the prices of chicken and eggs have decreased by Tk 10-20 per kg within one week.

Broiler chicken is now being sold at Tk 170-180 per kg, down from Tk 180-200 per kg, while Sonali chicken is available at Tk 260-290 per kg, down from Tk 280-300 per kg.

A dozen eggs are now being sold at Tk 150-155, down from Tk 160-165.

Stay vigilant against AL's

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political forces, including BNP, for all heinous crimes.

Fakhrul specifically pointed out that an identified quarter is exploiting social media platforms and news channels from a neighbouring country for this purpose.

He stated, "Places of worship and assets belonging to Hindu, Buddhist, and Christian communities have been deliberately targeted. Their current plan is to sow discord and incite communal riots. They are also determined to create divisions among all the

victorious forces and the people."

He expressed hope that the interim government, the administration, and all citizens are vigilant regarding these issues.

"Our party, the BNP, is already taking every possible step to address the situation," Fakhrul said.

He also warned that strict organisational and legal action will be taken against anyone who engages in such malicious activities under the BNP's name.

"Sensing the gravity of the current situation, I want to alert all relevant local and foreign

supporting forces, as well as the country's citizens, about this conspiracy being orchestrated by the deposed dictator and its allies," Fakhrul said.

He also urged the members of the minority communities to raise social awareness and resist this conspiracy from their respective positions.

The BNP leader also called upon the country's people, the interim government, the patriotic Armed Forces, as well as the administration, police, BGB, and Ansar forces to support the minority communities with an aim to build a democratic Bangladesh.

May yet peace come to my

FROM PAGE 3

current situation in the country, any rumour can take on a dangerous form. Let's stay vigilant."

This incident left many cultural activists and people devastated.

"Rahul da and his family are shaken and have taken shelter in a secret place known to only a few," said Saiful Islam Jarnal, one of Joler Gaan's founding members, to The Daily Star on August 6. "It wasn't even his house; it was a rental he had been living in for decades."

Ziaur Rahman, the bassist of Shironamhin, wrote on Facebook, "Where do I hide this shame! An artist's home was attacked. Instruments that were

created and nurtured over a long time were all looted. I saw many of these instruments being made right before my eyes. We will not forget this injustice."

Musician Arnob wrote, "I just can't accept it! We are truly sorry. Rahul, we stand with you."

In September last year, French President Emmanuel Macron visited Rahul's "Bhangabari", making the vintage house the talk of the town. It even made headlines in international media, crossing beyond the borders of Bangladesh.

Mentionable, following the state of lawlessness during a power vacuum triggered after Sheikh

Hasina's fall, reports of attacks on minorities and cultural heritage started coming from various places across the country.

Contacted, Rahul told Prothom Alo on August 5, "May yet peace come to my golden land, at any cost. If that cost is the ashes of my golden home or the burnt remains of my musical instruments, I have no regrets. I love Bengal and the people of Bengal; I sing in Bangla."

"I'm not in any state to speak. Almost three thousand musical instruments have been reduced to ashes. They were like my children. I was able to bring out one child alive. The rest have burned or been looted."

SCHOOL REOPENING

Students stay away from schools in Sylhet

MINTU DESHWARA

Educational institutions across Sylhet division reopened on Tuesday following a government directive. However, many schools reported near-zero student attendance.

In a notification on August 5, the ISPR announced that all government, semi-government, autonomous, semi-autonomous, private institutions, schools, colleges, madrasas, universities, and other educational establishments were to reopen from Tuesday.

Subash Kairi, headteacher of Luhaiyung Government Primary School, said, "Our school opened before 9:00am on Tuesday, but no students arrived."

Abdul Hanna, principal of Kulaura Government College, said while teachers and staff were present, no students attended classes. However, a few prospective students did visit the college for admission inquiries for the 2024-25 session.

Residents expressed concerns over student safety amidst ongoing unrest.

Rois Uddin from Sayarpur in Moulvibazar town said, "We are still in panic. We cannot send students to school without ensuring their safety. Until everything is back to normal, students should not attend school."

Hosna Begum from Gizapara echoed similar sentiments, saying, "I didn't send my child to school because of the recent events. I don't want to put my children in danger."

Abdul Aziz, an assistant teacher at Rajnagar Ideal High School, said despite 34 teachers of the institution being present, none of the 1,000 students attended classes on Tuesday.

The situation was similarly at Meherunnesa Girls High School and Rajnagar Porteous High School.

Sheikh Muhammad

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awareness and put forward the demand to protect gas and other national resources.

He was at the forefront of the movement to protect the Sundarbans by raising voices against the construction of a coal power plant near the world's largest mangrove forest. He also led the movement against open-pit mining of coal at Phulbari in Dinajpur.

Several parties, including the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) and Ganasamhati Andolon, expressed condolences over his demise.

"Bangladesh lost one of its best souls. The nation will remember him for his role in protecting national resources," said CPB.

"His contribution to the progressive movement in Bangladesh is enormous," it added.

In a Facebook post, Ganasamhati Andolon said, "We are deeply shocked. You (Shahidullah) will live in the people's struggle for freedom, emancipation, and protection of national wealth."

During the Liberation War, Shahidullah was arrested by the Pakistani military for supporting the nation's independence struggle, said Firoz Ahmed, a leader of Ganasamhati Andolon, in a Facebook post.

Shahidullah left four sons and three daughters.

Born in Khulna's Daulatpur, Shahidullah will be buried in the US, said his son Shamim.

Former JU VC Prof Anwar attacked

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According to the press release, Prof Anwar had been highly critical of the government's indiscriminate attacks on students, which led to the loss of hundreds of innocent lives. This stance had made him a target.

Describing the attack, Ayesha said, "On Monday afternoon, my son decided to go to Shahbagh, where students had gathered, to join his friends and colleagues. We decided to join him. My husband wanted to witness the unprecedented mass uprising of the students."

As they reached the airport, an unknown man, around 40 years old, approached Prof Anwar and began shouting, "I have recognised you. You're the professor who was against Jamaat [Jamaat-e-Islami] at the tribunal [International Crimes Tribunal]. We saw you on television."

The man attempted to drag Prof Anwar down a narrow lane opposite the airport, but family members intervened.

Almost immediately, three or four more people surrounded them, shouting "Naraye Takbeer".

One of them threatened, "You spoke against Jamaat. We're going to slit your throat." They attacked him with various objects, shouting, "Hit him on his head. Kill him."

The attack continued for several minutes, during which Ayesha, her son, and her daughter-in-law shielded Prof Anwar with their bodies, sustaining injuries themselves.

Eventually, they managed to drag him across the Airport Road towards an army barricade with the help of two civilians. He received emergency treatment after entering the airport premises.

Ayesha Hossain expressed concern over the lawlessness and anarchy engulfing Bangladesh in the absence of a stable government. She said vested interests, including far-right extremists, have taken advantage of the chaos to unleash

indiscriminate, targeted attacks on religious minorities, individuals opposing religious extremism, and symbols of the Liberation War.

She also termed the destruction of murals commemorating freedom fighters, the statue of Themis at the Supreme Court, and Rabindranath Tagore, as well as the arson attack on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's residence at Dhanmondi 32, an ominous sign.

In the press release, she said, "We waited to release this statement until the formation of the interim government led by Nobel Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus, with the hope that it shall now take immediate steps to protect my husband and my family from further attacks."

Ayesha also urged the government to ensure the safety, security, and human rights of all who have been attacked and remain at risk, saying "Too many people have sacrificed their lives in recent weeks. We demand justice for all."

Waste piles up across Khulna

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Local households are also dumping waste in various KCC areas, which remain uncollected for days.

KCC reports that approximately 1,200 tonnes of waste are produced daily across 31 wards, with only 800 to 850 tonnes collected. The remaining

waste stays on the streets. Visits to spots including PTI mor, Nirala mor, Notun Bazar, and Boyra mor, this correspondent saw half of the main roads are piled with garbage.

Professor Anwarul Kadir, an educationist and civic leader, emphasised the necessity of consistent

waste management services, regardless of political unrest, to prevent increasing suffering.

Md Anisur Rahman, Chief Conservancy Officer of KCC, said they are ready to resume work. "We are being attacked, but if given a chance, we will clear the waste immediately," he said.

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