



A worker splashes water on his face to get some relief from the summer heat. From morning till evening, workers like him toil away mixing bitumen and stone to repair roads. This photo was taken yesterday in Khulna's Batiaghata area.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Need strategic

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shortcomings in national leadership, he said, "Unfortunately, not all of our great leaders had the strategic acumen. In case of difficulty, they couldn't deliver, and that has caused huge losses."

According to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the army chief highlighted the importance of dynamic, reform-minded leadership in nation-building, urging leaders to push for efficiency and inclusivity.

He praised the Capstone Course for its peer-to-peer learning approach.

He suggested expanding

participation to include more officials from different ministries, saying this would improve collective understanding and policy outcomes.

General Waker also emphasised the importance of ensuring that recommendations from such platforms reach the government. "We have many think tanks, but I'm not sure their recommendations are being received by the government. We must find ways to make that happen," he said.

Lt Gen Mohammad Shaheenul Haque, commandant of NDC, also spoke.

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They said frequent movement of these trucks on the earth-filled embankment is also causing severe dust pollution.

The villagers, however, said they do not dare protest the illegal activity as the syndicate is powerful and many of its members have political backing.

None of the alleged earth traders could be reached for comment.

Asked about the matter, Matiur Rahman, executive engineer of the WDB in Tangail, said they had not granted permission to anyone for extracting soil from the river or for movement of trucks on the

embankment. He said WDB officials had participated in several drives carried out by the local administration against the illegal activities.

Contacted, Kalihati UNO Khairel Islam said to avoid daytime raids, the earth traders have changed tactics and now operate mostly at night.

"However, we are conducting raids at night as well," he said.

The assistant commissioner (land) also conducted a drive recently and fined an earth trader Tk 2 lakh and seized an earth-carrying truck. Such drives will continue," he added.

Tangail embankment

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