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Toxic water from India flowing in

Environment in Akhaura at risk; BGB to raise the issue at meeting with BSF tomorrow

MASUK HRIDOV, Brahmanbaria

Toxic industrial and medical waste and household sewage has been making its way into Bangladesh from Agartala, the capital of the Indian state of Tripura, for years through a cross-border canal putting the environment, health, and livelihoods in bordering Akhaura upazila at risk.

Bangladesh is set to raise this issue, among others, during the biannual meeting of the two countries' border forces in Dhaka on September 13-18.

"Polluted water enters Bangladesh from Agartala through Ramnagar canal. The water has been tested several times and harmful chemicals such as lead, sulphur, manganese, cadmium and chromium were found to be way beyond the safe limit," said Mominul Islam, inspector of the Department of Environment in Brahmanbaria.

"Fish resources in the canal have disappeared due to pollution," he added.

Effluent from medical institutes such as the Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital, various dyeing, leather and melamine factories, and household sewage in Agartala, is contaminating the water, the DoE official said.

The Bangladesh part of the canal, called Senarbadi, is 15 feet wide and runs through 15 villages and also the

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This photo taken recently from Dholeshwar village in Brahmanbaria's Akhaura upazila shows contaminated water flowing beneath a bridge near the Indian border. Household sewage, toxic industrial and medical waste has been making its way from Agartala, the capital of the Indian state of Tripura.

PHOTO: MASUK HRIDOV

Two lots of Bangladesh origin drugs recalled in US

Manufacturer Beximco Pharma says it's linked to raw materials

ZYMA ISLAM

Two lots of a diabetes controlling drug of Bangladesh origin were recalled in the US last month for containing a compound that has the potential to cause cancer.

The drugs were manufactured by Beximco Pharmaceuticals in Bangladesh, to be marketed in USA by Bayshore Pharmaceuticals, LLC, located in the state of New Jersey.

On August 20, the Federal Drug Administration of United States announced that Bayshore is recalling two lots of the drug called Metformin Hydrochloride Extended-Release because the drugs contained a carcinogenic compound called NDMA.

"Bayshore was notified by the US Food and Drug Administration (US FDA) that one lot of

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PALTAN BLAST

4 'Neo-JMB men' arrested in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

CTTC officials claimed to have arrested four Neo-JMB members who were involved in Paltan bomb blast in July this year.

The Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime unit yesterday said the four were arrested from the capital's Uttara on Thursday.

The arrestees were Mamun Al Mujahid, Al Amin alias Abu Jihad, Mujahidul Islam alias Rokan alias Abu Tarik and Sarwar Hossain Rahat.

Of them, Mamun Al Mujahid was a robber and wanted in 12 cases, including arms and robbery.

But Mamun alias Sumon alias Abdur Rahman has recently been inspired by the activities of militant outfit Neo-JMB through online platform and started working for it.

He also convinced his three associates to join and work for the outfit.

Based on information, a CTTC team arrested the four and recovered mobile phones from their possession, Saiful Islam, deputy commissioner of CTTC unit, told The Daily Star.

"We arrested the four as they were found involved in planning and instruction of the Paltan bomb blast," he said.

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Show-cause notice to 5 weeklies

September 12, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

ACTION AGAINST 5 WEEKLIES

The government has issued show-cause notices on five weeklies -- Hak Katha, Mukhapatra, Spokesman, Lal Pataka and Banglar Mukh -- asking authorities to explain why these should not be banned. Home Minister Abdul Mannan says that there are specific charges against these weeklies for publishing fictitious, malicious, false, baseless and motivated news and views. The government order has also asked authorities of these five weeklies to respond to the show-cause notice within 10 days of the date of receipt of the show-cause notices.

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS CONSIDERED

The meeting of the Constitution Drafting Committee of the Bangladesh Constituent Assembly, which is held in Dhaka today, finally considers the rules on fundamental rights in the constitution. The meeting was presided over by Dr Kamal Hossain, president of the committee.

INDIA TO SUPPLY TIMBER FOR LOW-COST HOUSES

India will cooperate to implement the programme for construction of low-cost houses in Dinajpur and Rangpur. This is disclosed by Hasinur Rahman, deputy commissioner, Dinajpur at a press conference today after attending a two-day conference of high-placed officials of both countries. India will supply timber for construction of low-cost houses in accordance with the needs of

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UP member, 4 others held over rape of housewife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Police arrested four people for allegedly gang-raping a housewife in Noakhali's Senbagh on Thursday night.

A union parishad member was also held for holding an illegal arbitration to settle the issue.

The five were arrested after the victim, 32, filed a case with Senbagh Police Station on Thursday against 11 people, said Abdul Baten Mridha, officer-in-charge of the police station.

The rape incident happened on the night of September 5. On Thursday night, Senbagh police raided Beejbagh area and held the five, including Abu Bakar Siddique, member of Ward-3 of Beejbagh Union, said the OC.

The other arrestees are: Didar, Cafur, Selim, and Alamgir Hossain.

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13 mysterious mummies found in Egyptian well



CNN ONLINE

Egypt has uncovered a mysterious collection of coffins thought to contain human mummies that have been sealed inside for more than 2,500 years.

The 13 unopened coffins, which were found piled on top of each other in a well nearly 40 feet (12 metres) deep are so well preserved that the original detailed designs and colours are clearly visible, according to Egypt's Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities.

Archaeologists who made the discovery at Saqqara, an ancient site that lies about 20 miles south of Egypt's capital and is also home to landmarks including the Step Pyramid, believed to

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Mob beats 'cattle lifter' to death in Bogura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

An alleged thief was beaten to death by a mob in Bogura's Nandigram upazila Thursday night.

Quoting locals, police said the victim Ujjal Hossain, 35, of the upazila's Tentulia Raypara village, was a cattle thief and was beaten to death by a mob while trying to steal a cow.

Shawkat Kabir, officer-in-charge of the Nandigram Police Station, said they

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PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 12

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:35 12:45 4:30 6:14 7:45
JAMAAT 5:10 1:15 4:45 6:17 8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

34 more die, 1,792 test positive in a day

Total Covid cases rise to 334,762

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh reported 34 deaths and 1,792 new coronavirus cases in the last 24 hours until Friday morning.

The death tally now stands at 4,668 with a fatality rate of 1.39 percent while the number of coronavirus cases rose to 334,762.

In the last 24 hours, 14,747 samples were tested. The daily infection rate was recorded at 12.15 percent.

The recovery rate increased further to 70.5 percent as 2,474 patients recovered, taking total recoveries to 236,024.

In per one million population, 1,965.64 cases are being recorded and 1,385.88 are recovering while 27.41 are dying, a press release of Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) read.

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FISHMONGERS MAKING HAY... A large hilsa fish being displayed proudly at a fish market in Karwan Bazar in the capital yesterday. This culinary favourite of Bangladeshis was being sold at Tk 1,300 per kg, and business was good on the weekly holiday. This particular specimen weighed in at 1.8kg.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

LEAVING IMMIGRANTS OFF CENSUS US judges reject Trump's plan ahead of vote

REUTERS, New York

A panel of judges on Thursday declared unlawful a directive from President Donald Trump to exclude people who are in the United States illegally from representation when apportioning congressional seats.

The decision by a three-judge panel, which could be appealed to the US Supreme Court, is a victory for the 38 states, cities and counties, plus several immigrants rights nonprofits, that sued over the July 21 directive.

The mostly Democratic-leaning plaintiffs, led by New York state, accused the Republican president of having a "xenophobic" purpose in pushing an unconstitutional directive that reflected "discriminatory animus" toward Hispanics and other immigrant communities.

They said the directive could leave several million people uncounted and shift a few House of Representatives seats, with California, Texas and New Jersey most likely to suffer losses.

In its 86-page decision, the panel said Trump exceeded his statutory authority in ordering the directive.

It said federal law required the use of one set of numbers to count people for census and apportionment purposes, and that so long as they resided in the United States, "illegal aliens qualify as 'persons in' a 'state' who should be counted.

"The President must act in accordance with, and within the boundaries of, the authority that Congress has granted," the panel said. "We conclude that the President did not do so."

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