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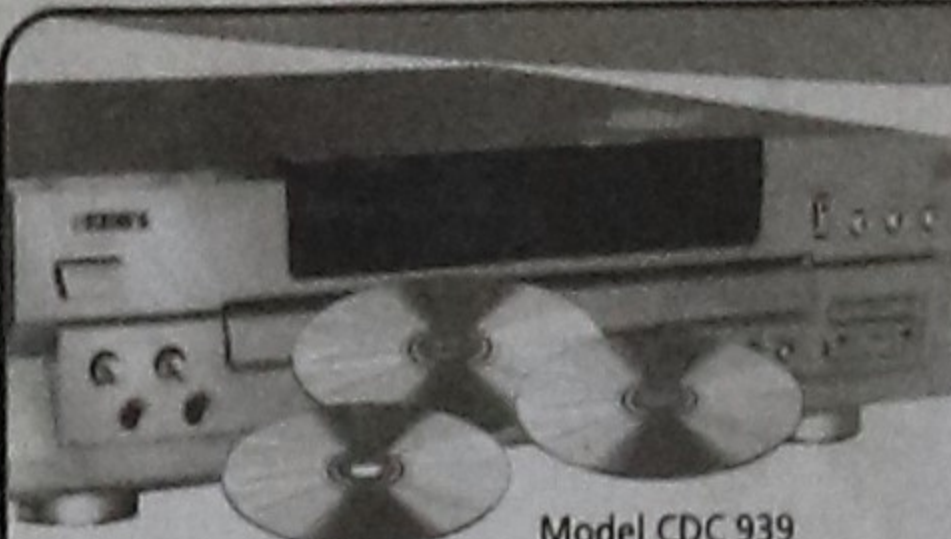
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# Gen Musharraf won't bow to C'wealth demand for polls before 3-yr deadline

ISLAMABAD, Aug. 26: Military ruler Gen Pervez Musharraf won't bow to the Commonwealth's demand for Pakistan's early return to democracy, but will abide by a Supreme Court's three-year deadline for elections, a foreign ministry official said today, reports AP.

The Commonwealth's General Secretary Don McKinnon, who arrived in the federal capital Islamabad Friday, will be asking for a quick return to democracy when he meets with Musharraf on Saturday.

Aware of the three-year deadline set by Pakistan's Supreme Court, McKinnon said the Commonwealth would like to see elections "earlier rather than later."

However, McKinnon said he won't be issuing any demands in meetings today with senior Pakistani officials, including Musharraf, President Rafiq Tarar and the Foreign Minister Abdul Sattar.

McKinnon will hold talks with leaders of political parties and representatives of human rights groups tomorrow.

Gen Pervez Musharraf, who threw out Nawaz Sharif's elected government last October charging widespread corruption and economic mismanagement, had promised to return Pakistan to democratic rule in three years.

"This is the beginning of a series of high level discussions which we hope will result in democratic elections as soon as possible," McKinnon told

newsmen.

"We hope that will be well inside the three year time frame, even sooner," he said. The Commonwealth, the organization of former British colonies, suspended Pakistan in response to the coup but stopped short of revoking its membership.

Musharraf's timetable is in keeping with a Pakistan Supreme Court ruling earlier this year that authorised the military takeover but ordered the army to call elections in three years.

McKinnon said he wants to discuss electoral rolls, registration of voters to determine the readiness of Pakistan to hold elections. The Commonwealth has already sent two representatives to give Pakistan techni-

cal assistance to ensure the next elections will be free, fair and well represented.

A press statement from deposed prime minister Benazir Bhutto on Friday urged the Commonwealth to resist any request from Musharraf for assistance in returning to Pakistan those Pakistani politicians and industrialists wanted on corruption charges.

Pakistan has asked Britain to extradite several Pakistanis wanted on suspicion of corrupt practices.

Bhutto, who lives in self-imposed exile in Britain, is not among those being sought. However, there is an outstanding warrant for her arrest in connection with an earlier conviction.

## Fobana convention in NY from Sept 1

By Staff Correspondent

The three-day Fobana convention, the largest congregation of expatriate Bangladeshis will begin at the Madison Square Garden in New York from September 1.

A total of 31 organisations are expected to join the convention, said a press release.

A large number of editors of different eminent dailies, columnists, litterateurs, journalists from Bangladesh and officials of US administration will attend the function.

A number of organisations from the Bangladesh, including some business firms have booked stalls for participating in the convention.

## Dengue: 40 more hospitalised

By Staff Correspondent

Forty more people with dengue fever were admitted to different hospitals and private clinics in the city yesterday.

Sources said Dhaka Medical College Hospital admitted 16 while Mitford Hospital one.

Dhaka Shishu Hospital reported admitting four, BIRDEM one, Red Crescent Holy Family Hospital three, Bangladesh Medical College Hospital two, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital two, Suhrawardi one, Central Hospital at Green Road three, Samarita Hospital two and Al-Raji Hospital reported admitting five patients.

DB Humanities

From page 1

(roll 308760) of Vigarunisa Noon College, 827 marks with one letter; Mohsin Hossain (roll 356276) of Mymensingh Girls Cadet College, 826 marks with two letters; Md Shafiqul Islam (roll 303307) of Dhaka College, 818 marks with two letters; Niaz Morshed (roll 306956) of Residential Model College, 810 marks with one letter; Sohani Fatehin (roll 308757) of Vigarunisa Noon College, 809 marks with one letter; Tania Tasnuva (roll 356274) of Mymensingh Girls Cadet College, 808 marks with two letters and Israt Jahan Moni (roll 356279) of Mymensingh Girls Cadet College, 804 marks with three letters.



Children of different ages formed a human chain in front of the National Press Club yesterday seeking financial help for the treatment of 11-year-old Amit. Amit, who has been attacked with the rare wild polio virus, is fighting for his life at Bangabandhu Medical University Hospital.

— Star photo

## Khaleda

From page 1

eral election. Maumun Ishmahan said BNP believes in democracy and constitutional process.

Replying to a question on government's allegation that the opposition movement was aimed at obstructing trial of the killers of Bangabandhu, Bhuiya said, "Our movement is aimed at toppling the government because it has completely failed to run the country and proved its incompetence in every sector. We are not doing movement to obstruct or influence any one's trial."

UNB adds: Opposition leader Begum Khaleda Zia does not have any plan to retire from politics now.

"You will know in time. See how many days Allah keeps me alive," a smiling Khaleda told reporters when asked if she had any plan to retire from politics.

She was responding to a volley of questions from the members of Dhaka Reporters' Unity at her official residence yesterday.

She was asked whether her eldest son Tarek Zia was going to get party nomination in the next general elections.

The BNP Chairperson said: "Time has not yet come to talk about it."

## JP observes hartal: 10 hurt in clash

# AL declares Ershad persona non grata in Rangpur

Rangpur, Aug. 26: At least 10 people were injured in a clash between Awami League and Jatiya Party activists during a dawn-to-dusk hartal observed here today to protest court verdict against former President Ershad, report agencies.

Shops and business establishments remained closed and all modes of vehicles, except rickshaws, stayed off the road. Awami League leaders brought out procession and held a rally at Jahaz Company Crossing at noon against hartal.

The district Awami League at the meeting declared Ershad 'persona non-grata' in the district and demanded immediate cancellation of his parliament membership.

membership.

Advocate Elias Ahmed, veteran freedom fighter and the general secretary of district Awami League presided over the meeting. It was addressed by party vice president Abul Monsur Ahmed, Delwar Hossain Talukder, Mufti Mohammad Rafiqul Islam and Saifur Rahman.

Meanwhile, police filed a case against 17 local JP leaders and 125 others for attacking police personnel yesterday in the town.

Ruling party-backed Chhatra League and Jatiya Party workers chased each other at about 1.30 pm at Jahaz Company Crossing, leaving 10 injured.

Later police charged baton to

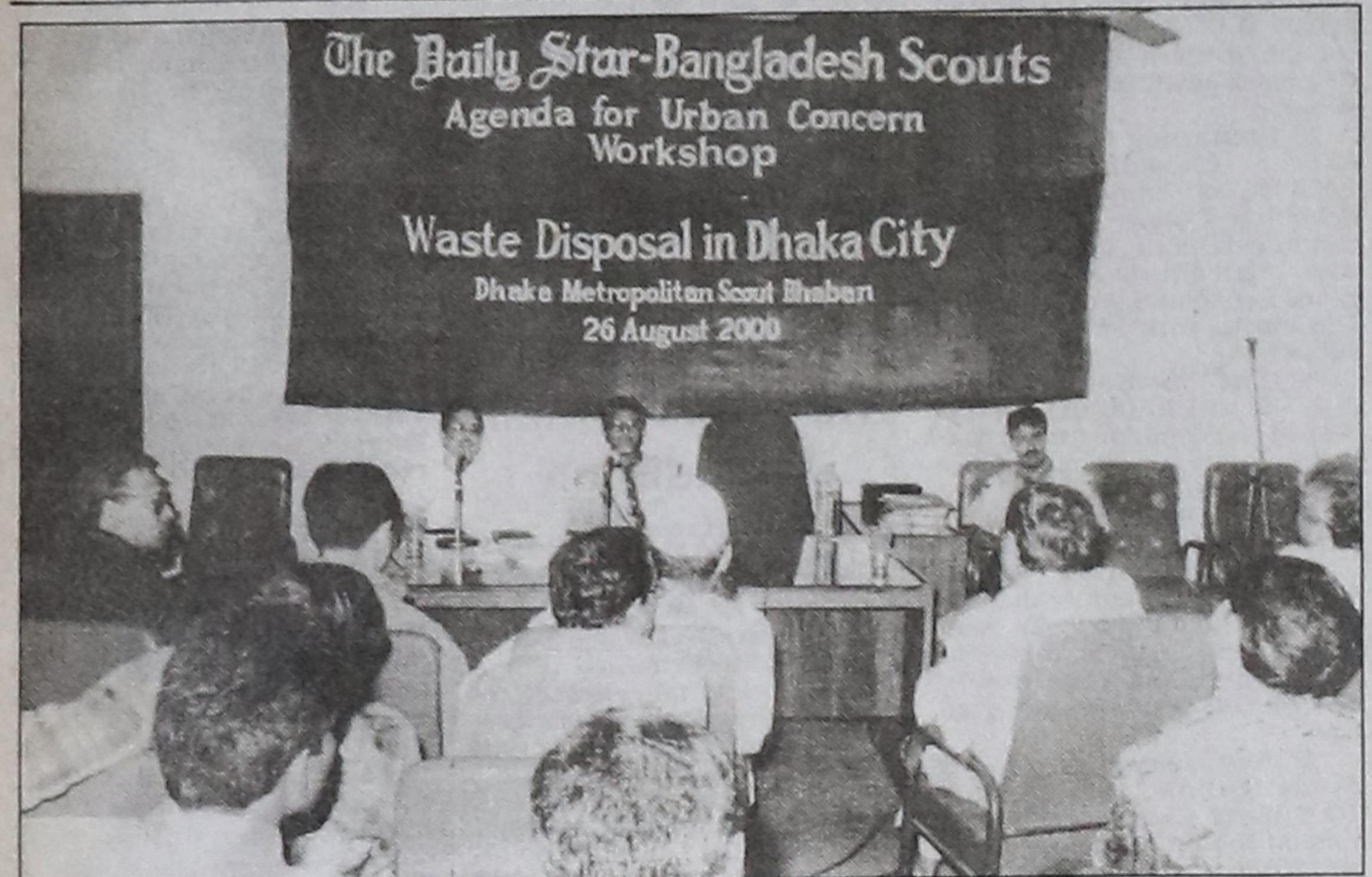
disperse the two groups.

Police picked up four pickets from the town during hartal. Meanwhile, local Jatiya Party took out a torch procession and held a rally at Pitra Chhatr in the evening as part of their continuing protest.

Another report from Lahmonirhat says: Police today arrested two local JP leaders and charged baton on a JP procession in the town leaving at least 10 people injured.

Police went on action and arrested S K Kwaza Moinuddin and Hamidul when the procession was crossing Mission Square in the evening.

The procession was brought out by JP workers following the High Court's verdict against party chairman H M Ershad in the Janata Tower Case.



A day-long workshop on 'Waste Disposal in Dhaka City' jointly organised by The Daily Star and Bangladesh Scouts in progress at the Dhaka Metropolitan Scouts Bhaban yesterday.

## DB Commerce

From page 1

555634) of Dhaka City College, 842 marks with three letters; Nafix Ahmed (roll 555646) of Dhaka City College, 836 marks with three letters; Md Monjur Morshed (roll 556734) of Dhaka Commerce College, 835 marks with three letters; Nazia Sharmin Habib (roll 557446) of Vigarunisa Noon College, 834 marks with three letters; Mohammad Khaled Mansur (roll 556720) of Dhaka Commerce College, 832 marks with three letters; Ashish Saha (roll 555637) of Dhaka City College, 827 marks with three letters and Israt Jahan (roll 557448) of Vigarunisa Noon College, 825 marks with three letters.

## GSP facilities

From page 1

questioned him to go to Washington and try to persuade US officials in this regard.

"Still we have some time to pursue and convince the US officials so that they do not send the recommendation to the President," he said.

The stalemate regarding trade union right in EPZs has also shadowed the prospects of duty free and quota free access of Bangladeshi goods to the US market, Sinha observed. US officials show reluctance to discuss these facilities unless this is resolved, he said referring to his visits to US.

A high official at the commerce ministry said as Commerce Minister Abdul Jalil is sick, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Ahsan Chowdhury would go to Washington soon to discuss the matter.

The Bangladesh embassy has been informed about his visit and asked to seek appointment with officials at the USTRO in Washington, he said.

Requesting anonymity, he said the US government never linked GSP with other issues. "If GSP is cancelled, it will not have much effect on our business with the US because our exports under GSP are not much," he observed.

He spoke against allowing trade union in EPZs because this would destroy the congenial atmosphere prevailing there. The major investors at the country's two EPZs have threatened to withdraw their investments if TU is allowed.

Exports from the two EPZs is worth about one billion dollars annually, he mentioned.

So it is a growing sector and the government should also think about the fate of about one lakh workers at Dhaka and Chittagong EPZs, he commented.

## 2 gunned down, 3 of a family shot in city

By Staff Correspondent

Two persons were gunned down and three others of a family were shot in separate incidents in the city yesterday, police and hospital sources said.

The dead were identified as Faruk, 20, and Asaduzzaman, 25. All of them were attacked by miscreants for their refusal to pay them toll, hospital sources said quoting relatives.

Asaduzzaman, a son of Joyal Abedin was shot dead near a confectionery shop at Mohakhali under Gulshan police in the evening.

Family sources said Jewel was gunned down for refusal to pay toll at about 8.30 pm. He was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

Gulshan police confirmed the incident but could not give any details. No case was registered and none was arrested till writing of this report last night.

In another incident, a young man was shot dead at Faridabad under Sutrapur thana early yesterday.

The deceased, Faruk, 20, was shot in his chest, hospital sources said. His body was recovered from Harish Chandra Roy Road of Faridabad, police said.

Faruk was killed when he refused to pay toll to some goons. The family members, however, refused to disclose any name, hospital sources said.

None was arrested and no case was filed till writing of this report last night.

A woman and her two children were shot in another incident at Bhasantek under Kafrul police station, police and hospital sources said.

The injured were identified as Sanwara Begum and her son Ibrahim, 25, and daughter Rowshan Ara, 20.

The miscreants shot Ibrahim, a trader, when he was sitting in front of his house, police said adding his mother and sister standing nearby were also injured.

The injured were rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, police said.

Hospital sources quoting Ibrahim said they were attacked as he refused to pay toll money demanded by the gang of Kala Jahangir.

Kala Jahangir is one of the top terrors in the area and he has a backing of an influential quarter close to the ruling party, police said.

The participants emphasised that different standards set by the DOE in managing industrial, chemical and domestic waste must be followed. There should be of a national policy to manage chemical waste, they felt.

Environmental awareness programme must be undertaken in the industrial sector and environmental education should be introduced in curricula, the workshop suggested while discussing the importance of public awareness and motivation programme.

The civil society should actively seek transparency in policy making and implementation of it, the workshop noted.

DB Science

From page 1

of Dhaka College, 935 marks with four letters; A S M Zahidur Rahman (roll 104075) of Dhaka College, 934 marks with four letters; Nahid Mahfuza Alam (roll 111432) of Vigarunisa Noon College, 933 marks with four letters; Tanvir Zohair Mahbub (roll 104093) of Dhaka College, 931 marks with four letters; Hasan Zamil (roll 104068) of Dhaka College and Toufiqul Islam (roll 103949) of the same college, 930 marks with four letters; Chowdhury Sharif Ahsan (roll 104002) of Dhaka College, 929 marks with four letters; Md Intiazul Haque Mortuza (roll 105363) of Notre Dame College and Tareque Hossain (roll 121241) of Mirzapur Cadet College, 928 marks with four letters.

## Workshop

From page 1

Participants included Abul Monsur Azad of Petro Bangla, AIG of Police Jahurul Huq, Dr Badruzzaman of BUET, Masoq Sinha and Pulak Barua of West Concern.

DCC's Dr Arshad said they are yet to separate clinical waste and other waste generated at Dhaka Medical College Hospital as it is very costly. Clinical waste should be collected from different areas and should be incinerated.

Some experts however expressed fears over the side effects of incineration.

The participants suggested finding find out appropriate technology for better waste disposal, recycling and resource recovery and assessing technical and financial viability of the technology.

Besides, unplanned urbanisation and industrialisation should be stopped, they said.

The Chief Engineer of Dhaka Wassa said theoretically there are four separate systems in the capital for disposal of solid waste, storm water, domestic waste and liquid waste, but practically all the four systems have become one.

In this connection, Dr Firoz Ahmed said that in some places, local people have connected their sewerage lines with storm sewerage line, which is largely affecting the system.

Dumping of polythene bags is also blocking sewerage lines. About 60 lakh polythene bags are used in the city every day, Kazi Mohammad Seishi said. Huge quantity of untreated sewage oozing out of faulty sewerage network in the city is severely polluting surface water, particularly the water of Buriganga river.

The existing sewerage network is covering only 30 per cent of the WASA's total service area and 20 per cent of the service area's total population.

The workshop recommended that the coverage should be increased, considering suitable options and the existing system should be rehabilitated, maintained and operated properly.

It also stressed smaller independent sewerage system with its own treatment plant.

Participants expressed deep concern over disposal of untreated industrial waste. About 40 tons of Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) from about 300 industrial units are going into rivers around the city ever day.

Mills and factories in Hazaribagh and Tejgaon industrial areas in the city are disposing of 16,000 cubic metres and 12,000 cubic metres respectively of untreated waste per day.

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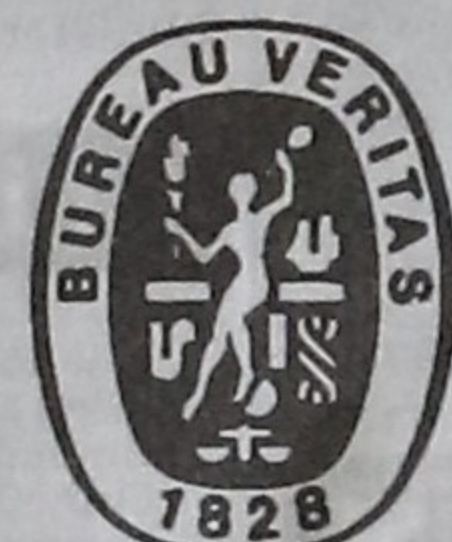
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Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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