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City generates 9000 tons of waste a day

Speakers call for a sound management policy without delay

By Staff Correspondent

Around 5400 tons of human, 3500 tons of solid and a similar volume of industrial and other waste are released in the air, surface and ground water table in and around Dhaka city everyday.

To check the ongoing waste onslaught, participants at a daylong workshop called for a sound waste management policy without further delay.

Organised by The Daily Star in collaboration with Bangladesh Scouts, the workshop titled Waste Management in the city: Towards A Solution? also emphasised strict implementation of the existing laws, enactment of new ones, public awareness, community and private sector participation and decentralisation of relevant agencies to improve the waste management situation in the city.

Held at the Scout Bhawan, the workshop was moderated by The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam and Professor Nazimuddin Ahmed of BUET. Environmentalists,

engineers, microbiologists, scout leaders, students, officials from Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) and Dhaka WASA, and representatives of different professional groups attended it.

About 400 tons of solid waste generated everyday remains on the road and in open space while 300 tons are recycled by the 'rag pickers', participants said.

Professor Mujibur Rahman of BUET presented the keynote paper of the workshop while WASA Board Chairman Prof. Nazrul Islam, architect Shaheda Rahman of BUET, Prof. Jasimuzzaman, and Natasha Ishrat, a school student from Vigarunissa Noon School and College, put up recommendations of the participants, divided into four groups, at the concluding session.

Referring to DCC statistics, Dr. Mujibur Rahman said nearly 49 per cent of the city's solid waste is generated from residential areas, 21 and 24 per cent from commercial and industrial areas, and the rest from hospitals and

clinics.

The ratio of lead, chromium and Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) was found higher than the standard level in ground and surface water samples collected from adjoining areas of the dumpsites, he said.

Mahfuz Anam said disposal of waste in the city has emerged as a serious problem, and Bangladesh Scouts and The Daily Star will jointly launch a campaign on the issue.

He urged media including the radio and television to highlight the issue.

Dr Sirazul Islam of Microbiology Department of Dhaka University pointed out that with the use of recycling technology, waste is no longer a problem. He emphasised use of proper technologies and methods that can make the best utilisation of 'waste resource'.

Shaheda Rahman, making recommendations on

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Home Minister contradicts report

By Staff Correspondent

Home Minister Mohammad Nasim has contradicted a portion of The Daily Star report published on Thursday on his speech in the Jatiya Sangsad the day before.

In a written statement last night, the Home Minister denied having said anything in the House about the hearing on the death reference in Bangabandhu Murder Case by a High Court Bench.

"I only described the events, and in no way mentioned the delay in or lingering of the ongoing hearing of Bangabandhu Murder Case in the High Court. In fact, nowhere in the speech did I utter the word hearing", the statement said.

Nasim said he just strongly protested the midnight granting of bail in an unprecedented manner to a person, accused of treason.

"I mentioned that we had to wait year after year for trial of the

Rajuk demolishes 7 unauthorised structures at Dhanmondi

By Staff Correspondent

Rajuk yesterday partially demolished seven illegally built structures encroaching upon the College Street at Dhanmondi.

Two of the structures belonged to BEKIMCO Group, while others were residential buildings blocking about 150 metres of this important thoroughfare.

When the Rajuk team arrived on the spot, all the encroachers claimed that they had approved plans for their buildings.

BEKIMCO's Land Supervisor Nasiruddin claimed that they had an approved plan for BEL Tower.

When Rajuk officials wanted to see the plan, Nasiruddin produced a plan which clearly indicated that the BEL Tower premises was encroaching upon ten feet of public land.

As Rajuk men knocked down the boundary wall, they found that the actual structure of BEL Tower was built in gross violation of building construction rules. The Tower did not have any space

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Dams cause flood, ecological havoc

Star Report

WCD report reveals

Many dams are failing to live up to expectations. Instead, they make flooding worse, and cause ecological havoc and social conflict, says "Dams and Development: A New Framework for Decision-Making," a World Commission on Dams (WCD) report which was launched Thursday in London.

The World Bank-sponsored report, available on the Internet, assesses the world's dams - the biggest drain on aid budgets for the past 50 years, costing four billion dollars a year in the 1980s. So far over 45,000 large dams have been built, driving some 80 million people out of their homes.

Disturbingly, however, a few dams have ever been looked at to

find out whether the benefits outweigh the costs, the commission says. The report has been two years in the making since the World Bank and World Conservation Union (IUCN) initiated setting up of the Commission and its dams review process in 1998.

A quarter of dams built to supply water deliver less than half the intended amount, says the report. In a tenth of old reservoirs, the build-up of silt has more than halved the storage capacity. What's more, by stopping the flow of silt downstream, dams reduce fertility of the flood

plains and "invariably" cause erosion of coastal deltas.

It's not all bad news, though. Dams irrigate fields that provide up to a sixth of world food production, while hydroelectric dams power many homes and factories.

However, it's often the well-off urbanites, not the rural poor, who reap the benefits.

The report also concludes that some dams designed to prevent flooding actually exacerbate the situation. Such problems will worsen with climate changes, it says.

The commission agrees with

the view that most reservoirs emit greenhouse gases. And it says dam construction is one of the major reasons for freshwater fish going extinct and bird species vanishing from flood plains.

The largest dam project ever - the US\$20 billion Three Gorges dam on the Yangtze in China - is mired in controversy sparked off by allegations that much of the money allocated to resettling a quarter of a million people has gone missing.

Dams offer huge benefits but sometimes at a large cost, "World Bank President James D Wolfensohn said during the report launching in London. "The Bank is currently funding less

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Over 2500 expelled on first day of Degree exams

By Staff Correspondent

Widespread cheating, violent clashes and arrests marked the start of Degree Pass and Subsidiary Examinations, 2000 under the National University yesterday.

Over 2,500 examinees were expelled for cheating at compulsory English examination on the first day across the country.

Our Sirajganj correspondent reports: A total of 11,465 examinees appeared at the examination at 15 centres. Of them, 421 were expelled.

A leader of Chandikonia Haji Wahed Morium Degree College allegedly snatched camera from a local journalist when he tried to take photo of supplying answer scripts to the college centre.

Police arrested Shamim Ferdous, vice-president (VP) of college students union in this connection. He

was later, released.

A total of 1336 examinees were expelled from different centres in five districts for cheating at examination. Of them, 328 were expelled in Tangail, 305 in Comilla, 209 in Thakurgaon, 199 in Gaibandha and 199 in Narsingdi district, according to our correspondents.

In Narsingdi, at least four police personnel were injured in a clash with copy suppliers at Narsingdi Government College centre. Police fired three rounds of blank shots to disperse the mob.

Three invigilators were expelled and eight people arrested following the incident.

In the city, as many as 83 examinees walked out of Dr Malika College centre on the plea of tough

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Sheikha Mayson al-Kasimi of the United Arab Emirates at yesterday's opening session of the first Arab Women Summit in Cairo aimed at supporting the Palestinian uprising against Israel. Participants are also due to discuss the effects of cultural heritage on the role of women in the Arab societies as well as ways of encouraging women to take part in the political life in Arab world.

-AFP photo

Bush faces legal setback

Election official barred from declaring a winner: Recounting continues

WASHINGTON, Nov 18: Florida's highest court intervened to stop the state's top election official from declaring a winner in the US presidential election as ballots from overseas added to Republican George W Bush's minuscule lead over Democrat Al Gore, reports AP.

On Friday, Florida secretary of state was ordered not to declare Bush the state winner as she had planned. Winning Florida likely would have made him the United States' 43rd president.

A federal appeals court also refused Bush's request to block recounts under way in two heavily Democratic counties while a third county - Miami-Dade, the state's largest-reversed field and announced it, too, would begin a recount.

The dual rulings were a major blow to Bush, his hopes of a quick certification dashed as Gore's recount campaign grinds away.

The count of absentee votes from overseas was the final installment in Florida's routine vote-

counting process. With returns from 65 to 67 counties, Bush picked up 1,057 votes and Gore 597, giving the Republican a 760-vote statewide lead-up from 300 when the day began.

Cries of foul came from both camps as the overseas ballots were counted. More than a thousand votes were thrown out as officials from both parties analysed registrations, postmarks and other details.

"One of the problems with those ballots is it is so difficult under Florida and federal law that you almost have to be a rocket scientist to comply," said Thomas Spencer, a Miami attorney working for Bush.

In separate manual recount activities the subject of frantic court activity Gore picked up a net of 48 votes in Broward County while Bush picked up a net of four votes in the closely watched tally in Palm Beach County.

The winner in Florida will win the White House

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Dr Malika dead: Crisis likely to deepen

By Staff Correspondent

Dr. Malika Al-Razee, known to be the first woman doctorate of the country, died at a city hospital on Friday night. She was 81.

She died at a time when her adopted daughters and the authorities of Dr Malika Mohila College, founded by her, were engaged in a feud over ownership of college property.

Dr. Malika was suffering from various old age complications for long. As her condition deteriorated, she was admitted to Bangladesh Medical University Hospital on Tuesday where she died at 7:30 pm.

She was born in an aristocratic family in Munshiganj on 15 September 1919. She obtained Mas

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'Father' faces Flora today

By Staff Correspondent

The self-proclaimed father of Flora, Abdus Salam Bhuiya will face his daughter in presence of the investigators at the Godnail Vagrant Center in Narayanganj today.

Bhuiya claimed that Flora's actual name was Khairunnessa

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Live and let live... poet Shamsur Rahman (R) and painter Hashem Khan set free a few birds to launch a campaign to save endangered birds at the end of a seminar on People's Role in Protecting Birds at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday. Noted ornithologist Dr Zakir Hossain is also seen in the picture (Story on page 2).

-Star photo

Judiciary, press enjoying maximum freedom: PM

Foundation of JU Bangabandhu Hall laid

SAVAR, Nov 18: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today said the judiciary and the press are now enjoying maximum freedom as her government does not interfere in their domains, reports UNB.

"We want unfettered democratic practice, we want every institution perform its assigned duties judiciously," she said while laying the foundation of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall at Jahangirnagar University.

Dismissing the opposition's allegation Hasina said she is running the country with liberal attitude, allowing right to freedom of thinking and expression, which was denied by the post-75 regimes.

The Prime Minister deplored that despite her call for cooperation, the Opposition is trying to create man-made calamity to obstruct democratic process

and development with a motive to discredit her government.

Unlike the previous regimes of Zia, Ershad and Khaleda, she said after assuming power, her government did not arrest any minister or MP of the BNP government to take political revenge.

Responding to her critics Hasina urged them to compare her government with the post-75 regimes beginning from Ziaur Rahman.

She said General Zia grabbed power at gunpoint and ruled the country imposing curfew and martial law. General Zia presented the nation "a curfew democracy" and killed thousands of army officers to consolidate his power.

Hasina said Zia introduced 'vote dactility' and

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Profile of a FBCCI leader

The man whose oil turned out to be water

Star Report

He is posh and believes in style. He is smart and also a defaulter. He spends money to promote himself because he can defraud banks to get easy money. He can promise everything for a cause and then jump the ship when the other side looks rosier.

He is Mohammad Ali, well known for defrauding banks and now the vice president of the FBCCI. Because of his official position, he now hopes to get a place on the Bangladesh Bank board soon.

Ali's ever-changing political career is well known. From Jatiya Party to BNP and then BNP to Awami League, he has left no party unexplored to climb up the ladder.

He became the most talked-about businessman (!) in 1997, when the Bangladesh Bank unearthed cases of massive financial frauds he had committed in connivance with five commercial banks of the country.

The frauds included import of soybean oil, which contained mostly water.

Through various means, Ali allegedly siphoned crores of taka from the banks in the form of loans that he never paid back.

He was also elected in the 'controversial' February 15 parliamentary elections on BNP ticket and

enjoyed the status of a Member of Parliament for a very short time.

Ali owes Sonali Bank Tk 49.95 crore in defaulted loans. Different banks have lodged cases against him with the Artha Rin Adalat.

With such a track record he has now become the vice president of the FBCCI. If this is the profile of a business leader there is not much to say how he could represent the country's business community with ethics and dignity in different forums.

Ali's financial frauds

The banks that had disregarded banking norms in sanctioning loans to Ali are Sonali Bank, Al-Baraka Bank, IFIC Bank, AB Bank and Rupali Bank. Why they did so can be understood from a Bangladesh Bank report.

In 1997 a BB inspection team found that officials of the loan giving banks involved in most of these financial dealings had grossly violated banking rules.

Ali, owner of Dhaka Vegetable Oil Industries Ltd., took part of the loan in the name of importing soybean oil. He imported 5000 metric tons of crude soybean oil from Argentina and Brazil by opening

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Public Issue of Shares

Issue of 900,000 Ordinary Shares of Tk.100 each at par totalling Tk.9.00 crore of which 700,000 Shares of Tk.100 each have been subscribed by the Investors under private placement arrangement & Public Offer of 200,000 Ordinary Shares of Tk.100 each at par totalling Tk.2.00 crore is being made.

SUBSCRIPTION OPENED ON : 07TH NOVEMBER 2000

SUBSCRIPTION CLOSING ON : 21ST NOVEMBER 2000

Details can be seen in Prospectus published on 27th October, 2000 in The Financial Express & 29th October, 2000 in The Daily Janakantha.



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Law and Our Rights

Contempt of court and protection of journalists' source
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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Nov 19		5.11 pm
Nov 20	6-16 am	

Prayer Timings

November 19		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-00	5-35
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-18	5-23
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation