

Industrial wastes polluting rivers in southern region

UNB, Khulna

Tons of industrial wastes are draining down the rivers from mills and factories in the southern region everyday, polluting the environment to an alarming level. The river Bhairab flowing by the city is increasingly being polluted with huge discharge of wastes from Khulna Newsprint Mill and Khulna Hardboard Mill. Some 46 lakh gallons of liquid substance is spewed by the newsprint mill into the river daily in addition to the wastes from the hardboard mill when the industries are in operation, sources at the Department of Environment said.

According to them, there are 327 mills and factories in the region and most of them don't have proper waste-disposal system, as also is the problem with almost all the industrial units in the country.

Of them, 18 are polluting environment at an "intensive rate," 108 on a "medium scale" and remaining 201 at a "general rate."

The DOE officials here said the highly polluting mills and factories are producing three kinds of wastes - Biological Oxygen De-

mand (BOD), Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) and Demand of Oxygen (DO). These exhausts are damaging the environment excessively.

"Tannery industries are most responsible for contaminating the environment," said one official. The DO emitting from these industries comes down and intensifies the extent of pollution. There are two big tannery industries in the region.

As a result of huge discharge of pollutants by the mills, the presence of BOD in the Bhairab river is said to be more than 1,300 mg against the permissible limit of only 50mg.

"Because of the population, different species of fish and aquatic plants, including useful microbiological bacteria, are decreasing sharply," One DOE official told this correspondent.

Besides, the newsprint mill is emitting Sulphur-dioxide (SO₂) and Sulphur-tri-oxide (SO₃) through the chimneys, which is also contributing to environment pollution.

Many jute and carpet mills

have been set up on both the banks of the river. They are also polluting environment by discharging tons of wastes in the river.

Of them, Crescent Jute Mills is pouring some 5 lakh gallons of liquid wastes alone into the river. Besides, two match factories are dumping 50 kgs of waste products while a tobacco-processing company 51 kgs in river Rupsha a day, according to an account of the department.

The other highly polluting mills and factories are forest industries, food products company, four sugar mills, Goallanda Power Generation Plant and Khulna Power Company Ltd (KPCL), sources said.

The authorities said they served notices several times upon the highly polluting mills and factories asking them to stop or reduce the waste dumps. But all went unheeded, said the official.

Officials of the department said according to law it is necessary to take two clearance certificates -- ISO-9002 and SA-400001 -- from the department at the time of establishing a mill or a factory.



Awami League presidium member Abdur Razzak speaking at a discussion meeting marking the 'Farmer Killing Day' at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

Filing of murder case against Hasina condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different social and political organisations have condemned the filing of a 'baseless' case against Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina and continuous government sponsored repression on political opponents.

In separate statements yesterday, leaders of the organisations asked the government to stop the ongoing political repression, terrorism, rape, politicisation of administration and other undemocratic activities.

Condemning the filing of a murder case against Hasina and the reported torture on her APS Bahadur Nasim in custody, Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) President Manzurul Ahsan Khan and General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim termed those incidents as inhuman, undemocratic and a suicidal provocation to put the country into danger.

"Instead of establishing the rule of law, the government has been breaking the law at every stage," said the leaders, alleging that the government has been unleashing repression on the workers of the communist party, left-leaning 11-party and Awami League throughout the country.

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), student wing of the opposi-

tion Awami League, yesterday brought out a procession from in front of its party office at city's Bangabandhu Avenue in protest against filing of a politically motivated case against the AL chief and arrest of thousands of opposition activists.

The BCL procession, intercepted by police in the Paltan area, returned to Bangabandhu Avenue where at a rally BCL leaders demanded immediate withdrawal of the false case filed against the AL chief and release of opposition workers. Presided over by BCL leader Saifullah, the rally

was addressed by BCL city unit leaders.

In another statement, leaders of the anti-autocratic movements of the 80s termed the filing of the murder case by a lawyer against the AL chief as an evil attempt to distort the history of the anti-autocratic movement.

"The government has clear politisation behind such bad politics," said the statement signed by eight former student leaders -- Fazle Hossain Badsha, Shirin Akhter, Dr. Mustaq Hossain, Nazmul Haque Prodhan, Noor Ahmed Bakul, Akhter Sobhan Khan Masrur, Abdullahi Kaiyum and Ruhul Quddus Babu.

Two people, including an officer of the local office of Bangladesh House Building Finance Corporation (BHBFC), committed suicide here on Thursday.

Police quoting the family sources said Mostafa Kamal, an officer of BHBFC, committed suicide by hanging himself from a ceiling fan in the bedroom of his residence at Ramchandrapur area under Boalia thana in the city.

In another incident, Zojnal, 26, of Pukurbari village under Durgapur upazila committed suicide, by taking poison.

Call to protect rights of consumers

BSS, Dhaka

Industries Minister M K Anwar yesterday stressed the need for unity among the consumers to protect their rights.

Addressing a discussion organised by the Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) as chief guest, the minister said quality of every product and services must be ensured.

Held at the CIRDAP auditorium in observance of the World Consumer Rights Day, the discussion was addressed by President of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) Yusuf Abdullah Harun.

Chairman of the Department of Law of Dhaka University Dr Mizanur Rahman presented the keynote paper.

Assistant General Secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad Dr Maleka Banu, Chairman of the Department of Economics of Dhaka University Prof Abu Ahmed, Women's Right leader Salma Khan, JSD general secretary Hasnain Hugu Inu, director of Hunger Project Dr Bodul Alam Mojumdar, Barrister Rabeya Bhuiyan and economist Dr Atiur Rahman took part in the discussion.

The discussion was chaired by

MOU signed

BSS, Dhaka

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed between Bangladesh Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University (BSMAU) and faculty of Agriculture, the graduate school of bio-resource and bio-environment science and the school of agriculture, Kyushu University of Japan.

Prof Dr M A Halim Khan of BSMAU and Prof Hisashi Yahata of Kyushu University formally signed the MOU on behalf of their respective institutions, said a press release here yesterday.

Executive Editor of Daily Janakantha Borhan Ahmed.

The industries minister laid emphasis on developing legal framework and more interactions among the CAB and professional bodies, manufacturers and regulatory bodies to ensure rights of consumers.

He assured that the government would further strengthen the Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institute (BSTI) by raising its manpower and technical resources.

CUJA election tomorrow

CU CORRESPONDENT

Election of Chittagong University Journalist Association (CUJA) for the year 2002 will be held tomorrow.

Election Commissioner and Proctor of the CU Prof. Abdul Hakim announced the final list of the candidates on Thursday.

Abdul Malek of Janakantha and Hamid Ullah of Jugantor are contesting for the post of president while Ataul Gani Sumon of Daily Star and Miah Mohammad Arif for general secretary.

Candidates who are contesting for other posts are: Fahad Ferdous (Observer) and Rubel Khan (Ajker Kago) for vice-president, Shahadat Hossain Riad (Independent) and Abdus Sabur (Janata) for joint secretary, Masud Parvez Milad (Rupali) and Madhul Kabir Chowdhury (Dainik Arthoniti) for treasurer, Shamim Jahangir (Naya Bangla), Mustafizur Rahman (Sonali Barta) and Sujoy Mahajan (Purbokan) for office and publication secretary and Khalilur Rahman (Tittefat) and SM Sarwar Jahan (Sangbad) for executive member.

The annual general meeting of the association will be held at 8.00pm today.

Set up 'Industrial City' in Tangail: Siraj

BSS, Dhaka

Forest and Environment Minister Shahjahan Siraj yesterday urged the country's entrepreneurs to come forward to set up "Industrial City" in Tangail.

"An investment friendly excellent atmosphere has been created in the long neglected Tangail district with the construction of the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge," he said this at a function in the city.

Tangail district samity organised the function in observance of the 50th founding anniversary of the samity as well as distribution of gold medal and stipend among the meritorious students at the

National Museum Auditorium here.

Presided over by A FM Khalilur Rahman, the function was addressed by State Minister for Water Resources Advocate Goutam Chakravarty, Deputy Minister for Education Abdus Salam Pintu, Tangail District BNP president Major General (ret'd) Mahmudul Hasan, MP, and noted litterateur and poet Dr. Ashraf Siddiqi and general secretary of the samity Mohammad Nazrul Islam.

Siraj urged the private entrepreneurs to set up industries in Tangail region considering the modern rail and road communications of the district.

The minister said the government is working hard for even development of the country including Tangail.

Referring to different environmental issues, he also thanked the people to help in implementing all the government programmes in this regard.

Later, the minister distributed gold medals and stipends among the meritorious students.

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