

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 Bhoirab 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 Bhoirab 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 microorganisms, are decreasing sharply," One DOE official told this correspondent.

Besides, the newsprint mill is emitting Sulphur-di-Oxide (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, Goalanda 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.

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Many jute and carpet mills

Set up 'Industrial City' in Tangail: Siraj

BSS, Dhaka

Forest and Environment Minister Shahjahan Shiraj 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

Mohammad Nazrul Islam.

Shiraj 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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Bangladesh Red Crescent Society

National Headquarters
684-686, Bara Maghbazar, Dhaka-1212
Bangladesh

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Sealed tenders are hereby invited from only the manufacturers/supplier/importer for supply of Ultrasonogram Machine in connection with BDRCS-EC/UNFPA Project, Bangabazar, Dhaka and Sylhet Red Crescent Maternity Hospital, Sylhet.

Tender document may be purchased on payment of Tk 300.00 (Taka three hundred) only in cash (non-refundable) during office hours on all working days up to 28th March 2002 from the Accounts Department of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society at 684-686, Bara Maghbazar, Dhaka.

The intending tenderer must furnish documentary evidences in support of the firm/organization current Trade Licence, Bank Solvency Certificate and Tax Identification Number (TIN) and other relevant evidences, if any.

Sealed tenders accompanied by earnest money equivalent to 2.5% (two point five per cent) of the total quoted amount in an acceptable form of Pay Order or Bank Draft issued from any scheduled bank in favour of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, Dhaka and along with requisite catalogues shall have to be dropped in the Tender Box so kept in the office of the Chief of Health Division, BDRCS, 684-686, Bara Maghbazar, Dhaka upto 12.00 Noon on 30th March 2002. The tenders will be opened on the same day at 12:30 PM in the presence of the tenderers, if any.

The tender shall remain valid for a period of 30 (thirty) calendar days from the date of receipt of this tender. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all without assigning any reason whatsoever or a portion of the works in any manner deem it.

Chief of Health Division
Bangladesh Red Crescent Society

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Principal
Cantonment International
School, Chittagong
Phone : 682666

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