

TANNERY SHIFTING

Stalled, stuck in court

HELEMUL ALAM

Relocation of tannery industry from the city's Hazaribagh to suburban Savar is being delayed for years since the government is yet to set up a common effluent treatment plant (CETP) at the new site.

Poor response to repeated tenders for setting up the CETP and a legal battle over awarding the deal to a firm that allegedly gave false documents account for the long delay, officials said.

Against this backdrop, pollution of the Buriganga is worsening with tannery waste mainly contaminating the river.

Around 22,000 cubic metres of untreated and highly toxic liquid waste from over 200 tanneries flow into the Buriganga through canals, according to the Department of Environment (DoE).

A senior official of the Tannery Estate, Dhaka, said no firm participated in the first tender for CETP in June 2006 while only one responded to the second in September that year.

Two firms responded to the third bid call in February 2007. Of them --WBDC, JV-- a Bangladesh-Singapore joint venture, got the job.

But the cabinet purchase committee on May 5 last year

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Foul-smelling waste from tanneries of Hazaribagh embankment area in the capital end up at this apparently low-lying ground turning it into a red pond.

PHOTO: SHAFIQU ALAM

HC weighs in to fix action plan

Industries secy, DG of DoE
face contempt charge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered the government to produce information in a month on what measures have been taken to control pollution at the industrial units and factories since the HC delivered a judgment on the matter in 2001.

The HC bench of Justice ABM Khairul Haque and Justice Md Mamtazuddin Ahmed in a *suo moto* order directed the secretaries to the ministries of environment and industries and the director general (DG) of the Department of Environment (DoE) to submit the information.

The court also fixed July 1 for further decision on the issue. The order will be urgently sent by special messengers to the respondents.

Meanwhile, a contempt of court petition was filed yesterday with the HC against the industries secretary and the DG of DoE for not taking effective steps to prevent pollution in the industrial areas.

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Be people's servant, not master

Hasina asks govt officials to change
colonial attitude

BSS, Savar

Prime Minister (PM) Sheikh Hasina directed the civil servants to devote themselves to the well-being of people and discharge duties with pro-people attitude.

"Keep in mind that you are the servant of the people, not their master," Hasina told the government officials at a function while inaugurating a two-day silver jubilee celebration of Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC) here yesterday morning.



President of the board of governor of BPATC and Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith chaired the function.

"People often complain that government officials act as masters with them and most of the officials in the administration still maintain colonial attitude," Hasina said, asking the civil servants to change their mindset and stand beside the people.

The PM told the function that her government wants to bring transparency and

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Govt to build 1 lakh flats

Mulls 11,000 plots in 3
housing projects

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will construct over 1.03 lakh apartments and create over 11,000 residential plots in three government housing projects in the capital's suburbs in an effort to resolve an acute housing problem in the city.

State Minister for Housing and Public Works Abdul Mannan Khan yesterday disclosed the plan to the par-

liamentary standing committee on the ministry at a meeting in Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The parliamentary watchdog committee also formed a three-member sub-committee to look into alleged encroachment on city lakes.

ABM Fazle Karim Chowdhury, chairman of the committee, told reporters that the sub-committee was asked to submit its report within a

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BHOLA ARMS HAUL

Charges against Faisal, finally

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The police yesterday pressed charges against Bangladesh-born British citizen Faisal Mostafa and 10 others in a case filed for arms haul at Green Crescent madrasa-cum-orphanage in Bhola.

Sub-Inspector Rafiqul Islam of Borhanuddin Police Station, also investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet to judicial magistrate Aminul Islam.

He accused Faisal of links to the mini-munitions factory unearthed in the madrasa founded by his charity Green Crescent.

The IO said despite knowing that Mohiuddin, a guard-cum-cook at Green Crescent, had been stockpiling huge arms and ammunition there, Faisal did not bother to inform the law enforcement agencies.

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4 BDR men held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four more Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) soldiers, believed to be directly involved in the killings and looting of arsenals at Pilkhana, were arrested yesterday from the

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OnlinePoll

Do you agree with the EC that caretaker government is not a must for a free and fair election?

☐ Yes (37.14%)
☐ No (59.97%)
☐ No Comments (2.89%)
Total votes: 762



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