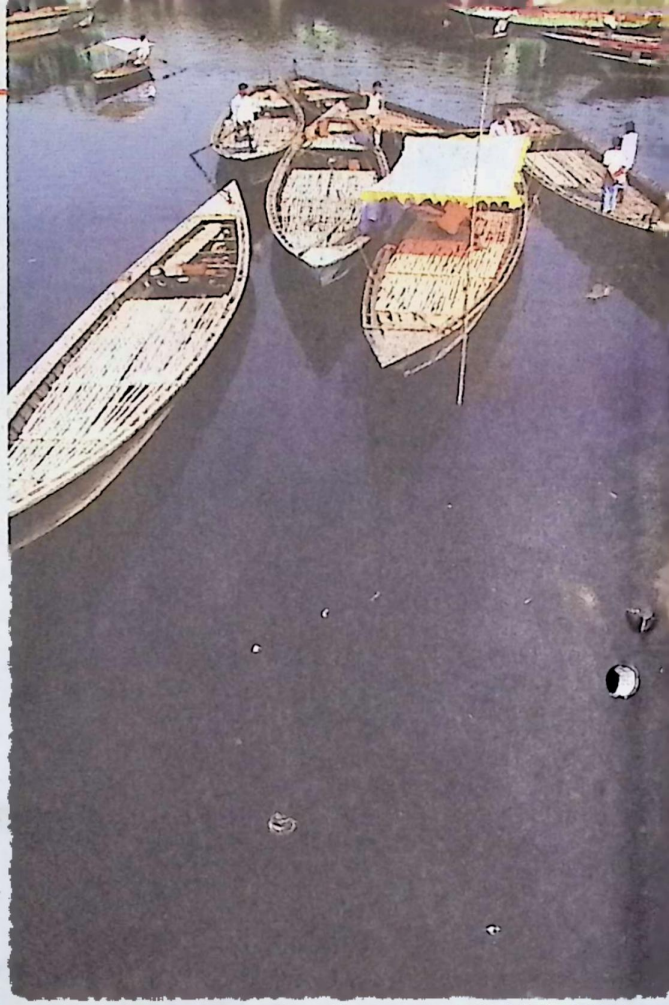
the government agency is following a Revisional Survey (RS) to evict the encroachers considering the latter as the latest survey. Even the RS survey demarcation (which has already made major compromises with the encroachers) for the rivers and canals is not followed properly in the current eviction drive, informs the concerned sources.

Many agencies such as Deputy Commissioner's office, Paurashovas and even BIWTA have allotted lease of the foreshores of the rivers to the public. Which is why BIWTA is facing legal loopholes to evict the lease allotters following the Port Rules and the Port Acts, says a BIWTA official. The BIWTA officials who are doing the eviction drives are also avoiding structures built apparently for religious purposes such as mosques considering it may lead to negative responses from the religious-minded. From a purely technical point of view the government agency does not even have the hardwire to pull out the foundation of the structures. At present, it is just demolishing the super structures of the buildings.

Concerned sources observe that the government might face even greater challenges later when they have to evict structures owned by the politically backed big shots who are occupying many areas of the Buriganga, the Shitalakkhya and the Turag.

"Using religious sentiments the encroachers usually construct illegal structures on the shore of the rivers," comments eminent historian Professor Muntasir Mamoon, "When no religion allows anybody to take any kind of illegal advantage, how come they construct mosques through illegal occupation? They do it just for their own interest. After constructing mosques they build other structures to be used for commercial purposes."



Pitch black river water caused by effluents indicates the high rate of pollution. PHOTO: ZAHEDUL I KHAN

