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# Burnt oil, dyeing chemicals dumped into Buriganga

HELEMUL ALAM

Apart from untreated industrial and household wastes, burnt motor oil, lubricant and dyeing chemicals are also contributing greatly to the pollution of the already moribund river Buriganga.

Motor oil traders collect burnt oil from launch operators and refine only to sell those back to them. In the process of refining the muddy and pitch-black remnants are mindlessly dumped into the river.

Manual dyers who dye mainly cloth of garment factories, especially jeans, are also no less responsible for river pollution. After dyeing they also rampantly throw their leftover toxic chemical into river water.

Around 15 motor oil traders are engaged in refining burnt oil of launches while about 10 floating businessmen are involved in dyeing cloth on the riverbank, traders on the Burigangariverbank said.

"Launch operators sell the burnt oil every two to three months. By the time each launch has around 20 litres of burnt oil," said Hafizur Rahman, driver of Sharnadip launch of Dhaka-Shariatpur route.

"The remains after the refinement of used oil is dumped into the river," said Dulal who once worked with a motor oil refiner.

During a visit to the riverbank at Telghat in Keraniganj on June 26 this correspondent saw a thick layer of black oil, which did not appear to be water at all.

Shafiq, working for the last 15 years with a businessman, said around 15 burnt oil refiners are involved in the business on the bank of Buriganga.

Not only that, engine boats also release burnt oil into the river thus contributing to the pollution, said Abu Naser Khan, Chairman of Save Environment Movement.

Khan said burnt oil from the motorised vehicles is thrown into the drains, which ultimately mingles with the river water around the capital. "Burnt oil is highly toxic," he added.

Professor Mujibur Rahman of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) said any kind of oil pollutes water and increases the level of pollution, which affects the eco-system of the water body.

"No life in the Buriganga is alive because of endless pollution," he said.

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A boat carrying used lubricants of motor launches dump the toxic waste straight into the Buriganga with little regard for the environment and the lifeline of Dhaka. The photo was taken at the Sadarghat in the capital.

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

# Money-whitening scope to benefit the same people

*Businessmen were 73pc of those who availed the earlier chance to whiten Tk 9,681 crore*

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The group of businessmen who comprised 73 percent of the beneficiaries of money whitening scope given by the last caretaker government will again get the larger slice of the cake as the government has decided to continue the provision for one year.

About 57,000 persons availed themselves of the opportunity of whitening undisclosed money during the last caretaker government's tenure. The scope has been given again to benefit businessmen and politicians who are close to the pres-

ent government but did not get the chance then as they were either in jail or absconding abroad.

However, in the face of severe criticism of the provision, the government has added some conditions at the last moment, which have caused discomfort about how much benefit can be achieved from the scope.

According to a study of the National Board of Revenue (NBR), 56,845 persons whitened Tk 9,681 crore on two occasions during the tenure of the last caretaker government.

Of them, 41,801 persons (73 percent)

were businessmen who got Tk 7,776 crore whitened; 3,489 government staff (6 percent) whitened Tk 289 crore; 139 defence staff whitened Tk 18 crore; 3,851 physicians (7 percent) legalised Tk 720 crore; 4,149 private service holders (8 percent) whitened Tk 425 crore; 626 lawyers whitened Tk 66 crore and 2,796 persons under other categories whitened Tk 387 crore.

NBR sources said this was the highest amount of money whitened even after paying taxes and fines in the history of Bangladesh—prompted mainly by the

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# RTI law to help contain corruption

Says CIC Aziz

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Information Commissioner M Azizur Rahman yesterday said the Right to Information (RTI) Act, if implemented properly, would help strengthen democracy and establish good governance and accountability in the country.

"The law would also help to root out corruption from the country," he told newsmen at a press briefing in the information ministry. This was his first comment after his appointment as chief information commissioner on Wednesday.

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# JS body for strong missions abroad

*Suggests new guidelines, salary hike of officials, creating post of inspector general of missions to oversee them*

RASHIDUL HASAN

A parliamentary standing committee has made a set of recommendations including formulation of new guidelines for Bangladesh missions abroad, and salary hike for mission officials to bring dynamism and pace in their (missions) activities.

The House body on foreign ministry, which met yesterday at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, also asked the ministry to create a post of 'inspector general of missions' to oversee their performance.

Mahbub Uddin Khokon, the lone opposi-

tion member in the standing committee, asked for withdrawal of Indian High Commissioner Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty for his 'interference' in internal affairs of Bangladesh.

Committee chief Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali however told journalists later that the meeting did not discuss this issue.

On the recommendations of the committee that met for about four hours, he said foreign ministry officials would submit a draft report in this regard at its (committee's) next meeting.

In reply to a question Abul Hassan said salary of diplomatic officials of Bangladesh is

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# Explain why forming CHT interim bodies not illegal

HC asks govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday directed the government to explain why the rules of the law empowering the govt to form ad-interim regional and district councils in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) should not be declared unconstitutional.

Upon a writ petition, an HC bench comprised of Justice

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# 12 garment workers held in Ashulia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested 12 more garment workers at Ashulia on the outskirts of the capital yesterday on charges of vandalism and arson attack on garment factories.

The arrestees are Liton, Laiyub, Tajul, Omar Faruk, Rahmat Ali, Lokman, Rajib, Saiddin alias Ujjal, Shafiqul, Ashraf, Jasim and Shafique.

Monwar Hossain, officer-in-charge (OC) of Ashulia Police Station, told The Daily

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Prayer Timing		
July 3		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-05	5-40
Juma	1-30	2-15
Asr	6-00	6-15
Maghrib	7-54	7-57
Esha	9-20	9-45

Source: Islamic Foundation



A rickshaw with its passenger rolls over yesterday falling into one of the many improperly-covered trenches created during sewerage-line work two months ago at Nayatola in Dhaka. The rain just made it worst since stagnant water makes the traps almost invisible.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

# Pak troops kill 50 militants

Raids continue in tribal belt; bike bomb kills 6

AFP, Peshawar/Rawalpindi

Pakistani security forces said yesterday that troops had killed more than 50 militants while ground and air forces battled against Islamist insurgents in parts of the northwest.

Government troops are locked in battles against armed groups in parts of Pakistan's northwest and the lawless tribal belt on the Afghan border where US officials have said al-Qaeda and Taliban-linked insurgents enjoy safe havens.

"At least 28 militants of Lashkar-e-Islam were killed in shelling by helicopter gunships," Major Faisal Khan, a spokesman for

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# Indigenous people seek action against repression

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sufferings of indigenous people who migrated to Sajek union in Rangamati from different areas in the 80's continue as they are still becoming victims of repression.

In a four-point demand the adivashi victims placed yesterday, they called for an end to repression on adivashi people, encroachment on their land, "intimidation of

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# No headmaster for 39 Cox's Bazar schools

*None of those has even asst headmaster*

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Thirty-nine government and private secondary schools, out of total 144, are running without headmaster and assistant headmaster in different upazilas of the district, hampering academic activities.

Sources said six government schools are among the institutions operating without headmaster and assistant headmaster.

Teachers of those secondary schools are getting entangled in conflicts as assistant teachers are working as acting headmaster.

In Sadar upazila, Cox's Bazar Government

Girls' High School and Govt Boys' High School do not have headmaster or assistant headmaster for several years. Preparatory High School, Bharuakhal Ideal High School, Napitkhali High School, Cox's Bazar Model High School and Jahanara Islam High School in Sadar upazila are also running without headmaster. There are 30 secondary schools in Sadar upazila.

Amena Khatun, acting headmaster of Cox's Bazar Government High School, said a school must have a head teacher.

Many of her colleagues are not happy and

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# Convicted ex-secretary Zabiullah sent to jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Former environment secretary Ismail Zabiullah was sent to jail yesterday in a graft case in which he was earlier sentenced to 13 years' imprisonment in absentia.

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# Criminal killed in wild chase

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A criminal was killed and another sustained injury while being chased by mob and police after they made an attack on a meeting injuring one tea vendor at city's Manikdi Bazar early yesterday.

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# OnlinePoll

Do you agree with JS body chief's observation that people should have the right to know about problem and development plan of the defence?

☐ Yes 83.0%  
☐ No 15.8%  
☐ No Comments 1.2%

Total Votes: 493

TODAY'S POLL

Do you support DMP's move of banning non-motorised vehicles in some city places?

Please cast your vote at [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)