

## Buriganga fed oil, chemicals

River pollution goes unabated

MORSHED ALI KHAN

It was around 9:30am. A group of workers at Swarighat chemical market were loading a large pushcart with empty plastic barrels, used for containing one of the 112 toxic chemicals used for the tannery industries in Hazaribagh.

The cart was soon full of barrels neatly stacked as high as 10 feet from the base of the vehicle. The workers then headed for the nearby Mitford Hospital ghat along the embankment under the Second Buriganga Bridge.

Three workers unloaded the barrels and started cleaning the chemicals in the river water. A pungent smell filled the air. The residues from the barrels turned the part of the swollen river water toxic.

Workers said the practice of washing these empty barrels has continued for years.

At the Sadarghat Launch Terminal nearby large passenger launches kept arriving from different destinations

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The riverbank near Keraniganj shows the accumulated thick residue of chemicals, engine oil and other waste dumped freely here.

PHOTO: SHAFIQU ALAM



## PM vows to root out graft, militancy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday vowed to root out militancy and corruption from the country to build a prosperous Bangladesh free from poverty and hunger to realise the dream of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

"People mandated us to power with a high expectation and giving many responsibilities on us. We will have to root out militancy and corruption to build a golden Bangladesh to fulfil the people's expectations," she said while addressing a discussion at Bangabandhu International Convention Centre in the capital.

Ruling AL organised the discussion marking the  
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## Tiger's record win

Tamim spoils Coventry's party

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh coasted to an historic triumph in Bulawayo yesterday after chasing down their target of 313 with 4-wickets in hand and thirteen balls remaining to take an unassailable 3-1 lead in the Grameenphone Cup.

And when Mahmudullah Riyad drove Tawanda Mupariwa straight down the ground for a boundary to score the winning runs, it



Tamim 154



Coventry 194 n.o

Windsor Park at Roseau. They won that series in the Caribbean 3-0.

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## 2 abducted in Bandarban

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Criminals kidnapped two rubber garden staff in separate incidents in Naikhangchhari upazila on Saturday night.

The latest incident brings the total to five people kidnapped in the district since the government declared troops withdrawal from the Chittagong Hill Tracts region at the end of last month.

Quoting witnesses, Upazila Chairman Tofael Ahmed told The Daily Star yesterday morning that a gang of armed criminals kidnapped Hefazetur

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## Govt asked to halt pullout from CHT

Half-day strike observed; 2-day strike, blockade called for Aug 19-20

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday directed the government to suspend the ongoing withdrawal of troops from Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) until August 19.

The court also adjourned till 2:00pm on August 19 the hearings of the two supplementary petitions filed by a pro-Jamaat-e-Islami

lawyer and a Bangalee resident of CHT seeking an injunction against withdrawal of army camps by the government.

Ex-law minister and BNP leader barrister Moudud Ahmed and central Jamaat leader barrister Abdur Razzaq moved for the two petitions.

The High Court's suspension order came

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## Lord Avebury hails troops withdrawal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Co-chair of the International Commission on Chittagong Hill Tracts Lord Eric Avebury yesterday praised the government's move to withdraw troops from the region as a part of the peace process there.

"This is a good decision of the government to withdraw the army from Chittagong Hill Tracts," Lord Avebury told reporters after calling on Foreign Minister Dipu Moni at the ministry.

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## JMB, Huji talk to operate together

Militants find regrouping easy as patrons, masterminds of the outfits stay safe

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK and KAILASH SARKAR

No effective measure was taken by any government to punish the patrons of the outlawed Islamist outfit Jama'at ul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) that launched an unprecedented country-wide bomb attack on August 17, 2005.

The law-enforcement agencies during their drives against militancy have so far arrested over 550 JMB militants including many of their top tier leaders.

However, no initiative by the law enforcers was ever seen to bring the patrons of these militants to book.

A number of victims in northern Rajshahi region individually filed cases against some alleged patrons of JMB. But no comprehensive effort has been seen from the government to take steps against these alleged patrons.

Former BNP minister Aminul Haque has been convicted by a court for patronising JMB and some other BNP leaders have been accused in cases filed by victims in Rajshahi region.

Following the March 2007 execution of JMB kingpins Abdur Rahman, Siddiqui Islam alias Bangla Bhai and four others, the government showed its firm stance to detect the outfit's political patrons and take stern action against them.

The patrons of JMB would face the same punishment (execution) if they are found guilty, announced the then law adviser of the caretaker government.

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This file photo shows abandoned explosives found after the nationwide explosions carried out by Jama'at ul Mujahideen Bangladesh on August 17, 2005.

## Raids upon alert

STAR REPORT

Law enforcement agencies conducted raids in various parts of the country, including Chittagong and Rajshahi on Saturday night and early yesterday following an alert message from the police headquarters on possible militant attacks.

Police patrols have also been enhanced in different places across the country following the alarms that militant attacks could take place in public gatherings or important government establishments in between August 15 and 21.

However, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Nur Mohammad denied sending any special alert on Saturday night. "We always keep our forces on alert so that law and order is maintained," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Asked about the special drives conducted in Chittagong and Rajshahi, he said the drives were on their own initiatives.

Our staff correspondent from Chittagong adds: the Chittagong metropolitan police (CMP) conducted an hour-long drive in the port city on

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## DEFAMATION CASE

Moeen asked to reply by Sept 13

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday asked former Army Chief Gen (ret'd) Moeen U Ahmed to reply to it by September 13 in a Tk-100 crore defamation suit filed against him by former BNP state minister for energy Iqbal

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