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Rajuk fills up Shitalakhya bank for housing scheme

Ignores WDB's objection; river width shrinks at Purbachal project point

PINAKI ROY

Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) has filled a portion of the Shitalakhya along the bank at Rupganj in Narayanganj for developing its Purbachal New Town Project.

On a recent visit to the project area it was seen that the Rajuk authorities filled up to 30-50 metres inside the river at the eastern side of the Kanchan Bridge.

The Water Development Board had drawn Rajuk's attention to the matter but Rajuk authorities did not seem to care

much. The government later approved the project, which violates environmental laws.

Asked about WDB's objection, Rajuk's planning member AYM Golam Kibria said, "Yes, a few people raised the issue, but finally we got the government's approval." Kibria is now the acting chairman of Rajuk.

No existing law allows the government to fill rivers for any purpose.

Interestingly, on its website, Rajuk says the objective of the Purbachal Town Development Project is: "To maintain the

balance of environment by proper Urbanisation. To create environment friendly and sustainable atmosphere." It also mentions that 5.7 percent of the total project area has been allocated for forest, eco park, green belt and urban green to maintain environmental balance.

In reality, however, the government agency has set an example of grabbing an important river.

Rajuk started filling the Shitalakhya from the Kanchan Bridge point where the river has taken a sharp bend. It is clearly

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Rajuk is filling a portion of the river Shitalakhya along its bank at Rupganj, Narayanganj for the Purbachal New Town Project.

Take stern action against Teknaf Jhau plunderers

PM directs authorities

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the authorities concerned to take stern action against those involved in plundering thousands of Jhau (tamarisk) trees along Cox's Bazar coast.

"Whoever the plunderers, even if they are from my party, find them out and take stern action against them," she said while addressing the third meeting of the national environment committee at her office yesterday.

In the last seven days, a section of local people felled thousands of trees and left Teknaf beach barren.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Ruling party men found involved

Accused deny allegation; dist admin team visits spot

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Some local Awami League (AL) and Juba League men are allegedly involved in cutting down the 30,000 Jhau (tamarisk) trees on about 250 acres of land in Teknaf beach of Cox's Bazar.

When this correspondent visited the area yesterday it was learnt that mainly AL party men have felled the trees to sell land in the form of plots for hotel, motel and business firms.

Sources concerned said, over 50 people led by Sabrang union unit AL president Zahed Hossain, his brother and Teknaf upazila unit Juba League general secretary Noor Hossain cut down the trees from August 5 to August 11.

Upazila Chairman and upazila unit AL general secretary

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

River survey begins in Narayanganj

Balu being demarcated first on court order

TAWFIQUE ALI and FAISAL PARAG in Narayanganj

Narayanganj district administration yesterday launched a survey on the Balu river to demarcate a seven-kilometre stretch of its bank in line with a court directive to draw the actual limits of four rivers around Dhaka.

Dhaka Divisional Commissioner Dr Khondaker Showkat Hossain inaugurated the survey putting a boundary pillar on the riverbank in Pashchimangaon in Kayedpara under Rupganj upazila.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7 PHOTO ON PAGE 5

Rab man faces attempted murder charge

Judicial probe ordered

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A fruit seller yesterday filed an attempted murder case with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka against Nuruzzaman, an assistant commissioner of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-3).

Ameer Ali Mir of Chunarughat of Habigonj district filed the case on behalf of the victim Lutfar Rahman, fruit seller of Khilgaon rail gate bazar.

After the hearing, Metropolitan Magistrate Jufker Hayat recorded the statement of the complainant, took the charges into cognisance and ordered a judicial inquiry into the incident.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Lailatul Qadr tonight

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muslims across the country will observe the holy Lailatul Qadr tonight.

The holy Quran was revealed on this night to show the mankind the path of worldly and eternal emancipation.

Muslim devotees will offer special night-long prayers at all mosques, seeking divine blessings of the almighty for themselves as well as the country and the Muslim Ummah.

Devotees will also visit the shrines and graves of their

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Attach properties of Rid Pharma officials

Court orders authorities; 5 accused still fugitive after 28 children died of toxic drug intake; JS body orders probe

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered attachment of movable and immovable properties of five officials of Rid Pharmaceuticals Ltd, including its managing director, in a case filed against them for manufacturing toxic Paracetamol syrup that claimed at least 28 children's lives.

The children died of renal failures, caused by intake of Rid's Paracetamol syrup and suspension, across the country from June to August.

Judge Golam Mortuza Majumder of the Drug Court passed the order after Brahmanbaria police submitted reports on the arrest warrants issued earlier against them.

The court directed the Officer-in-Charge

(OC) of Brahmanbaria Police Station to implement the order and submit report on it by October 14.

In the report, Sub-Inspector Kamruzzaman of the police station said they had earlier raided the houses of the accused to arrest them but they did not find them.

Earlier on August 11, the same court issued arrest warrants against the managing director of Rid Pharma, its two directors and two pharmacists after drug superintendent Shafiqul Islam filed the case with the court.

The court also asked OC of Brahmanbaria Police Station to submit report on arrest warrants issued against the accused by yesterday.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

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Celebrate A Flu Free Eid

Swine Flu - Do not be scared, be prepared

Swine Flu, or Swine Influenza, also known as H1N1 virus, is fast becoming a global epidemic, including here in Bangladesh

Swine Flu Symptoms

Fever, Loss of appetite, Body ache, Numbness, Cough, Nausea, Throat irritation, Running nose, Headache, Indigestion, Diarrhoea

Swine Flu is transmitted through

Sneezing and coughing, contact with infected objects, contact with an infected person's nose, mouth and eyes

Precautions

Apply a handkerchief while sneezing or coughing and dispose of the handkerchief in a suitable place

Maintain distance from an infected person

Wash hands properly

Use a mask

Stay confined at home when there are symptoms

Once infected, immediately contact a physician or get admitted in a medical centre

Enjoy a healthy Eid

Eid Mubarak

Public awareness:

UCB

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