

# Take strict action against polluters, land grabbers

Suggest senior journalists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Editors and senior journalists from different print and electronic media suggested taking measures against polluters, loggers and land grabbers to save the country's environment even if the decisions go against the ruling party men.

They requested the state minister for environment to take measures to save the country's rivers from pollution and encroachment and to preserve the biodiversity. They also assured the minister continuing media support to create awareness among the masses for protecting environment.

The suggestion came at a view exchange and Iftar programme with the editors hosted by Dr Hasan Mahmud, the state minister for environment and forest ministry yesterday.

Monowar Islam, director general (DG) of the Department of Environment (DoE) in a small presentation said the DoE has set a vision to make a pollution free, sustainable and healthy environment by 2021.

Out of 806 red category industries that need effluent treatment plant (ETP), 371 have already installed ETP in the Dhaka city, he said.

The DG also said the DoE recently has conducted drive against 18 industries polluting the environment and fined them Tk 2,54,87,200 and realised Tk 1,09,56,000.

He said Bangladesh is currently facing several environment problems including water pollution, air pollution, soil pollution, impacts of climate change, waste management, hill cutting, bio-diversity destruction and noise pollution.

The department is working to mitigate these problems.

Among the senior journalists Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, editor of now defunct the Observer, Matiur Rahman Chowdhury, editor of the Manabzamin, Shykh Seraj, chief of news, Channel I, Mostafa Kamal Mazumder, editor of the New Nation, Habibur Rahman Milon, advisory editor to the Ittefaq, Zahirul Islam Mamun, chief of news ATN Bangla were present on the occasion.

Senior officials including Dr Mihir Kanti Mazumder, secretary to the environment and forest ministry, Ishtiaq Ahmed, chief conservators of forests, Bangladesh were also present.

The minister listened to the views of the senior reporters and journalists and assured them of sitting with them shortly to discuss the issue and to take measures.



Students of Dhaka University stage a demonstration and vandalise vehicles on the campus yesterday as a private car hit rickshaw passenger Prof Sukomol Barua of Pali and Buddhist Studies department, leaving him injured.



President Zillur Rahman hands over a crest of the Integrated Development Foundation to Dr Shafique Ahmed at a function of unveiling a book on renowned nuclear scientist Dr Wajed Mia, published by the foundation, at the Bangabhaban yesterday.

## ADULTERATION DRIVE IN CITY 300 litres of fomal-in-mixed milk seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court dumped around 300 litres of fomal-in-mixed milk seized from the milk wholesale market on Rasthkhola Road in the capital's Nababpur yesterday.

One was arrested in this connection and sentenced to six months in jail.

The arrestee was Badsha Miah, a milk trader from Munshiganj.

The mobile court also fined him Tk 50,000. In default he will have to serve one month more in prison.

Magistrate Anwar Pasha led the anti-adulteration drive from Wednesday 9:30pm to yesterday 2:00am.

The court comprised a 15-member Rab team, Dhaka City Corporation Food Inspector Fayez Ahmed, Directorate of Environment Chemist Asad Hossain and BCSIR Chemist Abdullah.

Anwar told The Daily Star that acting on a tip off they conducted the drive on the milk wholesale market and found the presence of fomal-in in milk after testing.

The magistrate said they noticed many big containers of milk but could not catch their owners except Badsha Miah.

Badsha said he brings milk from Munshiganj while other traders bring it from greater Faridpur and some adjoining districts to the wholesale market.

He said they bring milk at night and mix formalin to keep it fresh, as there is no system of preserving milk in the market.

The magistrate said owners of the sweet shops buy milk from this market and hawkers also do the same to supply milk to the city dwellers.

Anwar said earlier they raided the market several times at day but did not find the presence of formalin in the milk.

The adulterators do not mix formalin with milk at day, Anwar added.

The court also saw that apart from formaline water was mixed with milk.

It gave the shop owners some kits for testing formalin.

They said the kits are available at BCSIR at a minimal cost.

## Reform Press Council, amend laws

Suggests JS body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The parliamentary standing committee on information ministry will recommend the government to reorganise the Bangladesh Press Council and amend the Press Council Act-1974 and Press Council Regulation-1980.

The quasi-judicial forum is nothing but a 'paper tiger', observed the parliamentary body yesterday.

"It is the task of press council to preserve freedom of press and improve standard of the newspapers and news agencies. But it has failed to achieve that so far," said Obaidul Quader, chief of the House watchdog after the meeting of the committee at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

"Tk 62 lakh was allocated for the press council, but it failed to perform worth of taka 62," lamented Quader, also a presidium member of Awami League. "We don't think the government should patronise such a white elephant".

## HYSAWA FUND Bangladesh to get US \$7m

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Australia is providing 7.7 million Australian dollars (about US\$7 million) in the water and sanitation sector of Bangladesh.

The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) is providing the support to the Hygiene, Sanitation and Water Supply (HYSAWA) Fund, complementing existing funding from the governments of Bangladesh and Denmark says a press release.

Australian support will enable the HYSAWA fund to extend its coverage from 513 to 553 union Parishads benefiting an additional 400,000 people in Khulna, Bagerhat and Satkhira districts.

## Ex-IGP Raquib Khandaker passes away

METRO DESK



Former inspector-general (IG) of Police Raquib Khandaker passed away at Bangkok General Hospital in Thailand on Wednesday at the age of 78, says a press release.

He left behind four sons and two daughters to mourn his death.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held after Jogh prayers at Gulshan Azad Mosque tomorrow.

Friends, relatives and well wishers are requested to attend and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Khandaker joined police service in 1956 as a member of the Police Service of Pakistan and retired as inspector-general of police in 1980.

He represented Bangladesh in numerous international conferences, seminars and meetings and was elected member of ECOSOC in 1984. Khandaker, widely acclaimed as a distinguished police officer, was a keen sportsman and a dedicated sports organiser.

He served as the president of Bangladesh Football Federation from 1976 to 1986 and was awarded the National Sports Award as a sports organiser in 1999.

## Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 4th death anniversary of photographer Lutfor Rahman Bayati, owner of Protichhobi

Photographers, popularly known as the archive of the country's politics. On the occasion, Qurankhwani, doa mahfil and Iftar prayer will be held after Asr prayer at his residence the city's Wireless Gate area today.

He snapped photos of different historical moment including 70's election, Bangabandhu's speck on March 7 and liberation war.

## JS body on home ministry to monitor sectional cases

RASHIDUL HASAN

The parliamentary standing committee on the home ministry will monitor the sensational and other major crime cases from now and give directions to the investigation officers concerned if necessary.

The House watchdog also recommended that it should not be considered abduction if a minor girl "wilfully" walks out with her near or dear ones.

In such cases, the parliamentary body also recommended to lessen punishment, which is generally given for abduction cases.

Explaining the reason of monitoring sensational cases, Maj Gen (retd) MA Salam, chief of

parliamentary standing committee, said people always want to know the developments in different sensational cases from lawmakers.

Salam said, "People also share different important matter about the cases with us. Therefore, we can give direction or advice to the law enforcement agencies in this regard."

"The committee yesterday discussed developments of 13 sensational cases including Samiul murder case in city's Adabor and killing of ATN Bangla journalist," Salam, also ruling AL lawmaker, told reporters after the meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The committee chief said incidents of murder and rape have increased in the recent months.

## TANHA MURDER

# Rajib confesses involvement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rajib yesterday confessed to killing three and a-half-year-old Jennifer Islam Tanha, daughter of his paramour Halima Yasmin, on the last day of his police remand.

During confession, Rajib said that he plotted to dope Halima and gold ornaments.

But he had no intention of killing the girl, Rajib said.

Halima felt unconscious after she took sedative-mixed curd that Rajib gave her to eat.

Rajib then started to stash seven tolas gold ornaments and Tk 1.18 lakh, which Halima brought along with

her while abandoning her husband's house, he said.

"I was compelled to kill the girl as she was screaming," Rajib told the Khilgaon police after he was brought face to face with Halima during interrogation.

Earlier, Rajib denied killing Tanha, said Aslam Hossain, sub-inspector of the police

station. Halima was arrested on charges of killing her daughter.

On August 16, a Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court sent Rajib to jail denying his bail prayer.

Both Rajib and Halima were sent to the court after completion of their separate remands.



## Change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over all the seven divisions in next 24 hours till 6pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places, Met Office said.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:22pm and rises tomorrow at 5:39am.

Country's highest temperature 34.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 24.0 degrees at Srimongal.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	31.6	26.7	93	76
Chittagong	31.4	24.8	97	83
Rajshahi	33.6	27.0	89	78
Khulna	33.7	27.5	84	76
Barisal	31.8	27.3	97	83
Sylhet	30.2	25.9	98	86
Cox's Bazar	32.5	25.3	96	83

## Steel mill fined Tk 9.11 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Department of Environment fined a steel mill Tk 9.11 lakh at Nasirabad industrial area yesterday as the factory is polluting air by emitting toxic smoke.

A team led by Munir Chowdhury, director (enforcement) of DoE in Chittagong, penalised Messers Multi Steel Casting Ltd in a drive to prevent environmental crimes.

Munir Chowdhury said the factory had been running without clearance from DoE, and Fume Extraction System which is obligatory for industries of this kind.

"Toxic smoke from the mill poses health hazards to workers and local residents, as fume extraction system is absent here," said Munir, adding that they strictly directed it to set up the system as soon as possible.

## CID to collect Saydee's comments on Prof Azad

RASHIDUL HASAN

The criminal investigation department (CID) has moved to collect Jamaat leader Delwar Hossain Saydee's hostile remark on late Prof Humayun Azad in parliament in 2004.

Requested by CID, the parliament secretariat will send Saydee's statement to home ministry in a day or two.

Following a petition, a Dhaka court in October 2009 ordered CID to re-investigate the case filed on charges of murder attempt on Prof Azad in February 2004.

The Daily Star got a copy of the statement Saydee made on January 25, 2004.

Pointing to Prof Azad's novel Pak Sar Jamin Sad Bad, published in Dailly Ittefaq in 2003, Saydee said, "Humayun Azad hurt Islam as well as the entire Muslim world through his writing."

"It is, therefore, imperative to pass a blasphemy law so that nobody cannot write or speak against any religion," said Jamaat leader Saydee who is known as a collaborator of the Pakistani forces in 1971 and now behind bars.

In the end of his speech, Saydee decried the then premier Khaleda Zia's attention through the state minister for religious affairs to this end.

On February 27, 2004, assailants severely stabbed Azad near Bangla Academy.

Azad's brother Kabir filed the petition seeking re-investigation into the attack stating, his brother on March 13, 2004 said Saydee criticised the book.

Prof Azad died in his apartment in Munich on August 11, 2004.



BNP holds a rally in the city's Muktangan yesterday to protest the government's order cancelling parole of Arafat Rahman Koko, son of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia. (Story on Page 5)

## City Jamaat chief on 3-day remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court placed Dhaka city unit Jamaat-e-Islami chief Rafiqul Islam Khan on a three-day remand yesterday in a case filed for torching a private car on June 26 that killed one of its passengers.

Third Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Ali Hussain passed the order after Detective Branch (DB) of police produced Rafiqul before it with seven-day remand prayer.

Rafiqul was also shown arrested in another case filed

with Uttara police station for making seditious statement.

DB police arrested Rafiqul from his residence on Wednesday and took him to the DB office for interrogation in the case filed with Ramna police station.

Earlier on August 23, Rafiqul in six cases on charges of obstructing police in discharging their duties and hurting religious sentiment of Muslims.

In the yesterday's forwarding report, DB Inspector Mohammad Ziauzaman, also

the investigation officer (IO), said Rafiqul Islam made provocative statements while being present at the Jubo Dal, Jatiyatadabi Chhatra Dal and Chhatra Shibir's processions during the hartal hours on June 27.

Moreover, instructed by Rafiqul on the day before hartal on June 26, the unruly activists of the BNP and Jamaat torched the private car and one of its passengers Mohammad Faruque Hossain succumbed to his injuries on July 1. So he needs to be remanded to know about the clues to the incidents, the IO said.

## NATIONAL UNIVERSITY Admission test Dec 17

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The admission test for honours courses of National University (NU) under the academic session 2010-11 will be held on December 17 this year, says a press release.

The examination will start at 11:00am and the admission process of the first year will be completed online.