

2 factories fined for polluting Begunbari canal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday realised Tk 14 lakh as fines from two industries for polluting water of Begunbari Canal in the city.

A team from DoE led by its Director (enforcement) Mumin Chowdhury gave the penalty to the industries in a drive under the operation to Prevent Environmental Crime, says a press release.

Ha-Meem Washing Plant was fined Tk 8.41 lakh for not having any ETP while Padma Poly Cotton Nit Fabrics Tk 5.49 lakh for installing faulty ETP.

In a surprise drive, the DoE team found severe pollution caused by Ha-Meem Plant.

Though Ha-Meem Plant was asked to set up ETP in 2002, the team did not find any ETP at the industry yesterday. The industry emitted its industrial wastages to Begunbari Canal through drain.

The industry also did not take any environmental clearance certificate for the last eight years.

Finding the fault in ETP of Padma Poly Cotton Nit Fabrics, the team directed the industry to repair it.

PM for global efforts to fight money laundering, militancy

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called for united global efforts to combat menaces like money laundering, terrorism and militancy.

Bangladesh looks forward to working closely with the Asia/Pacific Group (APG) and its member countries as well as other international organisations and their member countries for preventing money laundering, terrorism-financing and other financial crimes, she said.

The PM was addressing the opening session of APG Typology Workshop 2010 at the winter garden of Hotel Radisson in the city.

The Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG) arranged the workshop in collaboration with the government of Bangladesh as a part of the 13th Typologies Meeting of APG on Money Laundering on October 26-28.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith, Law Minister Barrister Shafique Ahmed and APG Principal Executive Officer David Shannon also spoke at the opening session, chaired by Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Atiur Rahman.

According to an estimation of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), between 2 percent and 5 percent of global GDP per year is laundered annually as the proceeds of crime, the largest sources of which are illicit drug manufacturing and trafficking, arms and human trafficking, corruption, fraud, extortion, kidnapping,



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina speaks at the opening session of APG Typology Workshop 2010 at a city hotel yesterday.

theft and environmental crimes.

Some 200 senior government officials from the countries of Asia/Pacific region are attending the meeting that will provide a platform for high-level discussion and co-operation in areas of anti-money laundering and counter-financing of terrorism and will review the techniques and trends or typologies of money laundering and terrorist financing.

Addressing the function as chief guest, the premier said it requires huge sums of money to operate militants' activities.

"Therefore, it is imperative to stop terrorism-financing in order to contain their activities," she said.

"Terrorism and militancy know no territorial borders. I always assert that terrorists have neither border nor race or creed. Hence, it is not possible for any country to combat this menace alone. It requires a united effort."

Money laundering and terrorism-financing are multidimensional global problems that require global solutions, she observed.

The PM said Bangladesh have taken all out measures against money laundering and terrorism-financing by enacting the Money Laundering Prevention Act "Bangladesh is the first amongst the South Asian countries in enacting anti-money laundering Act."

In order to strengthen the existing anti-money laundering Act, she said the Parliament

has passed the Money Laundering Prevention and Anti-Terrorism Act 2009.

"The government of Bangladesh is fully committed to implementing the relevant international conventions, particularly the recommendations of the global Financial Action Task Force (FATF) as well as the requirements of other relevant international agencies."

Hasina said her government's stance against terrorism, money laundering and other financial crimes is clear and very firm. "We are committed to countering these challenges through integrated efforts."

She mentioned that a high-powered National Committee on Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing headed by Finance Minister AMA Muhith has been constituted.

The PM said initiatives are also underway to recover billions of taka "amassed through corruption and laundered by influential leaders and adherents of BNP-Jamaat alliance."

The government has instructed the law enforcing agencies to make all out efforts for combating terrorist activities and terrorism-financing, she said.

"The government has already banned a number of organisations for their involvement in terrorist activities," she said.

Hasina said that as in their previous tenure, the present government also launched all out drive against militancy and corruption.

Stop remarks about BNP

JAF leader warns AL leader Hanif

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A leader of Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum (JAF) of Dhaka Unit yesterday warned Awami League Joint General Secretary Mahbul Alam Hanif of refraining from making any indecent remark about BNP and its leaders.

Advocate Khorshed Alam JAF-president of Dhaka Unit JAF said told a rally on the lower court premises protesting a recent remark involving BNP and its organisations by Hanif.

"If Hanif does not stop making any such comments against the BNP, he will be undressed (Digambar) where he is found" said Khorshed.

The rally, presided over by its General Secretary Sanaullah Mia, advocates Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, Masud Ahmed Talukder, Mohsin Miah and Mosleuddin Jasim among others spoke.

The AL leader recently involved BNP in Ruppaganj incident and called BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain a "Pensidygobler."

Sanaullah Mia said if BNP chairperson is evicted from her Cantonment residence, the government will be toppled.

Court orders against Islam to be defied

Says Amini

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ) Chairman Mufti Fazlul Haq Amini yesterday said they would not abide by the High Court or Supreme Court if they deliver any ruling or orders against Islam, the Quran or Hadith.

"One who will give verdict against the Quran or Sunnah will be considered an apostate (murtad)," Amini told a discussion at the Jatiya Press Club auditorium in the city.

Styled, "Islam and the country are under crisis: Way to recover," the discussion was organised by IOJ, a partner of BNP-led four-party alliance.

Amini said Awami League is the biggest and main crisis for the country at present. "Ousting Awami League from power is the only way to get rid of the present crisis," he added.

The Islamist party chief said the present government is destroying Islam though they were speaking in favour of Islam.

Those who believe that all religions are same cannot be remain as Muslim, he said, adding that there is no opportunity to restore secularism in this Muslim country.

Recognise indigenous people in constitution: PCJSS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) yesterday placed a proposal before the parliamentary committee to amend the constitution for providing constitutional recognition to the indigenous people.

A six-member delegation of PCJSS led by its vice president Ushatan Talukder submitted the written proposal to the chairperson of the committee Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, also the deputy leader of the House.

Mongal Kumar Chakma, information and publicity secretary of PCJSS, told The Daily Star that the chairperson expressed positive attitude towards the constitutional recognition to the indigenous people.

"We are now hopeful after meeting her," Mongal, also a member of the delegation, said.

Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury is also the con-

venor of Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord Implementation Committee.

The indigenous community have been demanding constitutional recognition for a long time.

PCJSS in the memorandum propose for inclusion of more than 46 indigenous communities of the country in the constitution.

They demanded for bringing 14 amendments in different articles of the constitution.

The demands include inclusion of a clause "but the state will patronise the conservation and flourishing of the languages of indigenous community" at the end of the clause "The state language of the republic will be Bangla" in article 3.

Senior leaders of PCJSS Goutam Kumar Chakma, Pranati Bikash Chakma, Shaktipada Tripura and Traima Singh Chowdhury are the other members of the delegation.



Transparency International, Bangladesh (TIB) Chairman M Hafizuddin Khan speaks at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his right is TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman and on his left TIB Trustee Board Member Prof Muzaffer Ahmad. (Story on Page 1)

Advertisement for Zoom Ultra mobile broadband service. Includes text: 'Get used to surprises', '2 MONTHS SUBSCRIPTION ABSOLUTELY FREE!', 'Which is why everyone is busy browsing the internet, shutting the doors on the world outside. Please do not disturb them!', and a table of plans.

Drive against crimes from Nov 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) is going to launch a special drive from November 1 to recover illegal arms and arrest criminals to ensure trouble-free business ahead of Eid-ul-Azha.

Different intelligence wings of the government have been asked to prepare lists of criminals and gather information regarding armed gangs across the city and submit these before launching the drive.

The decision came at a meeting at DMP headquarters yesterday. High officials of DGFI, NSI, SB, CID, Rab and DMP attended the meeting.

A DMP deputy commissioner preferring not to be named said a ten-day long special combined drive will start from November 1.

He said several armed gangs become active in cattle markets, rawhide trading and shopping malls in the city during Eid festivals.

The meeting decided that the DMP authorities will send a letter to Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) for handing over the list of cattle markets well ahead as last year the DCC sent the list of some cattle markets just before the Eid day that put the DMP in trouble.

The meeting also decided to request the DCC not to allow any cattle market on road worsening congestion, he added.

Act tough against killers of Mizanur

Demand 120 NGOs

DU CORRESPONDENT

Failure of the authorities concerned to control stalking of women could cause social disorder, said GAD Alliance, a national platform of 120 NGOs, yesterday, demanding steps to take tough actions against the killers of Natore college teacher Mizanur Rashid.

In a statement, the alliance said, "Stalking has become a major setback for healthy growth of our future generation and women as well."

The statement, issued by Steps Towards Development on behalf of the alliance, said Mizanur Rashid, a chemistry teacher of Lokmanpur College at Bagatipara Upazila, was a strong voice against stalking for which he was killed.

"He has set an example, which has moved to the conscious citizens. We demand punishment to his killers and full protection of his family," it said.

On October 12, two local young men attacked Mizanur, a chemistry teacher of Lokmanpur College at Bagatipara Upazila, for protesting stalking of his college girls. The stalkers ran a motorcycle into the teacher, leaving him critically injured.

After fighting for life for 12 days, he died at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University on October 24.

Unless all come forward to resist the social menace, the social order will be hampered and the women's dignity undermined, it said.

SC upholds HC bail to Mahmudur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday upheld a High Court (HC) order that granted bail to Mahmudur Rahman, acting editor of the Bangla daily Amar Desh, in a case filed for obstructing police in discharging their duties.

A three-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque passed the order, dismissing a government appeal against the HC order.

Following a bail petition filed by Mahmudur, the HC on July 12 granted ad-interim bail to him in the case filed with Tejgaon Police Station on June 2.

The government recently filed the leave-to-appeal petition against the HC order.

Mahmudur Rahman, however, will not be released from prison following the SC order, as he is now serving a six-month jail sentence, delivered on August 19, in a contempt of court case.

Barrister Rafique-ul Huq and Advocate AJ Mohammad Ali appeared for Mahmudur, while Additional Attorney General MK Rahman for the government.

Weather Today graphic with sun and cloud icons.

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Khulna, Chittagong, Barisal, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, said Met Office.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:22pm today and rises at 6:02am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 34.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakunda and lowest 21.2 degrees Celsius at Syedpur.

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

Table with columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.

Obituary

METRO DESK



Shamsur Rahman, former CSP and ambassador, popularly known as "Dr Johnson" passed away at a city hospital early yesterday at the age of 84. He was suffering from old age complications, says a press release.

The youngest brother of former Prime Minister Awar Rahman Khan, Shamsur Rahman, was a close friend of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and an accused in the Agartala Conspiracy Case.

He was appointed the first Bangladesh ambassador to Moscow. Rahman subsequently served as High Commissioner in New Delhi and ambassador to Rome. He retired in 1982.

He is survived by three daughters and one son, and a host of friends and relatives to mourn the death.

His qulqhwani will be held at House 500/A, Road 7, in Dhanmondi after Asr prayers today.