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Daniel Byman ponders on the issue

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## A CHILDREN'S EVENING

Snapshots of The Daily Star Dhaka English Medium Schools Cultural Programme 2011

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### BURIGANGA-TURAG CLEANING PROJECT

# Tk 21cr goes down rivers

Contamination remains as grave as ever due to failure in plugging pollution sources

PINAKI ROY

Though the government has already spent over Tk 21 crore on its much-hyped Buriganga-Turag River Cleaning Project, the rivers remain contaminated with toxic wastes, as the pollution sources could not be plugged.

In recent water quality tests, the Department of Environment found the amount of dissolved oxygen, which determines the degree of pollution, is still too low for aquatic lives to survive in the Buriganga.

"The water quality is not good yet because we couldn't stop the sources of liquid waste," said Abdus Sobhan, deputy director general of DoE.

Hazaribagh tanneries are still there, he said adding that excreta of millions of city dwellers are still emptying into the rivers through Wasa storm sewers every day.

With the river pollution continuing unabated, the dependence on groundwater grows.

Around 85 percent of the city's water demand is met

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People wash dishes in pitch-black water of the Turag to the west of Tongi Bridge in Dhaka while a government drive to remove sludge from the riverbed continues, hardly achieving anything as the sources of pollution have not been stopped.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

### EVACUATION Govt still wants to wait, see

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is still sitting on its policy of "wait and see" over evacuation of stranded Bangladeshi guest workers in troubled Libya.

Security of foreigners there are at stake and thousands are waiting to return home amid political chaos in the North African country.

"We will evacuate them only if that sort of situation arises," Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain said yesterday

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# Gaddafi regime crumbles

Rebels advance on Tripoli; UN Security Council votes sanctions; US tells the Libyan leader "it's time to go"

AGENCIES, Tripoli

Rebels advanced on the Libyan capital yesterday as US President Barack Obama urged Muammar Gaddafi to step down "now" amid growing fears that his teetering four-decade rule could descend into civil war.

The UN Security Council imposed a travel and assets ban on Gaddafi's regime and ordered an investigation into possible crimes against humanity by the Libyan strongman, the first time any such decision has been made unanimously.

Meanwhile, anti-regime forces have seized the city of Zawia, only 50km from the capital, Tripoli yesterday.

The Libyan government took

journalists to Zawia yesterday morning.

But instead of a show of government force, reporters saw opposition fighters manning the barricades in the city centre and flying their flag, reports BBC.

Fears of a full-scale civil war as Gaddafi loses his grip on power have prompted countries to evacuate tens of thousands of citizens and close down embassies, to escape reported gunfire, looting and food shortages.

Rebels are closing in on the capital, where Gaddafi loyalists have been carrying out orders to shoot on sight, witnesses said.

A resident told AFP that tanks and all-terrain vehicles driven by regime partisans were patrolling almost

deserted streets.

Russia became the latest country to put pressure on the Libyan regime with Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov telling Libyan counterpart Musa Kusa that Moscow condemned the unacceptable use of force against civilians.

Meanwhile, Libya's former justice minister announced he was forming a transitional government to replace Gaddafi's crumbling regime, which now controls only some western areas around the capital and a few longtime bastions in the arid south, reporters and witnesses say.

Mustafa Abdel Jalil said the new administration would include commanders of the regular army, much

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# Property tax on the cards

Govt mulls several new taxes from next year

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government is going to introduce property tax next year, the National Board of Revenue (NBR) announced yesterday adding that the move will help reduce the rich-poor gap.

Any person having more than one house or a flat in metropolitan areas will have to pay the property tax. NBR already collected information about who owns how many houses and flats in Dhaka Metropolitan City.

Additional tax will also be imposed on lands in the metropolitan areas, but the ceiling for tax free land ownership has not been determined yet, said an NBR high official adding that the property tax will be

two to three percent of the value of a taxable property.

There will be no property tax on agricultural land, said NBR Chairman Nasiruddin Ahmed at a media briefing yesterday in his office.

In a bid to increase its revenue earning the government is moving to introduce new income tax and value added tax (VAT) laws.

In the drafts of the new laws NBR proposed imposition of various new taxes including the property tax.

The chairman of the board said the new tax will help build a more equitable society.

Economists, however, expressed mixed reaction to the proposal. They said the

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# Humdinger ends in tie

Strauss (158) outshines Tendulkar (120)

SPORTS REPORTER

In a sparkling photo-finish at Bangalore, India and England

finished with only the fourth tie in World Cup history yesterday. Set a daunting 339 to win, England looked to be coasting home courtesy of a Andrew Strauss century before a double salvo from Zaheer Khan left them struggling. But improvised later-order batting from Graeme Swann, Tim Bresnan and Ajmal Shehzad saw them equal India's target off the last ball of the match. This was billed as the second marquee match of the World Cup after the Sri Lanka-Pakistan encounter on Saturday and it lived up to the billing and then some.

The stage was set for a thrilling finish when 29 runs were required off the last two overs. Tim Bresnan and Graeme

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England captain Andrew Strauss punches the air after scoring a scintillating century against India during the high-voltage World Cup Group B match at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bangalore yesterday.

# Teacher killed in classroom

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

A school teacher was chopped to death inside her classroom at Vainapara of Santhia upazila in Pabna yesterday.

Police said a man aged around 35 entered the Vainapara Govt Primary School at noon and killed Arifa Khatun, 28, of Songasa village in Sirajganj, with a sharp weapon.

Arifa was giving lessons to the students of class II.

The man fled on a three-wheeler van immediately after the killing, locals said.

Ataikula police in a drive last night arrested the van driver Robiul from Chowbaria of the upazila.

"The assailant was roaming suspiciously around the school since the morning. When the locals asked him about the reason for his being there, he said that he came to visit the place," Md Jahangir Hossain Matobbar, superintendent of police in Pabna, told The Daily Star.

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Arifa Khatun

# PM opens e-content repository

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National e-Content Repository would play a significant role in empowering the rural people and socio-economic development as it would make access to information much easier, said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday.

"People will get information on education, agriculture, health, law, human rights and citizen service from anywhere including the 4,501 union parishad information and service centres across the country through the repository," she said while inaugurating the

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