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TANNERY HAZARDS

Workers still in danger

Safety issues ignored, relevant laws not enforced

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has not enforced environment and labour laws in the leather sector, owing to which workers' safety issues remain mostly ignored, says a report of the New York-based Human Rights Watch (HRW).

Workers of 90 percent of the tannery industries at Hazaribagh in the capital have been exposed to hazardous chemicals and often put at risk of on-job accidents, leaving them partially or completely disabled, according to the report.

However, the leather workers, estimated to be more than 15,000, are the ones contributing to the annual export growth of \$41 million in this sector since 2002.

The report, "Toxic tanneries: the health repercussions of Bangladesh's Hazaribagh leather", produced yesterday was based on a field survey conducted between January and May. In the survey, the rights body interviewed 134 people, including current and ex-tannery workers and officials, slum dwellers, healthcare

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



Tannery wastes -- solid and liquid -- get stuck in a low land of Hazaribagh in the capital. Despite outcries from the media and locals, tanneries continue to release pollutants into the city's environment, posing threats to public health. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

12 to testify for Ghulam Azam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 in an order yesterday fixed the number of defence witnesses for war crimes accused Ghulam Azam to 12.

In a short order, Chairman of the three-member tribunal Justice Md Nizamul Huq also asked the defence to submit particulars of the 12 witnesses on October 14.

The tribunal gave the order following a petition submitted by the prosecution on Monday.

In the petition,

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

No plan to deploy army in JS polls

CEC tells diplomats

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission has no plan to deploy army to maintain law and order during the next parliamentary polls, said the chief election commissioner at a meeting with leading diplomats in Dhaka yesterday.

"We have no plan to deploy army during the next parliamentary polls to maintain law and order. The regular law enforcement agencies should take the burden to do the job," EC Secretary Muhammed Sadique told reporters quoting CEC Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad as say-

ing at the meeting.

The CEC made the comment in response to a diplomat's query whether the EC would opt for deploying army to ensure security in the next polls scheduled to be held by the end of 2013.

In all the parliamentary polls held since 1991, armed forces -- army, navy and air force -- worked to maintain law and order side by side with the law enforcers.

Even before the 2001 parliamentary polls, the armed forces were given sweeping authority by amending electoral laws

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

HALL-MARK SCAM CASES Tanvir, Tushar denied bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday rejected Hall-Mark Managing Director Tanvir Mahmud and General Manager Tushar Ahmed bail in eight cases filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission for the Sonali Bank loan scam.

The ACC filed 11 cases against seven officials of the controversial Hall-Mark Group, including Tanvir and Tushar, a brother-in-law of Tanvir, and 20 officials of Sonali

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

SONALI BANK AGARGAON Tk 140cr scam under ACC probe

8 officials quizzed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday interrogated eight officials of Sonali Bank's Agargaon branch in connection with a loan scam of Tk 140 crore done in the controversial Hall-Mark style.

A four-member ACC probe team led by its Deputy Director Mohammad Benjir Ahmed said, "We started the investigation following a report headlined 'After Tanvir, it is Gautam' published in The Daily Star on September 13."

He said in the preliminary investigation, they found that Tk 140 crore had been misappropriated from the branch in the capital between January 2011 and April this

SEE PAGE 7 COL 7

4 held over Ramu attacks

STAR REPORT

Police yesterday arrested four more people at Ramu upazila in Cox's Bazar for their alleged involvement in the recent attacks on Buddhist temples and houses.

"We have sufficient evidence of their

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

PRAYER TIMING October 10

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-45	5-20
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-45	5-50
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation



A face-off between a policeman and one of the agitating Destiny distributors at the capital's Segunbagicha yesterday. Inset, the distributors demonstrate at the Ramna Park protesting the freezing of the company's bank accounts and cases filed against its officials. Story on page 2.

PHOTO: STAR/COURTESY

JOYDEVPUR-MAWNA ROAD Army to get widening job

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a sudden move, the communications ministry yesterday decided to award the now-suspended widening work of the 40-kilometre Joydevpur-Mawna stretch of the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway to Bangladesh Army.

The army will take up the job once the prime minister approves a proposal in this regard, Communications Minister Obaidul Quader told newsmen at the secretariat.

The announcement comes at a time when the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) has been evaluating fresh tenders submitted by 11 companies for the project.

However, a legal battle between the communications ministry and a local contractor has been pending with a tribunal over the cancellation of the original contract.

After failing to pick an eligible bidder, the communications ministry in May awarded the Tk 150 crore repair work of the Meghna and Meghna-Gumti bridges to the army.

The ministry under former minister Syed Abul Hossain had cancelled the original contract worth Tk 330 crore with Intraco BD in September last year, noting that

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina that the local BNP lawmaker Lutfur Rahman Kajal had instigated the violence in Ramu on the night of September 29?

Yes (67%)

No (31%)

No Comments (2%)

TOTAL VOTES: 925

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the people identified by the law enforcers are the real killers of journalist couple Sagar-Run?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT facebook.com/dailystarnews

American, French scientists win Nobel in physics

AFP, Stockholm

Serge Haroche of France and David Wineland of the US won the Nobel Prize yesterday for work in quantum physics that could one day open the way to revolutionary computers.

The pair were honoured for pioneering optical experiments in "measuring and manipulation of individual quantum

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5



HIKE IN ADMISSION FEES BCL men attack BAU protesters

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

At least 20 students were injured at Bangladesh Agricultural University yesterday when Chhatra League men attacked the activists of Pragatishil Chhatra Jote, a combine of leftist student organisations.

Eight of the injured, four of them female, were admitted to Mymensingh Medical College and Hospital. The others were taken to BAU health centre.

The attack took place when activists of Samajtantrik Chhatra Front and Bangladesh Chhatra Union, under the banner of the Jote, were

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

Brain-eating amoeba kills 10 Pakistanis

REUTERS, Islamabad

A brain-eating amoeba has killed at least 10 people in Pakistan's most populous city since May, a World Health Organization official said yesterday.

Naegleria fowleri has a fatality rate of more than 98 percent. It is transmitted when

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

