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HELLO BIWTA! ARE YOU WATCHING?

While a notice of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) prohibits connecting of sewerage with the Shitalakkhya, these pipes from nearby residential areas carry raw sewage into the river. The global community will pass another World Environment Day today, but nobody knows if environment pollution will ever stop. The photo was taken in the west of Narayanganj port recently.

PHOTO:
ANISUR RAHMAN



ASHIYAN CITY WRIT Rights activists urge CJ to change bench

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some rights activists have submitted an application to the chief justice apprehending that they will not get justice from the High Court bench led by Justice Quazi Reza-Ul Hoque in a writ petition challenging the legality of the Ashiyan City housing project.

In line with a Supreme Court order, the HC bench of Justice Hoque and Justice ABM Altaf Hossain is now holding final hearings on the writ petition.

On May 28, Justice Hoque had directed four petitioners, including eminent rights activist Sultana Kamal, to leave the courtroom on the excuse of "lack of space," according to the application.

Petitioners Sultana Kamal, executive director of Ain O Salish Kendra;

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200 MPs for tobacco

Speak against hiking tax

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

A staggering 250 lawmakers of both the treasury bench and the opposition have engaged in campaigns for and against a tax increase on tobacco products ahead of the upcoming budget.

Of them, 200 parliamentarians have sent demi official letters to the National Board of Revenue (NBR), urging it not to increase tax on tobacco products, especially bidi, while the

others in writing suggested 70 percent supplementary duty (SD) on tobacco products in the upcoming budget, sources in the NBR said.

Rashed Khan Menon, one of those who sides with the tobacco industry, said he was against increasing tax on bidi as that would put the jobs of 15-20 lakh workers of the bidi factories at stake.

Others who have similar views, include Shahiduddin Chowdhury

Anee, Mojibur Rahman Sarwar, AKM Mohidul Islam, AHN Ashiqur Rahman and Md Afzal Hossain.

Those who support increasing SD on bidi, cigarette, jora and gul, cite the impact of tobacco on health, economy and the environment.

"We can't ignore health, economic and environmental issues just for revenue and employment of some people," said Saber Hossain

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Awareness on militancy goes futile

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Most mosques and academic institutions have failed to play their part in creating awareness against militancy, observed the national committee on resisting militancy yesterday.

In the middle of last year, the government prepared a model speech promoting social awareness against militancy.

The national committee asked the authorities of academic institutions and private universities to deliver the speech every weekday before the national anthem and imams of mosques before

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Mojaheed's trial set to conclude

Closing arguments of
prosecution, defence end

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Proceedings of the war crimes case against Jamaat Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed are likely to end today, as both the prosecution and the defence have completed their closing arguments.

The prosecution yesterday started placing replies in response to the defence's arguments and were asked by International Crimes Tribunal-2 to complete their replies within an hour today.

Earlier in the day, the defence completed their arguments, claiming that the prosecution had failed to prove the charges brought against Mojaheed.

The prosecution, on the other side, having completed their arguments on May 16, claimed they had proved all the charges and sought Mojaheed's capital punishment.

The defence may also place short replies today, if they feel it necessary. The three-member tribunal led by Justice Obaidul Hassan, as per relevant laws, would then either fix a

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Longest German word dropped

THE TELEGRAPH ONLINE

The word, which refers to the "law for the delegation of monitoring beef labelling", has been repealed by a regional parliament after the EU lifted a recommendation to carry out BSE tests on healthy cattle.

Rindfleischetikettierungsüberwachungsaufgabenübertragungsgesetz -- the 63-letter long title of the law has officially ceased to exist.

German is famous for its

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EDITOR: MAHFUZ ANAM-Published by the Editor from Transcraft Ltd, 229, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208 and 12-13 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: 64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215, Tel: 9144330 (Hunting) & 8124944, Fax: 9144332, 8125155, 8126154, GPO Box No: 3257, e-mail: editor@thedailystar.net,reporting@thedailystar.net