



FONTERRA UNDER SCANNER

Vol. XXIII No. 220

Imported milk from the New Zealand firm to go through laboratory tests

PAGE B1

BHADRA 13, 1420 BS

FOR A SIXTH REPUBLIC

SHAWAL 20, 1434 HIJRI

The article calls for a change in the failed system and start afresh

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Your Right to Know

MALALA BAGS PEACE PRIZE

The Pakistani 16-year-old will receive the children's award for this year in Hague in September



SAVE BURIGANGA PROJECT

5pc progress in 2 years

Cost of dredging, linking with Jamuna to go up by Tk 600cr

PINAKI ROY

The government has not been able to ensure enough finance to revive the polluted Buriganga river by connecting it with the Jamuna despite Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's high sounding political commitment, resulting in an abysmal 5-6 percent progress of the project in the last two years.

Officials say only Tk 100 crore was released in the last two years against the total budget of Tk 944 crore. The project was supposed to be completed in June next year. Now the deadline has been extended by another year.

The delay inflicts a double blow to the project as its cost has shot up to around Tk 1,500 crore due mainly to an increase in per cubic metre dredging cost from Tk 126 to Tk 242.

The project involves the dredging of 162 kilometres of river way between a dirty Buriganga and a clean Jamuna. This includes vital dredging of 23 km of the Pungli river, which has become almost dead after the Bangabandhu Bridge was constructed.

In the past the Pungli served as a bridge between the Buriganga and the Jamuna. Reviving this river would have a lot of positive impact on agriculture and livelihood.

Other than dredging, the project would build a water regulator and fish pass system to help migration of the fish.

Senior Secretary Sheikh Altaf Ali of the water resources ministry said funding of a project was not in their hands irrespective of the priorities attached to it. Many other ministries got higher allocation, he added. Upon assuming office in 2009, the prime minister

decided to initiate this project to bring fresh water to the Buriganga during the lean period and increase the flow of SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

BIWTA DRIVE TO CHECK POLLUTION -- PAGE 2



Filth being pumped out of the Turag river near a BIWTA land station in Ashulia on the outskirts of Dhaka city yesterday afternoon. The Turag is part of the 162-kilometre waterway between

a dirty Buriganga and a clean Jamuna. About 6.5km of the Turag has been dredged on a limited scale under a project to connect the Buriganga with the Jamuna.

Judge jailed for keeping

Phensedyl COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced a judge to four years in jail for possessing 342 bottles of Phensedyl in December last year.

The convict Javed Imam, 30, is one of the senior assistant judges of Bhola district Judge's Court. The case was the first of its kind where a judge was convicted for possessing contraband drugs, said court

Judge Ruhul Amin of the Second Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court pronounced the verdict in presence of SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Money Laundered by Koko

S'pore returns Tk 7.4cr more Role reversed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission has brought back the remaining Tk 7.40 crore of around Tk 21 crore that the BNP chairperson's younger son Arafat Rahman Koko and his associate siphoned off to Singapore.

The ACC received the last tranche of the laundered money on August 13, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam told reporters after handing over a dummy cheque for the amount to ACC Chairman Badiuzzaman at a programme in the capital yesterday.

The commission on November 22 last year received Tk 13.44 crore and another Tk 15.48 lakh as interest for the laundered money in January this year.

The ACC had opened the Stolen Asset Recovery Account with Sonali Bank to receive the money, said ACC Chairman Badiuzzaman.

He said the recovered money would be spent on combating corruption.

On March 17, 2009, ACC Deputy Director Abu Syeed sued Koko, younger son of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Koko takes bribes from two foreign companies, deposits 2004-07 around Tk 21 crore with a Singapore bank. ACC sues Koko; Siemens faces case for worldwide

Mar 2009 corruption; Koko's deal with the firm exposed Siemens case prompts Singapore to freeze Koko's Nov 2012

account. Singapore sends back Tk 13.44 crore from the account after a deal with Bangladesh Singapore sends Tk 15.48 lakh as interest of the Jan 2013

laundered money Singapore sends back the remaining Tk 7.4 crore

Aug 2013 from Koko's account

Logs recovered by forest and coast guards have been left to rot in the Chandpai

range of the Sundarbans (East). In their drive against looters over the last six

months, they seized wood worth Tk 10 crore from the range alone. The photos

The money to be used for anti-corruption drive, is deposited with ACC's Stolen Asset Recovery Account with Sonali Bank. **NEWS** ANALYSIS

only in 7 yrs

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The UN effort Sheikh Hasina had sought around seven years ago to stop her archrival Khaleda Zia-led alliance from holding a general election without the Awami League seems to have returned to put pressure, this time on Hasina, to change her government's strategy for holding the next parliamentary polls.

And this may benefit her archrival Khaleda, whose party now feels upbeat over the UN Secretary General's Friday's phone call to her and Hasina urging their parties to sit in dialogue to resolve the ongoing political crisis centring on the general election.

Around seven years ago, Hasina and her party were benefited from the UN move.

At that time, the BNP-led alliance was desperate to have the parliamentary polls held in January 2007 under the SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

honoured by rights body STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof Yunus

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAO

Nobel Peace Prize winner Dr Muhammad Yunus yesterday said the ultimate goal of the Liberation War was to establish peace in the country and it was yet to be achieved.

"If we can bring peace to

our country, we will be able to move ahead of the countries that are more advanced than us," he said when a delegation of Bangladesh Muktijoddha Gonoparishad called on him at the Yunus Centre, Dhaka.

Different socio-political and rights organisations SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



were taken on Friday.

Diplomats of different countries and representatives of

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Diplomats tell EC about their expectation WASIM BIN HABIB and PANKAJ KARMAKAR

liamentary elections in Bangladesh to be held in a free and fair manner with the participation of all political parties. They expressed this view at a meeting with the Election Commission (EC) yesterday as the country now faces political uncertainty centring on the general elections due at

multinational donor agencies in Dhaka want the next par-

the end of this year or early next year. SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Former CEC contradicts incumbent's views

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The Election Commission has suddenly claimed to have powers, in addition to the ones under Article 91E of the RPO, to cancel candidacy for electoral offences in parliamentary polls.

Weakening of EC

The EC led by Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad in a clarification sent to the media claimed to have such authority, something Ahmad's predecessor ATM Shamsul Huda has dismissed as incorrect.

The EC has cited the finding as a major defence in its latest move to defend its decision not to retain Article 91E that provides the commission with the authority to revoke candidature.

The commission's clarification, sent to the press on Monday night, claims that the deletion of 91E will not take away its powers to this effect because the EC enjoys such SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

BNP ready to Fair polls with all sit with govt parties' participation Says Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP is ready to sit with the government anywhere to find a way out of the current political impasse over the polls-time government, party spokesperson Mirza Fakhrul Islam

Alamgir said yesterday. "We are ready to sit for a dialogue. The government has to take the initiative, but it is not making any

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