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Says Russian PM as Kiev launches operation against separatists
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INACTION OVER TANNERY RELOCATION

14 top officials face contempt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a contempt of court rule on 14 present and former government officials for failing to ensure relocation of tannery industry from Hazaribagh to save the Buriganga river from pollution.

The HC order came following a petition filed by a human rights organisation on April 13.

About five years back, the court asked the officials, including the industries secretary and director general of the Department of Environment, to relocate the polluting tannery factories from Hazaribagh to a new industrial zone in Savar by April 30, 2011.

But the officials didn't take any steps to that end, leaving the Buriganga, the lifeline of Dhaka city, exposed to excessive pollution.

The tanneries in Hazaribagh discharge around 22,000 cubic litres of toxic waste into the Buriganga every day, according to the DoE.

In a 2012 report, the US-based Human Rights watch said the Hazaribagh tannery area is one of the world's most polluted places that affect health of people living around those.

In yesterday's ruling, the court asked Industries Secretary Mainuddin Abdullah, DoE Director General Raisul Alam Mondol, and 12 others to explain in two weeks why they should not be convicted of contempt of court for not complying with its order.

The HC on June 23, 2009 directed them to relocate the tanneries by February 28, 2010. It later extended the deadline for six months.

On October 30, 2010, the court gave them another six months to relocate those.

The industries ministry in 2003 took up a project to shift the factories to the new industrial zone in Savar. And 155 industrial plots were also allocated there for this.

But there has been no progress in relocating the factories due to negligence

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Toxic waste from tanneries in Hazaribagh flowing into the Buriganga river yesterday. Several notices issued against tanners to relocate their factories to Savar went unheeded. The factories would have had the facility of an effluent treatment plant in Savar. PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

KILLING CAUGHT ON CAMERA

2 key accused left out

Charge sheet against 11; family of victim rejects it

CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER

The Rapid Action Battalion yesterday pressed charges against 11 people, mostly Jubo League men, in the sensational murder of Jubo League leader Riazul Haque Khan Milky.

Milky's family, however, has rejected the charge sheet as the elite force has dropped the names of two main accused.

His cousin Niloy Milky said they would file a no confidence petition



Riazul Haque Milky

against the charge sheet.

The two main accused are Zahidul Islam Tipu, general secretary of Motijheel thana Awami League, and Wahidul Alam Arif, general secretary of Dhaka city (south) Jubo League.

Six of the accused are in jail and five are on the run.

The charge sheet came almost nine months after Milky was gunned down on the night of July 30 last year in front of a shopping mall in the capital's Gulshan.

Milky's brother Maj Rashedul

Haque Khan filed the case the same night against 11 named and four to five unnamed people. Milky was an organising secretary of Dhaka city (south) Jubo League.

The court will decide on April 28 whether to accept the charges.

Asked why the two main accused were dropped from the charge sheet, Rab Media Wing Director ATM Habibur Rahman said, "We have included the names of those against whom we found evidence of involvement in the murder."

In the CCTV camera footage of the

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Baishakh tour turns tragic

2 students drowned, 4 missing at coast of St Martin's island

STAR REPORT

A joyful trip turned tragic in a simple twist of fate.

Two university students drowned and four others went missing in the waters of St Martin's where they went to celebrate Pahela Baishakh.

The incident happened on Monday afternoon as they went swimming off the coast of the St Martin's Island in Cox's Bazar.

The dead -- Manfezul Islam, 23, and Saddam Hossain, 22 -- were students of Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology in the capital. The four who remain unaccounted for are their classmates Sabbir Hasan, Shahrier Islam Noman, Uday Mahmood and Ghulam Rahim.

A group of 34 students of CSE department went to the St Martin's to celebrate Pahela Baishakh, the first day of the Bangla calendar year, with no idea that the events that would unfold would haunt them for the rest of their life.

The Bangladesh Navy ship BNS Nirmul has meanwhile joined the Coast Guard and around 12 trawlers owned by locals in a combined search operation in the Bay of Bengal.

The search operation would continue until they found the students, said Lt Shahid Al Ahsan, St Martin's station commander of Bangladesh



Manfezul Saddam

Do 'study' as Tarique did

Now Fakhru'l advises AL leaders over remarks on Bangabandhu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru'l Islam Alamgir has advised Awami League leaders to do some study of history, claiming that Tarique Rahman has revealed some "historical truths" after studying different books.

Fakhru'l also went on to compare Tarique with Cuban leader Fidel Castro and said, "After his revolution, Castro had said in a court: 'I may be hanged, but history will embrace me.' And we know history has embraced him [Castro]."

Addressing a meeting at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday, he said, "There is enough information to support what Tarique has said in London. If Tarique Rahman is wrong, prove it providing proper evidence and information."

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, a pro-BNP

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Prepared for celebrations and all dressed for the occasion, a woman walks a street in Dhaka University on Pahela Baishakh. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

United Airways in trouble

Non-payment of Tk 77cr charges may lead to suspension of operation

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Private carrier United Airways (BD) Ltd may face operational suspension due to outstanding aeronautical and non-aeronautical charges of around Tk 77 crore to the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (Caab).

The airlines regulator has already imposed a ban on sale or purchase of aircraft by United Airways until it clears all current and outstanding charges in the next one year.

"If the airline fails to pay the charges within the scheduled timeframe, we might stop their operation anytime," Caab Chairman Air Vice-Marshal Mahmud Hussain told The Daily Star on Thursday.

The private carrier was not regular in paying its dues to Caab in the last one year, he said. "The airline has directly collected around Tk 9 crore embarkation fees from passengers on behalf of Caab but is yet to deposit that sum," he cited.

The airlines regulator has served at least 20 notices in the last one year on United Airways asking it to pay the arrears. It was all in vain.

Caab at a meeting with the carrier on April 6 instructed it to pay Tk 5

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Canadian International School Expand's Horizon



The Canadian International School received its CERTIFICATE OF ACCREDITATION from Manitoba Education at an official ceremony on April 13. CIS is now officially a MANITOBA AFFILIATED OVERSEAS SCHOOL that will offer graduating students a HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA which is recognized by Universities around the world.

The visiting Assistant Deputy Minister for the Manitoba Education School Program Division, Ms. Aileen Najduch presented

the Certificate of Accreditation to Mr. Mohammad Kamal Uddin, Chairman of CIS. She was accompanied by Ms. Daniele Dubois Jacques, Education Advisor in Science.

The official MOU between Manitoba Ministry of Education, Canada and Canadian International School was signed last October in Dhaka. As per the agreement, the school will be inspected on a regular basis by Manitoba Education to ensure that CIS is meeting or exceeding the high educational standards laid out in the Accreditation document. Teachers at CIS will also take part in Professional Development sessions facilitated by the Accreditation Team members.

The official ceremony was followed by a cultural show and dinner in celebration of Bangla New year. The program was attended by the students, parents, teachers, staffs, representative from the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, friends and well wishers of CIS.

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