



**WITH TODAY'S ISSUE**  
A Weekly Publication of The Daily Star  
**the STAR**  
stories behind the news

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# Act now to save rivers

DCs asked to take effective steps against grabbing, not to give in to political pressure

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday asked the administration to take stern action against river grabbing and pollution and not to bow to any pressure from politicians.

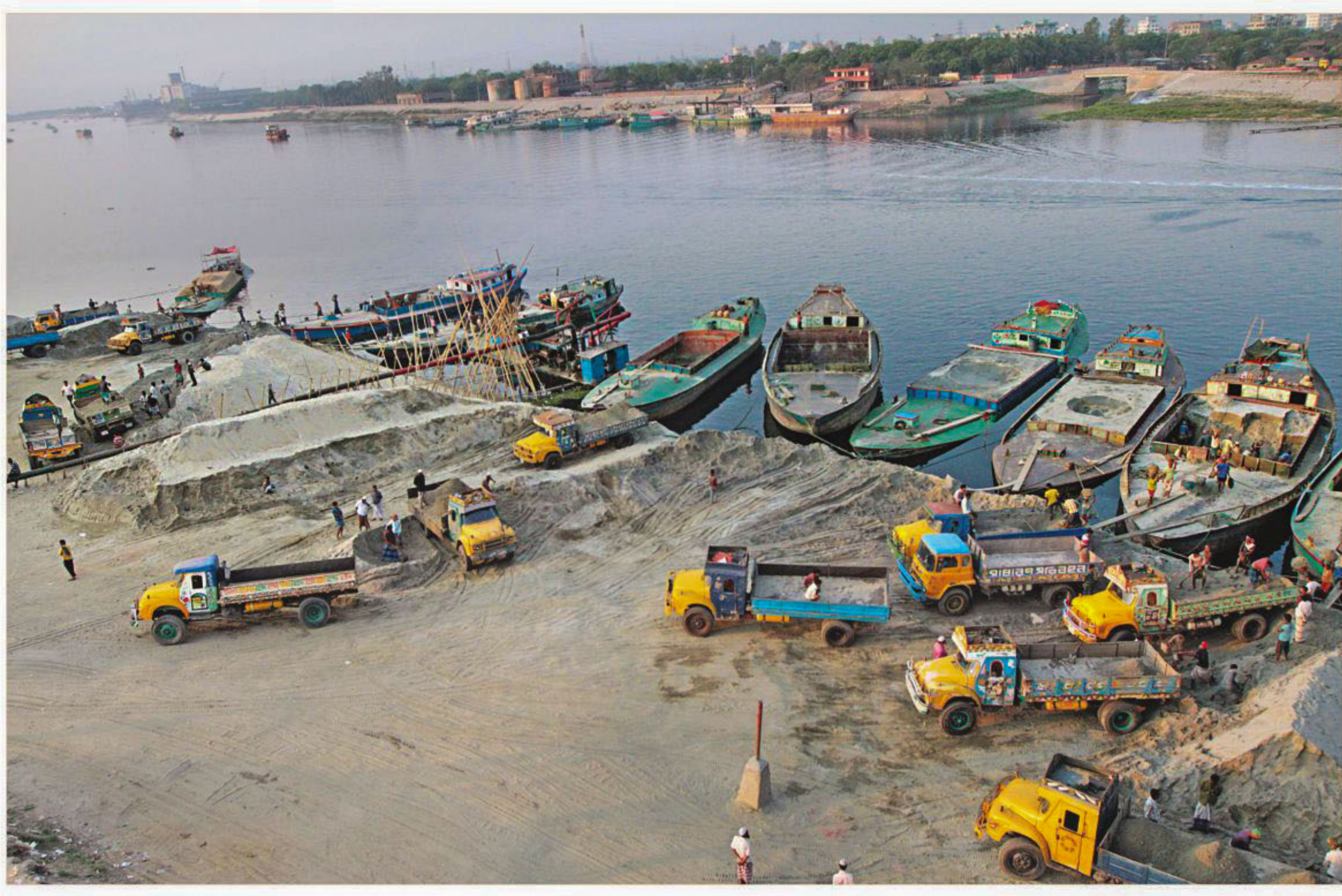
In 2009, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had made commitments to save the country's rivers and her government undertook multiple projects involving several hundred crores of taka.

But the situation has not improved much since then and the government's progress was hampered largely by influential quarters involved in rampant river grabbing and pollution.

"Saving the rivers from grabbers and pollution is our first priority. You do not bow to any political pressure," Water Resources Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud told the deputy commissioners yesterday.

He conveyed the government's instructions to the DCs on the last day of their three-day conference held at the Secretariat. He also asked them to forward the message to upazila nirbahi officers as well.

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Nobody could stop them. Despite outcry from the media and green campaigners, sand traders have been running their business by encroaching into the river Shitalakkhya to the east of Kanchpur bridge in Narayanganj.

PHOTO: FILE

# Unemployment the biggest challenge

Youths can be turned into assets if properly trained; World Population Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nearly one-third of Bangladeshi youths are either unemployed or under-employed, leaving a large chunk of potential labour of the developing country unutilised or underutilised.

The situation is worse in the case of female youths having a higher rate of unemployment than their male counterparts, in spite of their educational achievement.

But youths, aged between 15 and 29, who constitute over one-fourth of the total population, can be made into assets for the country if they are educated and trained well, experts said.

Amidst this scenario, Bangladesh, along with the rest of the world, is set

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# Failed company to get \$0.78b Padma job

Tender rules 'overlooked' to favour Chinese firm

SHARIER KHAN and M ABUL KALAM AZAD

Chinese company Sinohydro Corporation, which has kept the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway Expansion project stalled for two years, may bag the Padma Bridge River Training Project by offering a questionably lower price.

The Chinese company is supposed to be ineligible to take part in this massive tender as it is facing the World Bank's "early temporary suspension" for suspected wrongdoings. As per tender rule, the government is supposed to disqualify such a bidder.

Sinohydro, Korean Hyundai and Belgian Jan De Nul submitted financial proposals to the Bridges Division on June 19 and evaluation of their bids is going on.

Sources say Sinohydro has offered to carry out river training works for the Padma Bridge construction for Tk 9,224 crore. It has, at a later stage, additionally offered a 5.6 percent discount on its offer, slashing its price down to Tk 8,778 crore.

Hyundai and Jan De Nul have offered Tk 12,122 crore and Tk 12,324 crore for the same job respectively.

Sinohydro snatched the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway Expansion job by making a similarly low offer in 2010. But later it totally stopped the expansion works in a 140 km part of the

# CID can inquire, not investigate

HC modifies its earlier order but rejects govt plea for pulling out the agency of 7-murder investigation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday turned down a government petition seeking orders not to involve the Criminal Investigation Department of police in the investigation into the Narayanganj seven-murder incident.

However, the bench of Justice Md Rezaul Haque and Justice Gobinda Chandra Tagore slightly modified its earlier order saying that the CID will conduct inquiry into the gruesome abduction and murder of seven people in April this year.

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Street vendors sell vegetables in front of a painting of Argentina football superstar Lionel Messi in the old part of Dhaka city on Thursday.

PHOTO: AFP

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# 'Advantage Germany'

AFP, Sao Paulo

Argentina coach Alejandro Sabella believes a well-rested Germany will have the advantage against the weary South Americans in Sunday's World Cup final.

Sabella's players advanced to the Maracana showpiece in a gruelling extra-time and penalty shoot-out battle with the Netherlands that the Argentina coach described as like a "war."

The fact that Germany have had an extra day's rest and effectively had their 7-1 win over Brazil wrapped up

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# Ban on marriage with Rohingya refugees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has prohibited marriages between Rohingya refugees and Bangladeshis, considering that such marriages create social and cultural problems and force it to give citizenship to refugees.

The inspector general of registration under the law ministry issued a circular yesterday, asking the marriage registration offices across the country to prevent kazis from conducting any marriage between refugees, who are the nationals of Myanmar, and Bangladeshi citizens.

Referring to the circular, IGR Khan Md Abdul Mannan told The Daily Star that legal action would be taken against kazis from now on for registering marriages between Rohingyas and Bangladeshis.

Their licences may be cancelled or they may be dismissed from their jobs, if they do it in violation of the order, he said.

Rohingya refugees, who live in a certain area in the country, wed Bangladeshi nationals, and after the marriage they get citizenship and Bangladeshi passport, the IGR said.

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