

Karnaphuli in peril

Encroachers, polluters continue to harm lifeline of Ctg; district admin marks 2,500 illegal structures

MINHAJ UDDIN, Chittagong

Widespread encroachment and mindless dumping of untreated waste are gradually killing the Karnaphuli River, the lifeline for Chittagong city and the country's premier port.

But the authorities have apparently turned a blind eye to it.

They are yet to demarcate the river boundary, leaving scope for land grabbers to encroach on the river, especially on its 24-kilometre stretch from Mohora to Patenga estuary.

In a survey in August, the district administration marked around 2,500 illegal structures in that part of the river.

The survey was conducted following a High Court directive in July 2010. The court order came upon a writ petition by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh that year.

"We will follow the court directive to evict those [illegal structures]," Deputy Commissioner Mesbah Uddin, who led the survey team, told The Daily Star recently.

During a visit to Kalurghat and Shah Amanat Bridge areas a week ago, SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



To the north of Third Karnaphuli Bridge, hundreds of shanties have encroached on a part of the river. Raw sewage and garbage from the houses keep polluting the lifeline of Chittagong city. The photo was taken on Monday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

TOP QUOTE: "It is very wrong of certain embassies to issue such directives, very wrong of them." - AMA MUHITH, FINANCE MINISTER

Where nobody is beggar

EAM ASADUZZAMAN with ANDREW EAGLE

Physically disabled Jalmat Hossen, 62, has opened a grocer's shop in Keshba village. "I hope for better days," he says. It's his first business venture. Elderly widow Mofizon Bewa, 75, meanwhile, is busy rearing chickens in nearby Uttor Durakuthi village. Without any living relatives to support her, she relies on the ten eggs her hens lay each day, which she sells in the market to meet her daily costs.

What the two have in common is that both were beggars. But they are fortunate as they live in Nilphamari's Kishoreganj upazila, the first upazila in the country where begging no longer exists.

Launched on 5 July 2014, the programme "Beggars-free Kishoreganj Upazila" involved the formation of a beggar rehabilitation committee comprising concerned lawmakers, local leaders and government officials headed by visionary Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Md Siddiqur Rahman.

Harun-ur-Rashid, president of the upazila's SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

ASI stabbed to death

Was attacked at a checkpoint in city; one arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An assistant sub-inspector of police was stabbed to death by a youth last night at a checkpoint at the capital's Gabtoli when a police team was searching the young man's bag.

Victim Ibrahim Mollah had been posted at Darus Salam Police Station for the past one and a half years.

The man who stabbed the ASI managed to flee but police arrested a youth who accompanied the assailant. Police sources said they seized a hand camera from the detainee, Masud.

Detailed information about the assailant, the detainee or the motive behind the killing could not be known.

However, Sheikh Maruf Hasan, additional commissioner (crime) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told reporters at the police station around 1:00am today, "There is no militant link with the incident."

It came amid a heightened security in and outside the capital following the murders of two foreign nationals -- an Italian aid worker in the capital on September 28 and a Japanese farmer in

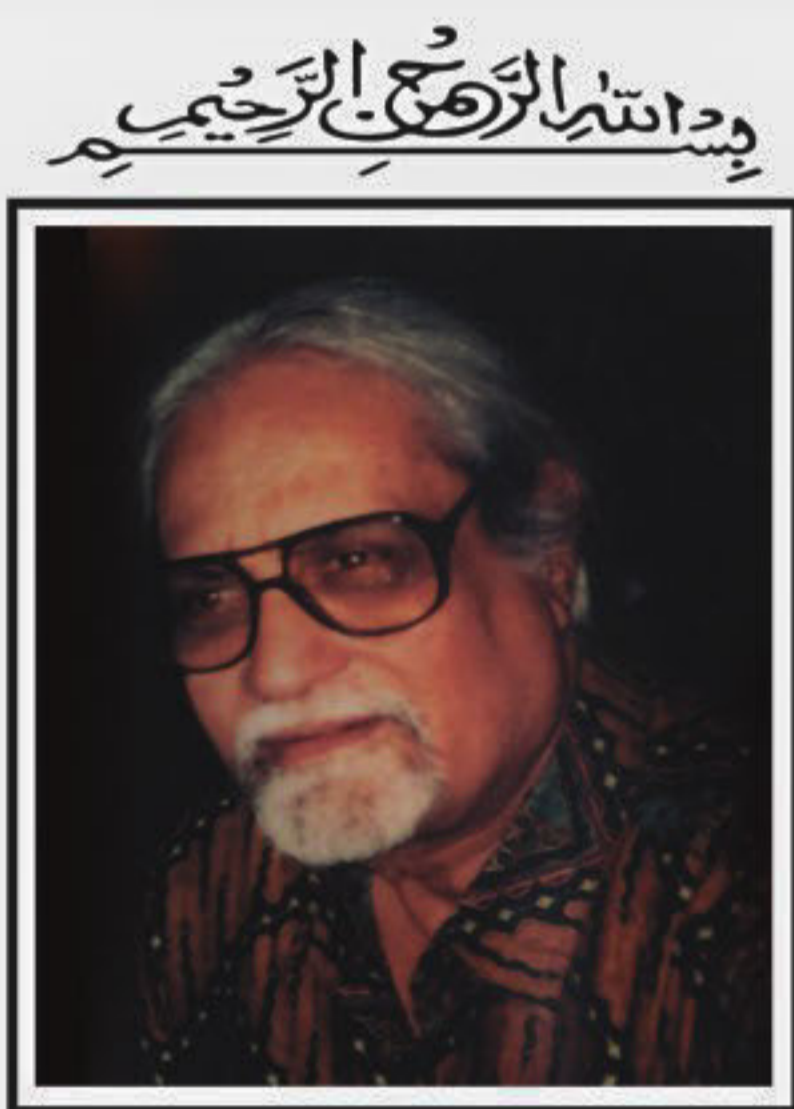
DURGA PUJA ENDS Immersion of idols today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hindu devotees were both happy and sad at the same time yesterday -- the mother Goddess had been with them for the last few days and now she was set to leave the world for another year.

According to the holy scripture, Ramayan, lord Rama defeated Ravan with the blessings of the Goddess after fighting

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Azimur Rahman 1935-2001

Remember Our Love

I was chosen today I'm learning to fly the world took me away, but please don't you cry.

And I chose you today to try and be strong so please don't you cry and don't say that I'm gone.

When you're feeling alone just remember our love, I'm up near the stars looking down from above.

Remember our love in a moment you'll see that I'm still here beside you when you're thinking of me.

~Julie Epp~

Advertisement for Bangladesh Awami Jubo League featuring a grid of award photos and a list of achievements from 2005 to 2015.