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RELOCATED TANNERIES Liquid waste pollutes river

Allege Savar people in public hearing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some locals at a public hearing in Savar yesterday alleged that the newly relocated tanneries were dumping liquid waste in the Dhaleswari river, causing water pollution and posing a health hazard for them.

Solid waste was piled up in and around the Savar Tannery Industrial Estate in a haphazard way. The stink of waste filled the air, they added.

They urged the authority to take immediate steps to stop pollution in the river which is the main source of domestic water for them.

Eight green and rights organisations in association with Community Legal Services hosted the programme at Savar Upazila Parishad's auditorium to discuss ways to save the Dhaleswari from pollution. Some 100 local residents joined the event.

The organisers are Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD), Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela), Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust, Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies, Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon, Brottee, Nijera Kori and Nodi o Poribesh Unnayan Parishad, Savar (NoPUP).

As many as 35 tanneries out of 154 were relocated to the tannery estate from the capital's Hazaribagh until December last year.

Shahnaz Begum of Jhauchar area said her family members were suffering from breathing problems. Most of them bath in the river and depend on its water for domestic use.

"My grandson often complains of stink and wants to know about its source," she told the public hearing, adding

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On behalf of Faraaz, his grandfather and Transcom Group Chairman Latifur Rahman and mother Simeen Hossain receive the 2017 Humanitarian Award from actress Babita, goodwill ambassador of Distressed Children & Infants International, and its Executive Director Ehsan Hoque at a programme in the capital yesterday. During the July 1 Gulshan siege, Faraaz Hossain refused to leave his friends behind and eventually got killed by militants. *First and second from left, Muhammad Musa, chairman of IPDC Finance & BRACNet, and Muhammad Abdul Mazid, chairman of Rights and Sight for Children. First and second from right, Mominul Islam, MD & CEO of IPDC Finance, and Zaraif Ayaat Hossain, elder brother of Faraaz.*

PHOTO: STAR

Hero honoured

US-based DCI confers Humanitarian Award on Faraaz

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

When Faraaz Hossain stood for his friends even in the face of death, he actually stood for all humanity. And his refusal to desert his pals cost him what man perhaps holds dear most: Life.

In honour of his valour, Distressed Children & Infants International (DCI), a US-based child rights organisation, yesterday posthumously conferred on him the DCI 2017 Humanitarian Award at an event at Krishibid Institute in the capital.

Faraaz's grandfather Transcom Group Chairman Latifur Rahman and mother Simeen Hossain accepted the award on behalf of the slain youth from actress Babita Akhtar, goodwill ambassador of DCI, and its Executive Director Ehsan Hoque.

"I want to salute Faraaz's mother. You are really a proud mother," Babita said in a choked voice while handing over the crest.

During the July 1 terror attack at Holey Artisan Bakery in Dhaka, 20-year-old Faraaz Ayaaz Hossain, a

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Quiz them in presence of female cops

Court asks police as 28 female Jamaat activists remanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday claimed the 28 women leaders and activists of Jamaat-e-Islami arrested by Mohammadpur police on Thursday were planning to conduct sabotage in government establishments.

Shafiqul Islam, inspector of Mohammadpur police and investigation officer of a case filed against the arrestees, mentioned it in a forwarding letter placed before a Dhaka court.

The arrestees were hauled before the court yesterday with a seven-day remand prayer for each of them.

Metropolitan Magistrate Delwar Hossain however granted two-day remand

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US warns N Korea against nuke attack

Says 'overwhelming response' if it chose to use such weapons

AGENCIES

US President Donald Trump's defence secretary yesterday warned North Korea of an "effective and overwhelming" response if it chose to use nuclear weapons, as he reassured South Korea and Japan of steadfast US support.

"Any attack on the United States, or our allies, will be defeated, and any use of nuclear weapons would be met with a response that would be effective and overwhelming," Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said at South Korea's defence ministry, at the end of a two-day visit.

Mattis' remarks come amid concern that North Korea could be readying to test a new ballistic missile, in what could be an early challenge for Trump's administration.

Mattis later arrived in Japan and said that the US stands "100 percent" with its ally.

"We stand firmly, 100 percent, shoulder-to-shoulder with you and (the) Japanese people," Mattis told Japanese Prime



Jim Mattis

Minister Shinzo Abe after arriving on his first visit since the inauguration of US President Donald Trump.

"I wanted to make certain that Article Five of our mutual defence treaty is understood to be as real to us today as it was a year ago, five years ago and it will be a year and 10 years from now," he added in

remarks at the start of their meeting.

Article five of the security treaty commits each country to repel any attacks on each other in Japan or territories it administers.

North Korea, which regularly threatens to destroy South Korea and its main ally, the United States, conducted more than 20 missile tests last year, as well as two nuclear tests, in defiance of UN resolutions and sanctions.

The North also appears to have also restarted operation of a reactor at its main Yongbyon nuclear facility that produces plutonium that can be used for its nuclear

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Land without history Myanmar rediscovers its past



AFP, Yangon

With the laying of a wreath at a faraway grave, the last king of Myanmar finally won public recognition after more than a century hidden from view by the country's former colonial masters and military junta.

The sombre ceremony for King Thibaw in Ratnagiri, western India was a watershed moment for Myanmar as it forges a new sense of national identity under its first elected government in a generation.

For half a century its military rulers ran an Orwellian campaign to rewrite the past, casting themselves as the saviours of the nation. Today the country's understanding of its history is starting to

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Cancer cure in five to ten years

Claims leading expert

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

An effective cure for all types of cancer could be just five to 10 years away, according to one of the world's leading experts on the disease.

Survival rates have dramatically increased over the last five decades from an average of 24 per cent the early 1970s to about 50 per cent.

But some forms of the disease have remained extremely hard to treat - just one per cent of pancreatic cancer patients and five per cent of those with lung cancer are still alive 10 years after diagnosis.

Speaking to The Independent ahead of World Cancer Day on 4 February, Professor Karol Sikora, former head of the World Health Organisation's cancer programme, said advances in genetics meant doctors would soon be able to prescribe drugs specifically targeted at each individual's cancer.

He said the tumours in 100 women with breast cancer would all be unique to each

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People rally with flags at Brooklyn Borough Hall as Yemeni bodega and grocery-stores shut down to protest US President Donald Trump's executive order banning immigrants and refugees from seven Muslim-majority countries, including Yemen, on Thursday in New York. PHOTO: AFP

Trump hits Iran with sanctions

AGENCIES

US President Donald Trump's administration enacted new sanctions on Iran yesterday, the first concrete action after the White House put Tehran "on notice" this week.

The Treasury Department said it was sanctioning individuals and companies connected to Iran's ballistic missile program and those providing support to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' Qods Force.

The moves come as punishment for the country's test launch of a ballistic missile last weekend. National Security Adviser Michael Flynn said the move was "provocative" and in defiance of a United Nations Security Council resolution.

The new sanctions are designed not to violate the Iran nuclear deal, which the US and five other world powers signed with Tehran during Obama's tenure. That plan allowed for the lifting of major sanctions against Iran in exchange for a curtailment of its nuclear program.

But they do represent the first concrete step in what the Trump administration has vowed will be a more aggressive approach to Iran.

Trump on Thursday refused to rule out military action against Iran, saying that "nothing is off the table" when it comes to confronting destabilizing behavior from the country. While Obama also refused to rule out military action, Trump's rhetoric reflects a scaled-up posture.

On the campaign trail, Trump railed against the nuclear deal, though his aides have offered a more muted view after he took office. An official who briefed reporters this week suggested the agreement, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, would remain in place for now. Trump also accused Iran of "playing with fire".

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Schoolboy murdered in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Unidentified criminals hacked a schoolboy to death in Ataikula upazila of Pabna yesterday.

The victim, Shahriar Hasan Ovi, 13, was the son of Imran Hossain Babu of Sholabaria village. He was a student of class-VII at Ataikula High School.

Abdur Razzak, officer-in-charge of Ataikula Police Station, said Ovi went

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Prayer Timing February 4
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5:30 12:45 4:15 5:52 7:15
JAMAAT 6:05 1:15 4:30 5:56 7:45
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION