



Dhaleshwari faces risk of salinity

Tonnes of saline wastewater to kill the river's biodiversity as effluent treatment plant at Savar tannery estate lacks desalinisation unit

PINAKI ROY

A huge quantity of dissolved salt will be discharged into the Dhaleshwari river from the Savar Tannery Industrial Estate as the central effluent treatment plant (CETP) there doesn't have the component needed for desalinating wastewater.

Even if all the other toxic materials are treated, the salt will kill the biodiversity of the river, say environmentalists. The country's tannery industry uses around 40,000 tonnes of salt annually.

Now it won't be possible to add the desalinisation unit to the CETP, officials say as the setting up of the long-awaited plant at the industrial estate is almost complete.

"Yes, we are aware that the desalinisation facility has been left out of the CETP. I have directed the officials to find out a solution to the problem," said Industries Minister Amir Hossain Amu, who had taken it as a mission to relocate the tannery industries from Hazaribagh to Savar.

Abu Bakar Siddique, who recently took the charge of Savar Tannery Industrial Estate project, said they were yet to devise a plan to install any central desalinisation machine as it will require a huge amount of money.

No plan for desalinisation of wastewater was included in the CETP project during the approval process "may be to reduce the cost", he said.

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HELLISH RIDE WHEN WILL IT END?

No, it's not the rainy season. Still, different points of DIT Road in the capital are waterlogged, thanks to digging and piling for the Moghbazar-Mouchak flyover construction. The work has damaged the sewerage system and as a result dirty water leaking from the lines flood the area. Such a mess has been affecting thousands commuting from Malibagh rail crossing to DIT Road for the last two months. The photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

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"We are aware that the desalination facility has been left out of the CETP. I have directed the officials to find out a solution to the problem."

AMIR HOSSAIN AMU
INDUSTRIES MINISTER

"It would take additional Tk 500 to 600 crore to set up a desalinisation plant."

ABU BAKAR SIDDIQUE
WHO RECENTLY TOOK THE CHARGE OF SAVAR TANNERY INDUSTRIAL ESTATE PROJECT.

"Saltwater is going to destroy the biodiversity of the Dhaleshwari... The tannery industry is going to kill another river after the Buriganga."

DR ANISUZZAMAN KHAN
CHIEF ADVISER OF NODI O JIBONER SONDHANE.

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'Spiritual leader' of 'Neo JMB' arrested

Police say he used to motivate militants thru' wrong interpretation of Islam, gave 'approval to Gulshan attack plot'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Counterterrorism officials have arrested the alleged spiritual leader of "Neo JMB", who they think approved the Gulshan café attack plot last year.

Sixty-year-old Maulana Abul Kashem, also known as "Shaykh" and "Boro Hujur" among his followers, was detained from the capital's Senpara Parbata area around 11:00pm on Thursday.

He was trying to withdraw Tk 15,000 from a bKash account at that time, Monirul Islam, chief of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTIC) unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said at a press conference at the DMP Media Centre yesterday.

However, while being taken to a Dhaka



Abul Kashem

court yesterday morning, Kashem shouted before some photojournalists that he had been detained 10 months ago.

Replying to a reporter's query about Kashem's claim, Monirul said the accused don't tell the truth, and that they give misleading information.

Kashem was the chief of banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) for a certain period. He later formed "Neo JMB" after holding a meeting with Bangladeshi-Canadian Tamim Ahmed Chowdhury and several others at an unknown place in Rajshahi in 2013, said the CTIC unit chief.

Tamim came to Bangladesh on October 5, 2013 and tried to form a militant outfit.

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Café attack charge sheet by this year

Cops find involvement of 20-22 people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday said they were expecting to submit the charge-sheet in the Gulshan café attack case by the end of this year.

"I hope we'll be able to complete the probe into the Gulshan café attack by the end of this year," said Monirul Islam, chief of the DMP's Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTIC) unit.

He said they so far found involvement of 20 to 22 people in the country's worst ever terrorist attack on July 1 last year.

Talking to reporters after a briefing at the media centre of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), the CTIC chief said they would submit the charge-sheet after having a

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Breaking the barriers

Once a rural boy from Rangamati, Amit Chakma has gone on to become an engineering professor, president of a top Canada university

WASIM BIN HABIB and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Amit Chakma was only three when the construction of Kaptai dam ended in 1962. The dam, meant to generate hydroelectric power, eventually caused flood in nearby areas, submerging a large swath of his family land. Like them, many other families in Rangamati lost farmland, the main source of their income.

With the land gone and livelihood disrupted, Amit's father realised that only education could turn things around for the ethnic minority people in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

The journey since has been long and difficult, but Amit has translated his father's dream into reality. At 58, he is now president and vice-chancellor of University of Western Ontario, one of the oldest and prominent universities in Canada.

Now in Dhaka to attend the 50th convocation of Dhaka University as the convocation speaker, he spoke to The Daily Star yesterday about his pursuit of education and his thoughts about his homeland and his community.

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Prof Amit Chakma will deliver convocation speech at Dhaka University today.

"Behind every success, there needs to have a motivation... Why did I pursue education? Our lands went under water; there was no other means to earn a living. There was no alternative but education." INSPIRATION FROM PARENTS Eldest among four siblings, he considers himself lucky to have parents with certain level of education who understood the value of education.

Gunsmith killed in gunfight

5 policemen hurt; 13 firearms, 32 bullets recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A fugitive convicted gunsmith was found dead with a bullet wound to the chest following a gunfight during a police raid on an uninhabited hill in Cox's Bazar's Maheshkhali upazila yesterday around noon.

The body of Syedur Rahman Prakash alias Khuilla, 43, son of Azam Ullah of Boro Maheshkhali union, was sent to the district hospital for an autopsy.

Syedur has been jailed for 30 years in three cases and is accused in six other ongoing ones. Additional Superintendent of Police Afrozul Hoque Tutul told The Daily Star.

Five policemen hit by pellets are undergoing

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Mr. MD. Ali Azim Khan Receiving CIP Award From Honorable Commerce Minister Mr. Tofail Ahmed MP On behalf of all Honorable Directors, Employees & Workers of SHINEST APPARELS LTD., NASRIN GARMENTS LTD., NIPPUN (PVT) LTD. & FOUR BROTHERS FASHION (MEMBER OF SHINEST GROUP) we are congratulations Mr. MD. Ali Azim Khan on becoming the CIP, We are Wishing him all the best and success for future.



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Limit harms of new child marriage prevention law

HRW urges govt

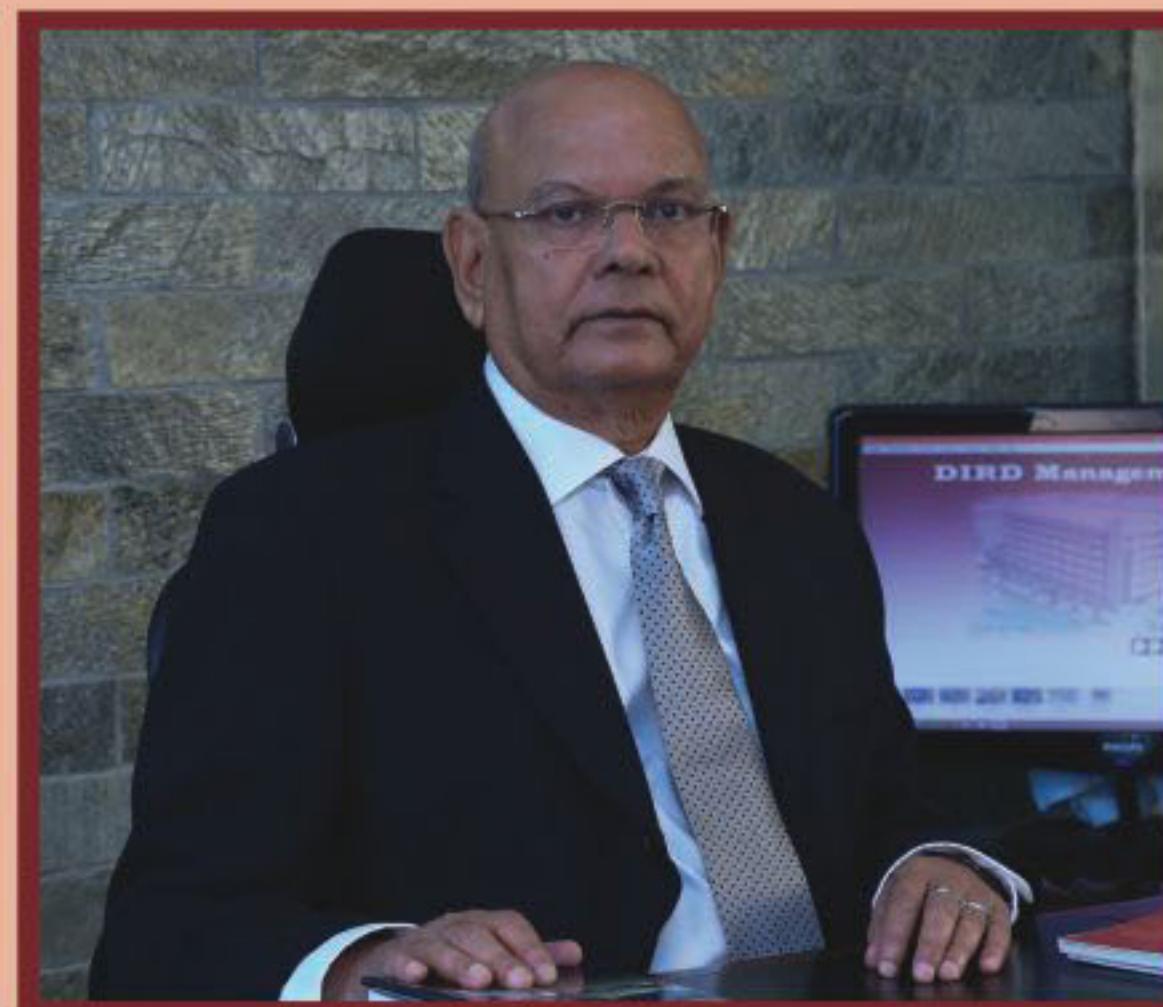
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh government should move quickly to adopt regulations to limit the harms of a new law that legalises child marriage, Human Rights Watch said yesterday.

Parliament on February 27 approved a law that permits girls under 18 to marry under "special circumstances," with permission from their parents and a court.

The law is a devastating step backward for the fight against child marriage in Bangladesh, which has the highest rate of child marriage in Asia, and one of the highest rates in the world, with 52 percent of girls married before the age of 18, and 18 percent before the age of 15, said the rights watchdog in a press release issued in London.

CONGRATULATIONS Engineer Mr. Itemad Ud Daulah Mr. Nabeel Ud Daulah



The honorable Chairman Mr. Itemad Ud Daulah and the honorable Managing Director Mr. Nabeel Ud Daulah of DIRD Group have been declared as CIP (Export)-2013 by the Government of Bangladesh in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the national economy & RMG sector. They have been awarded for DIRD Garments Ltd. & DIRD Composite Textiles Ltd. (Concerns of DIRD Group) respectively.

We, the employees of DIRD Group, extend our heartiest congratulations and wish all the success for their future endeavours.

