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Close tanneries at Hazaribagh

HC also asks DoE to disconnect utility services of the tanneries that failed to relocate to Savar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the director general of the Department of Environment to immediately close the tanneries that are running at the capital's Hazaribagh and have failed to relocate to the Tannery Industrial Estate in Savar.

The court also ordered the DG to disconnect the utility services, including gas, power and water, to the tanneries as they were damaging the environment violating the court's earlier directives.

Ministries of home, environment, industries, the inspector general of police (IGP) and the commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police have been asked to assist the DG in complying with the order.

The HC asked the DG to submit a report after complying with its directives by April 6 and fixed April 10 for further hearing on the issue.

The bench of Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed and Justice Md Salim came up with the order following a petition filed by Bangladesh Environment Lawyers Association (Bela).

DG Raisul Alam Mondal could not be reached for comments as he was abroad.

Last year, the tannery factories at Hazaribagh produced every day about 21,600 cubic metres of environmentally hazardous liquid containing chemicals such as chromium, sulphur, ammonium, salt and other chemicals.

Even though the High Court directed to shut the tannery industries operating in Hazaribagh immediately, neither the government nor the tanners have finished their work at the estate in Savar.

In a recent visit to the tannery estate, it was seen that the authorities have been running the effluent treatment plant (ETP) on a trial basis, treating the

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A tannery in operation in the capital's Hazaribagh area. The High Court yesterday ordered immediate shut-down of all tanneries there and asked the government to cut off their power, gas and water connections.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



Historic 7th March today

BSS, Dhaka

The nation is set to observe "Historic 7th March", a red-letter day in the country's history, in a befitting manner today.

On this day in 1971, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in his speech at a mammoth rally in Racecourse Maidan (now Suhrawardy Udyan) directed freedom-loving Bangladeshis to wage a decisive struggle against the Pakistani rulers.

In his 19-minute extempore speech from 4:23pm before millions of people of East Pakistan, now Bangladesh, Bangabandhu unequivocally said, "We shed our blood...we are ready to shed more blood, the people of the country shall be freed, Inshallah!"

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TOP QUOTE

"I will quit if I fail to serve the people of Narayanganj city. Before that I will hold a press conference, explain everything and then tender my resignation to the prime minister."

N'GANJ CITY MAYOR
SELINA HAYAT IVY
AT A MEETING YESTERDAY

Why changes in textbooks?

HC questions, asks authorities to explain in 4 weeks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday questioned the legality of bringing changes in the textbooks of primary and secondary levels by excluding write-ups of some reputed authors.

The court issued a rule asking the authorities concerned to show cause in four weeks as to why the changes in the textbooks should not be declared illegal.

The education secretary and chairman of the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) have been made respondents to the rule.

The HC bench of Justice Naima Haider and Justice Abu Taher Md Saifur Rahman came up with the rule following a writ petition filed last week by former vice-chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Prof Anwar Hossain and curriculum expert Momtaz Jahan challenging the legality of the changes in the textbooks.

The petition said some write-ups of several acclaimed and progressive authors, including Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay, Golam Mustafa, Humayun Azad and Sanaul Haque, have been removed from the books.

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Crude bombs thrown at prison vans

One held; Mufti Hannan was in one of the vans

STAR REPORT

Suspected militants yesterday hurled several bombs at a convoy of four prison vans one of which was carrying condemned Harkat-ul-Jihad al-Islami (Huji) chief Mufti Abdul Hannan.

Police suspect the attack was carried out to snatch away the top militant.

A group of youths threw the bombs targeting the vans after they reached the Tongi College Gate area on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway around 5:30pm, Hafizul Islam, a traffic inspector in Gazipur, told The Daily Star.

The attackers, however, failed to hit any of the targets.

The vans were transporting several militants, including Mufti Hannan, from a Dhaka court to Kashimpur High Security Jail. The vehicles reached the jail safely later, reports our Gazipur correspondent.

Police claimed to have caught one of the attackers red-handed and recovered a hand-grenade, five crude bombs, two petrol bombs,

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Pollution kills 17 lakh children a year: WHO

2.8 lakh deaths in Bangladesh

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Seventeen lakh children under five die every year across the globe owing to unhealthy or polluted environment, according to the World Health Organization.

In Bangladesh, death of 179 children under five (in every 1 lakh people) can be attributed to environmental pollution, says the WHO.

This means the number of such deaths is 2.8 lakh a year if the country's population of 16 crore is taken into account.

The WHO yesterday released its findings in two reports -- "Inheriting a Sustainable World: Atlas on Children's Health and the

Environment", and "Don't Pollute My Future! The Impact of the Environment on Children's Health".

Talking to The Daily Star, Prof Abul Kalam Azad, director general of the Directorate General of Health Services, said, "Environmental pollution is a problem not only in Bangladesh but also in other countries in South and South East Asia."

"In Bangladesh, the level of outdoor air pollution is high because of construction work and increasing number of vehicles. Besides, use of fossil fuel contributes to indoor air pollution."

Mohammad Shahidullah, president of

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Tigers look to renew Galle success

SAKEB SUBHAN from Galle

Much of the talk regarding the first Test between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka due to start at 10:30am (Bangladesh time) on Tuesday at the Galle International Cricket Stadium has surrounded Bangladesh's previous visit here in March 2013. Then, Bangladesh notched their highest Test score and

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