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ETP IN SAVAR HC orders 24-hr operation to save Dhaleshwari river

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the authorities to operate 24 hours every day two modules of central effluent treatment plant (ETP) treating waste at the tannery estate in Savar to prevent pollution of the Dhaleshwari River.

In that, Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) will have to monitor whether the modules are in operation round the clock and ensure that tanners use separate pipes to discharge chromium and other waste materials, the court said.

It also directed the tanners to install salt treatment module in the ETP within a month.

A bench of Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed and Justice Md Salim passed the orders following a petition recently filed by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association (BELA).

BELA's Chief Executive Syeda Rizwana Hasan told The Daily Star two of four modules of the central ETP had already been set up while another module was supposed to be completed by yesterday.

One module is yet to be connected to the electric supply line. The HC asked the authorities to make an alternative power supply arrangement to operate the module for now, Rizwana said.

The HC asked the BSCIC and the industries ministry to submit a report by October 5 upon implementing the directives. A further court order will come on the issue on October 10 as fixed by the court.

Advocate Rizwana also said Chinese firm -- Jiangsu Lingzhi Environmental Protection Co Ltd -- that had

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The fruit of the Boula Gota, also known as the Fragrant Manjack, is called *phá-pò-ch* in Taiwan. A favourite among the Santal community, the fruits have many uses from being eaten to even being used for treating skin diseases.

PHOTO: MOKARAM HOSSAIN



Blessings of Bohal

MOKARAM HOSSAIN

I escape from this concrete jungle called Dhaka whenever I can. Living in this unplanned city for a length of time renders one listless. Therefore I go back to the greenery to recharge myself. In other words, I keep going back to my roots where the dove sings on a rather dull noon. The rows of jarul trees by the canal wear a festive look, adorned with violet flowers. These treats for the senses are available almost all year round.

I remember firing the fruits of a particular kind into a bamboo pipe. The fruits were a good source of

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Don't misquote me: CJ to media

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha yesterday called on journalists not to "misquote" him and said some of his remarks made in the court had been "distorted", which embarrassed him.

"This put me in an embarrassing situation," he said during a book launching ceremony at the Supreme Court.

He said confusion was created centring him and that it was not possible for him to address something arranging a press conference.

Justice SK Sinha was addressing the launching ceremony of "Judicial Interpretation", a 1,200-page book by Moulvibazar-based lawyer Shanti Pada Ghosh at the Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association Auditorium.

On the month of mourning, he said some misguided people were involved in the killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh

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Get more manpower to ensure safe food

Speakers at food safety conference urge the government

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A two-day food safety conference rounded off yesterday calling on the government to set local food standards in line with internationally recognised ones and strengthen the Bangladesh Food Safety Authority (BFSA).

Held at a hotel in the capital, the conference underscored the need for following international standards in food additives, food labelling and marketing so that consumers get safe food on their plates.

The conference, which came up with a nine-point action agenda, recommended the government to provide BFSA with adequate human resources capable of ensuring that only safe and healthy foods are marketed.

Established in February 2015 in line with the Food Safety Act, 2013, the BFSA has long been limping with a skeleton staff.

AKM Nurul Afzar, national team leader of Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Bangladesh, stressed the need for Bangladesh to complete the process of harmonising with the regulatory regime under Codex Alimentarius.

Codex Alimentarius is a collection of standards, guidelines and codes of practice in global food trade.

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TOXIC PARACETAMOL 2 drug admin officials suspended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has finally suspended two officials of the drug administration for their negligence in dealing with a case filed for manufacturing toxic paracetamol syrup that killed at least 28 children in 2009.

The government has also initiated departmental proceedings against Assistant Director Shafiqul Islam and Deputy Director Ataf Hossain.

The moves came a day after a High Court bench rebuked Health Secretary (service) Sirajul Haque Khan for not taking any action against the two. The court had also ordered him

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Former agent seeks to buy Twitter to block Trump

AFP, Washington

Valerie Plame Wilson, a media savvy former undercover CIA agent, has launched an improbable crowdfunding campaign to buy Twitter, in order to take away Donald Trump's favorite communications tool.

"It's time to shut him down," Plame declared in her pitch for donations on gofundme.com.

"From emboldening white supremacists to promoting violence against journalists, his tweets

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Joe Wilson and Valerie Plame-Wilson

Privacy a fundamental right of citizen

Indian SC rules

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

In a historic verdict, Indian Supreme Court ruled that an individual's right to privacy is a fundamental right under the constitution.

Privacy is "an intrinsic part of article 21 [of the constitution] that protects life and liberty," it said.

Delivering the unanimous judgment yesterday, a nine-member SC bench overruled some previous verdicts which had found that the right to privacy was not protected by the constitution.

The SC bench consisted of Chief Justice JS Khanna, justices J Chelameswar, RB Bobde, RK Agrawal, RF Nariman, AM Sapre, DY Chandrachud, Sanjay K Kaul and Abdul Nazer.

Yesterday's judgment came a couple of days after another SC bench had declared instant triple talac unconstitutional.

The SC announced the verdict after holding hearing on the issue for six days.

The question whether the right to privacy was a fundamental constitutional right was first raised in the apex court before a three-judge bench. Some petitioners had challenged the Indian government's move to make Aadhaar multi-purpose identity card issued by the government, mandatory for receiving benefit from social and welfare schemes.

The three-judge bench had referred the case to

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JAM-PACKED

Vehicles remain at a standstill for hours on Airport road due to a massive gridlock. Below, city dwellers inch through traffic on Mirpur road. Most of the main thoroughfares of the capital remain beset by huge traffic problems almost every day, making even the shortest journeys a nightmare. The photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN AND RASHED SHUMON

Maldives MPs hurl eggs in parliament

AFP, Male

Lawmakers belonging to rival parties yesterday hurled eggs across the Maldives parliament in chaotic scenes described by a top US envoy as "disturbing" as a protracted political crisis in the honeymoon islands worsened.

The disturbance came as the speaker -- a close ally of President Abdulla Yameen -- who is fighting impeachment issued directives from behind a ring of plain-clothed troops inside the chamber.

Parliament has been in turmoil since March when troops were deployed to remove opposition MPs trying to file impeachment proceedings against the speaker.

The government has since changed parliamentary rules to ward off the impeachment and sacked MPs from Yameen's own party who sided with the opposition to remove his ally from the speaker's chair.

The egg-throwing incident comes less than a month after Maldivian troops blocked parliament and fired tear gas during clashes with opposition leaders.

Months of political upheaval in the Maldives has dented its image as a tourist paradise.

US ambassador Atul Keshap labelled Thursday's events "disturbing and unfortunate".

"I call upon the government of Maldives

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গুরু হস্ত-পুষ্টকরণ সম্পর্কিত সতর্কীকরণ গণবিজ্ঞপ্তি

এছাড়া সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, গবাদিপশু ছহ্ট-পুষ্টকরণে ক্ষতিকর রাসায়নিক উপাদান (স্টেরয়েড, হরমোন ইত্যাদি) পশুরদেহে প্রয়োগ ও পশুখাদ্যে ব্যবহার সম্পূর্ণ নিষিদ্ধ এবং আইনতঃ দণ্ডনীয় অপরাধ। গবাদিপশু ছহ্ট-পুষ্টকরণে বিজ্ঞানভিত্তিক উপায়ে প্রস্তুতকৃত সুষম পুষ্টিমান সম্পন্ন খাদ্য উপাদানই যথেষ্ট, অন্য কোন উপকরণের প্রয়োজন নেই।

ক্ষতিকর উপাদান ব্যবহারের মাধ্যমে গবাদিপশু ছহ্ট-পুষ্টকরণের প্রমাণ পাওয়া গেলে সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যক্তির বিরুদ্ধে মক্কা খাদ্য ও পশুখাদ্য আইন-২০১০ ও পশুখাদ্য বিধিমালা-২০১৩ মোতাবেক শাস্তিমূলক ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।

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