



THE COLOSSUS RISES OUT OF THE MIGHTY PADMA



30 structures need to be removed

Judicial probe finds them on Turag foreshore



A judicial probe report says 30 structures have been set up illegally along the foreshore of the Turag at different places in Gazipur and recommends knocking those down immediately to save the river from encroachment and pollution.

The report, recently submitted by the Gazipur chief magistrate to the High Court through the High Court registrar general's office, also suggested the river be dredged and dumping of waste into the water body be stopped to keep the river navigable.

Yesterday, the HC bench of Justice Quazi Reza-Ul-Hoque and Justice Mohammad Ullah set October 22 for holding hearing on the issue.

Following a writ petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB), the HC bench on January 5 had directed the chief judicial magistrate to probe if illegal structures were built along the foreshore of the Turag and to submit a report before it.

HRPB lawyer Manzill Murshid, who received a copy of the probe report from the HC, said he would submit a petition to the court seeking its directives on the authorities concerned to demolish the illegal structures.

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CATALONIA CRISIS Spain moves to suspend autonomy

Spain's central government yesterday said it would suspend Catalonia's autonomy and impose direct rule after the region's leader threatened to go ahead with a formal declaration of independence if Madrid refused to hold talks.

In a move unprecedented since Spain returned to democracy in the late 1970s, Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy said he would hold a special cabinet meeting tomorrow that could trigger the move. The Socialist opposition said they backed the government but suggested the measures should be limited in scope and time.

Catalan president Carles Puigdemont, ignoring a 10:00 am deadline to drop his secession campaign, threatened Rajoy with a formal declaration of independence in the Catalan parliament.

The two statements increased uncertainty over a one-month political crisis that has raised fears of social unrest, led the euro zone's fourth-largest economy to cut its growth forecasts and rattled the euro.

Spanish government bond yields rose and stocks sold off after the deadline passed, while the euro dipped into negative.

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Cormorants sitting atop a tree near Baghabari Oil Depot in Sirajganj. Thousands of such birds flock to the area.

PHOTO: MOKAMMEL SHUVU

Pankouri's place

MOKAMMEL SHUVU, back from Shaheedpur

Seeing the little cormorants flying in the sky in their thousands and feeding their chicks in their little nests on treetops can be a thrilling experience, especially when you stumble upon their colony in the least expected place.

Much of the colony is in the unlikely areas of Baghabari Oil Depot and a factory of Milk Vita, places not far from the port on Cumani river, some five kilometres south of Shahajadpur town in Sirajganj.

The properties are off-limits to com-

moners. Poachers and hunters, by default, cannot go near the waterbirds, locally known as Pankouri, that forage in the river.

"We don't let outsiders on our property. It has somehow created a sanctuary for them," Abdul Mazid, in-charge of the depot, said.

The birds, not too shy of humans, can be seen or photographed up close, if you get on the roof of one of the three-storey residential buildings for officials of the oil company.

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US drone strike kills chief of Pak Taliban faction

The chief of an offshoot of the Pakistani Taliban has been killed in a US drone strike, a spokesman for the group told AFP yesterday.

Jamaat-ul-Ahrar (JuA), a faction of the Pakistani Taliban, had claimed responsibility for many deadly attacks in the country, including a suicide bombing in a park in Lahore on Easter Sunday last year that killed 75 people including many children.

"Chief of our Jamaat-ul-Ahrar Umar Khalid Khorasani, who sustained serious injuries in a recent US drone strike in Afghanistan's Paktia province, succumbed to his injuries Wednesday evening," JuA spokesman Asad Mansoor told AFP by telephone from an undisclosed location.

"At least nine close

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SIBI Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center
PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 20
 Fajr Juma Akr Maghrib Esha
 AZAN 4:50 12:30 4:00 5:35 7:15
 JAMAAT 5:25 1:15 4:15 5:39 7:45
 SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

BABY'S BIRTH, DEATH IN THE OPEN Probe negligence of 3 hospitals: HC

The High Court yesterday directed the authorities concerned to probe a woman's giving birth to a baby in the open and the newborn's death near a clinic in the capital's Azimpur.

The court also ordered investigation into the alleged negligence by three hospitals where she was reportedly denied treatment.

The directors of Dhaka Medical College Hospital and Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital and the superintendent of Azimpur Maternity were ordered to launch the probe and submit a report to the HC within 15 days.

Parvin Aktar reportedly went to DMCH on Monday night with labour pains. Failing to get a C-section done as she had no money, she went to Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital. But she did not get the services there as she could not pay the required Tk 1,500.

Parvin, a resident of Gopab Shah Mazar area, then went to Azimpur Maternity the following morning. But, an employee reportedly forced her to leave the facility as she did not have a registration card or enough money to get treatment.

Around 11:00am Parvin gave birth to a child out in the open space near Azimpur Maternity Hospital.

The newborn died soon after.

Issuing a suo moto (voluntary) rule, the court asked authorities concerned of the government and hospitals to explain as to why appropriate

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Mysterious 'gates' found in S Arabia



Hundreds of mysterious structures have been discovered on ancient lava domes in Saudi Arabia by an archaeologist using Google Earth.

David Kennedy, professor of archaeology at the University of Oxford, discovered around 400 stone walls that could be more than 9,000 years old in the western Hattat Khaybar region of the country.

These walls are similar in structure to others found around the Middle East that have been dubbed 'gates', due to their resemblance to barred gates when seen from above.

Although their purpose is

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OBITUARY

Mr. A. Rob Chowdhury, age 76, passed away Thursday the 19th October, 2017 early morning at 2:50 am at United Hospital (Inna lillah wa inna ilayhi raji'un).

Born on January 11, 1945 he started his career as a professor then turned into a successful business man in Textiles, Garments, Leather Export and Cold Storage Industries. He was Ex-president of Dhaka-Istanbul Chamber of Commerce (DICC), Ex-president of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI), Ex 1st Vice President International Chamber of Commerce, Bangladesh (ICCB), Ex-chairman Bangladesh Cold Storage Association (BCSA), Ex EC member FBCCI and founder president of Bangladesh Leather Export Traders Association (BLETA).

He was an active member of Rotary Club, Apex Club and founder member of Uttara Club Ltd.

Mr. Chowdhury left behind his wife, only son and two daughters, three grandchildren, many relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death.



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