



বিশ্ব বলেছিলো- পদ্মা সেতু 'সম্ভব না'
একজন প্রধানমন্ত্রী আর ১৬ কোটি বাঙালি বলেছিলেন-
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Factory waste pollutes Halda

PMO's directive to shut factories ignored; country's largest natural breeding ground for carp in danger

MOSTAFA YOUSUF, Chittagong

The Halda River, which meanders through south east Bangladesh, is famous for being perhaps the only place in Southeast Asia where the pure Indian carp naturally occurs.

But the waterway is now in dire straits as the Department of Environment (DoE) is yet to implement a year and half old order of the Prime Minister's Office to shut down the factories releasing pollutants into the streams.

The industrial belt in Bayazid, which is a 5 kilometre stretch of land starting at Kulgaon and ending at Oxygen, reflects a feverish development as the canals around it carry the industrial waste generated to Halda, wreaking havoc on its biotic community.

The waterway's reputation reached its nadir seven years ago with the start of the Ananya Residential Area Project. In hopes of redirecting industrial waste away from the residential area, the Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) built a master drain connecting Bamun Shahi Khal to Kuyaish Khal.

Kuyaish Khal is connected to the other canals -- Khondokia Khal, Madarsha Khal, Madari Khal, Bathua Khal, Krisnokhali Khal, Bamun Shahi Khal and Hamidia Khal -- of Hathhazari upazila that all flow out into the Halda.

Previously, the waste from Bayazid reached the Karnaphuli River directly via Bamun Shahi Khal. Although industrial pollutants negatively impacted the biotic life of Karnaphuli River as well, the quality of water was better as it is a fast flowing river.

The DoE prepared a list of factories in Bayazid after the PMO asked them to conduct an investigation. According to the investigation report from February 16 last year, all the factories operating there had installed effluent treatment plants (ETP).

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The water of Khondokia Khal in Chittagong has turned pitch-black due to unabated dumping of waste from nearby industrial units. The canal flows into the Halda river. The photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN



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The third part of our five-segment special supplement series, titled **TOWARDS BUILDING A MODERN ECONOMY** is out today.

As Bangladesh prepares to step out of the LDC category, we look at the challenges that need to be overcome for us to achieve sustained growth in today's competitive global environment. Make sure you get your copy of this supplement **free of charge** from your hawk.

Stay tuned for **RETHINKING URBAN SPACES: DHAKA AND BEYOND** which comes out on February 22.



Imran Khan ties knot for third time

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistani politician and former playboy cricketer Imran Khan has married a woman described as his spiritual adviser, party officials said, the third wedding for the World Cup champion once touted as Pakistan's most eligible bachelor.

Khan, 65, married Bushra Wattoo in a private ceremony attended by relatives and friends in the

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Finish trial of 139 prisoners by August

HC directs courts over cases against the accused languishing in 68 jails for over seven years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amin of Segunbagicha in Dhaka was arrested on October 25, 2008, in connection with murder. He was 45 then.

He has been in jail since then, which is almost 10 years. The case against him is pending with the Jono Nirapotta Bignokari Aporadh Daman Tribunal, Dhaka, without any significant progress.

And he is not alone. There are many others in jail who have been waiting for years for their trials to be over.

The High Court yesterday directed courts concerned to finish proceedings of cases against 139 prisoners, who have been languishing in 68 jails across the country for more than seven years.

The HC gave the courts time until August 31.

The courts were asked to submit reports on the progress of trial proceedings to the

monitoring committee of the Supreme Court, if they failed to finish the trials by that time.

The HC also ordered the investigation officers concerned to make sure witnesses are produced before the lower courts for quick disposal of the cases. The government was asked to take departmental actions against investigation officers if they failed to comply.

The HC also directed deputy commissioners and superintendents of police across the country to provide necessary assistance in finishing the trials.

The bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Shahidul Karim came up with the suo moto (voluntary) order after Supreme Court Legal Aid Committee's (SCLAC) panel lawyer Cumar Debul Dey prayed to the court for necessary orders so

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GONO BHABAN Constable hurt in 'accidental shooting'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A security person of the Gono Bhaban was injured early yesterday when his colleague accidentally fired a gun.

Rahim Uddin, 30, constable of Special Security and Protection Battalion (SPBn), was shot below a collarbone, Selim Khan, superintendent of SPBn-2, told The Daily Star.

An SPBn man around 3:00am accidentally fired his pistol injuring Rahim, who was standing nearby, he said.

Rahim was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), from where, he was taken to National Institute of

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Mock Mars mission in Negev desert



REUTERS, Ramon Crater

A team of six Israeli researchers on Sunday ended a four-day Mars habitat experiment in Israel's Negev desert where they simulated living conditions on the Red Planet, Israel's Science and Technology Ministry said.

The experiment was held near the isolated Israeli township of Mitzpe Ramon, whose surroundings resemble the Martian environment in its geology, aridity, appearance and desolation, the ministry said.

The participants were investigating various fields

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12 rebel MPs suspended in the Maldives

AGENCIES

The Maldives' top court has suspended 12 pro-opposition legislators before a crucial parliamentary vote later yesterday, emboldening President Abdulla Yameen as he clings to power in the troubled islands.

The Supreme Court decision late Sunday reverses its



SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center

PRAYER TIMING FEBRUARY 20

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5-20 12-45 4-30 6-03 7-30

JAMAAT 5-55 1-15 4-45 6-07 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Vehicles move haphazardly on the Moghbazar-Mouchak flyover in the capital's Mouchak area as the traffic signal at the intersection went out of order. The photo was taken around 2:20pm yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

In Loving Memory Of

Captain Syed Ali Asghar Rizvi

(22 April 1944 - 20 February 2017)

First Death Anniversary



"It's hard to forget someone who gave us so much to remember."

Milad Mehfil will be held at the Rizvi's residence after Magrib prayers on Friday 23rd February, 2018.

His loving wife **Salma** and sons **Zaki & Razi**

