



"Since the recent Rohingya influx, there have been more cases of refugees being trafficked into slave-like work or sex industry."

NHRC CHAIRMAN KAZI REAZUL HOQUE



"It is now finally time to turn the tables and bring justice to some very sick and dangerous people who have committed very serious crimes."

US PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP, CLAIMING VICTORY OVER MUELLER



"People will be successful in bringing a change through a movement before the golden jubilee of the country's independence."

DR KAMAL HOSSAIN AT HIS 83RD BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

## Time to be WARY OF WASTE

Disposal plans many, action little

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

The two landfills in the capital have almost reached their limit with no immediate remedy in sight.

Mountains of garbage are being formed in the landfills at Matuail and Aminbazar and there are fears that the waste will spill over into adjacent areas.

"We will not be able to go up further. If we go further up, there is a possibility of waste slide..." said SM Shafiqur Rahman, Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) additional chief waste management officer.

The 100-acre Matuail Landfill -- used by the Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) -- already has piles of garbage about 20 metres high, while the 52.88-acre landfill at Aminbazar -- used by the DNCC -- is already nine metres high.

For context, a one-storey building is around four metres high, meaning the mounds of garbage are almost as tall as a two-storey building or even taller.

"If we go like [dumping] this, we'll get seven more years at best. After that, city dwellers will face disaster," said AHM Abdulla Harun, executive engineer, Waste Management Department of Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC), in an interview early this year.

"About 3,500 tonnes of waste are produced every day. If we fail to dump these at least for a week, parts of the city will be filled with waste."

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Heaps of garbage tower over everything else at Aminbazar Landfill -- used by the Dhaka North City Corporation. Without a sustainable waste management system in place, mountains of rubbish have been formed in the two city landfills at Aminbazar and Matuail, both of which have reached almost full-capacity. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

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Two 'drug dealers' killed in 'gunfights'

Bullet-hit body found

STAR REPORT

A suspected drug peddler was killed in a "gunfight" with police in Sirajganj, and another one in what police claimed was an encounter between two groups of drug peddlers in Cox's Bazar, while, in Chapainawabganj, a body was recovered by police early yesterday.

The dead have been identified as Mostafa Kamal, 25, Shahab Uddin, 32, and Bisharat Ali, 23. In Sirajganj, Ullapara Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Dewan Kawshik Ahmed said on information about a group of peddlers taking position at Ghoshgati for drug trade, a police team went to raid the area around

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## Wasa water clean!

Claims MD but admits he sometimes boils it before use

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Wasa managing director yesterday boasted that Wasa water "is 100 percent pure" while also admitting that sometimes he himself boils the water at his home.

"I fail to understand why people would burn gas to boil supply water that is 100 percent pure and safe," Taqsem A Khan told a press conference, organised to contest a recent TIB report that painted a dismal picture of Wasa water.

However, replying to a question, he said that sometimes he boils the Wasa water for himself, sometimes drinks directly from the tap and sometimes drinks Wasa's bottled water.

With 3.74 lakh connections in its 360sqkm service area, Wasa produces 240 crore litres of water daily. Of this, 22 percent is surface water taken and treated from rivers and the rest is extracted from underground with 900 deep tube wells.

This water is brought to city dwellers' homes through a network of 60,000km supply lines -- 36,000km of which are derelict 150-year-old pipes, said Wasa Technical Director AKM Shahid Uddin, who was present at the press conference at

Dhaka Reporters' Unity.

Wasa has so far replaced just 24,000km of the network with modern supply lines, he said.

City dwellers have long complained that the derelict Wasa supply lines are responsible for rampant water contamination in different city parts.

"We never drink Wasa tap water directly without boiling or filtering because of poor drinkability and bad odour," said Rina Akhtar, a resident of Shahjahanpur, one of many city areas where water qualities are reportedly poor.

On April 17, the TIB published its year-long study, which found that 91 percent Wasa subscribers have to boil the supply water to make it drinkable and, in the process, they burn gas worth Tk 332 crore a year.

Findings also show that nearly 45 percent subscribers do not get the desired amount of water while about 35 percent complain of poor-quality water throughout the year.

The Wasa MD said such claims were unfounded.

In a written response to the TIB report, he said not all of the 1.72 cr Dhaka dwellers boil Wasa water to make it drinkable, although he did not

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Form cells to tackle sexual harassment

Govt orders all schools, colleges



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE) yesterday directed all school and college authorities to set up an anti-sexual harassment committee in line with a 2009 High Court order.

"We have asked authorities of all schools and colleges to form an anti-sexual harassment committee," DSHE Director (administration) Shahedul Khabir

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## Another held over Nusrat killing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested another accused in the Nusrat murder case.

With the arrest, at least 16 people have been held over the killing of the Feni madrasa student that touched off outrage across the country.

Investigators yesterday said they found the involvement of Sonagazi Awami League President Ruhul Amin in the crime.

Besides, two other suspects in the case yesterday "confessed" that one of them pinned Nusrat down on the rooftop of the madrasa while the other poured kerosene on her, said a PBI official.

Members of the Police Bureau of Investigation arrested Iftekhar Hossain Rana, 21, in Rangamati Sadar's TNT Colony yesterday morning. Moin Uddin, an additional superintendent of police (PBI Chattogram Metro unit), told The Daily Star.

He said although Rana's name was not mentioned in the case statement, they found his involvement in the murder during investigation.

The ASP added that Rana was allegedly guarding the madrasa gate when Nusrat was set on fire on the rooftop.

Besides, PBI members yesterday recovered a burqa, believed to be worn by key suspect Zubayer Ahmed during the attack, from Dangi Khal near Sonagazi College in Feni.

The garment was recovered acting on information

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Shab-e-Barat tonight

UNB, Dhaka

The holy Shab-e-Barat, the night of fortune and forgiveness, will be observed in the country tonight with due religious fervour.

According to Muslim belief, Shab-e-Barat is the night when Allah arranges the affairs of the

coming year by taking into account their past deeds.

Muslim devotees will

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HOLIDAY

The Daily Star

offices will remain closed today on the occasion of Shab-e-Barat. Therefore, the newspaper will not be published tomorrow. However, we will serve our readers through website.



Pesticides still being applied on mangoes

HC order not being followed

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

A number of mango growers are spraying toxic pesticides on their orchards in Rajshahi region, despite a High Court order to deploy police in the areas to prevent the harmful practice.

Following the order delivered on April 9, local administrations of Chapainawabganj, Rajshahi, Natore and Naogaon have begun monitoring the orchards.

But the growers say they are using pesticides "to protect the orchards from diseases".

During a recent visit to Rajshahi's Sheikhpura, which is well-known for having a couple of 100-year-old mango

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