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BURIGANGA BANKS

HC orders shutting of 25 factories

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the Department of Environment (DoE) to shut 25 factories and two private hospitals on the bank of the Buriganga River in Dhaka as they are operating without environment clearance certificates.

DoE was given 15 days to execute the order.

At the same time, the court asked the managing director of Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) to explain in 15 days why legal action should not be taken against him for making a false statement about sewerage lines connected to the river.

The bench of Justice Gobinda Chandra Tagore and Justice Mohammad Ullah issued the order and the show cause notice while hearing a writ petition.

Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB), a rights group, filed the petition on May 4, 2010, seeking immediate steps to prevent water pollution in the Buriganga.

The petitioner's lawyer, Advocate Manzill Murshid, told The Daily Star yesterday that the HC earlier had sought reports from DoE, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), and Wasa MD about the structures on the river bank, which do not have environment clearance certificates and legal sewerage and Wasa lines.

Following the earlier order, DoE recently submitted a report to the HC, saying there are 27 factories and private

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



Ships dock for repairs at a dockyard illegally hosting around 35 shipbuilders on encroached land on the Buriganga river in the capital's Keraniganj. In the distance, immediately behind the dockyard, high-rise buildings can be seen built close to the river shore. Such encroachments are in defiance of a High Court order, but river custodians seem to have turned a blind eye to the infractions.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

PREVENTING GRAFT

ACC wants close ties with CAG

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman Iqbal Mahmood yesterday stressed the need for strong collaboration between the ACC and the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) office to ensure accountability in public sectors to combat corruption.

The ACC boss said if the existing law did not allow the office of CAG to share information, it could do so using "informal channels".

Iqbal came up with the remarks at the "South Asia accountability roundtable: promoting accountability and integrity in government spending" organised by the World Bank Group at a city hotel.

The ACC boss said, "When CAG officials conduct post audit and unearth any graft case, they can officially apprise or refer the case to the ACC, whereupon the ACC can take immediate action to investigate and prevent any corruption accordingly."

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

Gotabaya wins Sri Lanka polls

Pledges to be president for all; Modi calls for deepening of ties

AFP, Colombo

Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who spearheaded the brutal crushing of Tamil Tigers a decade ago, stormed to power yesterday but promised to be a president for all Sri Lanka's races and religions after a divisive election.

Seven months after Islamist extremist attacks that killed 269 people, Rajapaksa was elected on Saturday on the back of a nationalist campaign promising security and to crush religious extremism in the Buddhist-majority country.

However, Rajapaksa's triumph will alarm Sri Lanka's Tamil and Muslim minorities as well as activists, journalists and possibly some in the international community following the 2005-15 presidency of his older brother Mahinda Rajapaksa.

Gotabaya Rajapaksa, 70, yesterday thanked all voters in an election that heightened ethnic and religious tensions in a country that only a decade ago emerged from a brutal civil war that cost 100,000 lives.

"I am conscious that I am also the president of those who used the vote against me," he said as he was formally

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2



Gotabaya Rajapaksa

PRIMARY-LEVEL EDUCATION

Madrasa student number rising

Bangla-medium student number drops to 8-year low

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The number of Primary Education Completion Examination (PECE) candidates is on the decline for last five years while equivalent Ebtedayee Education Completion Examination candidates is on the rise.

According to Directorate of Primary Education (DPE) data, the number of PECE examinees has dropped by 13.47 percent since 2015 while Ebtedayee candidates increased by 14.42 percent in the same period.

Asked about the rise and fall of the numbers, Akram-Al-Hossain, secretary at the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education, said "steep drop in population" was the reason for which the number of PECE candidates was on the decline.

He, however, could not answer how the number of Ebtedayee candidates were on the rise if the population had a steep drop.

"We will look into the matter and try to find the reason behind the rise and fall," he said.

On the other hand, teachers of different educational institutions told The Daily Star that the downtrend in the number of PECE candidates was because of urban parents' preference to English-medium schools over Bangla-medium ones.

The number of students taking part in the Ebtedayee exam is on the rise as parents in rural areas prefer madrasas over mainstream primary schools, they added.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

YEAR	CANDIDATES OF PECE	CANDIDATES OF EBTEDAYEE EXAM
2015	29,50,764	3,06,196
2016	29,34,087	3,00,671
2017	28,06,096	2,94,381
2018	27,76,882	3,19,388
2019	25,53,267	3,50,371

SOURCE: DIRECTORATE OF PRIMARY EDUCATION

Oikyafront team to meet Khaleda

Seeks permission from jail authorities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Oikyafront yesterday sent a letter to prison authorities seeking permission for five of its leaders to meet BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia in Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University.

A delegation, led by Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President ASM Abdur Rob, will meet Khaleda, said Oikyafront Office Secretary Jahangir Alam Mintoo.

The four other leaders are JSD Vice-President Tania Rob, Nagorik Oikya Convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna, Gonoforum General Secretary Reza Kibria and Gonoshasthya Kendra Founder Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury.

Mintoo said four to five other Oikyafront leaders will meet the BNP chairperson later but did

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

Floating cities!



CNN ONLINE

One of the downsides of living in a major city is the lack of space.

Packed train carriages, shoebox apartments, and traffic jams are among the regular reminders that space is a rare luxury in the most populous hubs.

But what if we could rise above it all, leaving the crowds and traffic behind for a peaceful haven in the urban skies?

This is the captivating premise of the "Rising Oases" project from Professor Georges Kachaamy, director of the Center for Research, Innovation and Design at the American University in Dubai (AUD).

Kachaamy's floating architecture, more than a decade in development, is one of the star attractions on display at Dubai Design Week from November 11-16. "Rising Oases" sketches out a possible future

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

2 Rohingyas killed in 'gunfight' with BGB

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Two alleged Rohingya criminals were killed in a "gunfight" with Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) personnel in Naikhyangchhari of Bandarban early yesterday.

Yasin, 30, and Hossain, 22, of Kutupalong Rohingya Camp-1 were accused of attacking a BGB patrol team on November 11, said BGB officials.

On that day, a group of "Rohingya drug peddlers"

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 18

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5:05 12:45 3:45 5:21 7:00
JAMAAT 5:40 1:15 4:00 5:24 7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



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