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RIVER POLLUTERS

Fine not enough, jail them too

Recommends river commission; unveils annual report

ZYMA ISLAM

River polluters should be not only fined but also punished with jail terms, recommends the National River Conservation Commission.

The recommendation has been incorporated in the draft amendment to National River Conservation Commission Act, 2013, NRCC Chairman Muzibur Rahman Howlader said yesterday, while unveiling the commission's annual report.

He also said river grabbing is regarded as a criminal offence, but polluters get away only by paying fines. "They are the owners of major industries, and we need to make

sure that they are sent to jail for polluting the rivers.

"We all should show zero tolerance against discharge of waste into the rivers."

While issuing a rule, the High Court on January 29 had also recommended considering river pollution as a criminal offence and handing tougher punishment to the offenders.

The HC came up with the rule in response to a petition seeking declaration that the Turag is a living entity.

The river commission's annual report was launched at a press conference at its office in the capital yesterday.

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina sitting in the first officer's seat talks to a pilot in the cockpit of a brand-new Boeing 787-9 at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport. The PM yesterday inaugurated two 787-9s bought for Biman.

Follow rules at airports

PM asks VIPs, opens HSIA terminal-3 work UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the VIPs to follow the airport security rules and warned that anyone flouting those would face air travel restrictions in future.

"I want to say it clearly, there are members of parliament, ministers, chiefs of the services and other high officials. You have to follow the security measures at the airports of the country like you do at airports abroad," she said.

The PM was addressing a function marking the inauguration of the construction work of the "Third Terminal" of Hazrat

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Mehedi Khulna's surprise package

SPORTS REPORTER

Two local players -- Mehedi Hasan Miraz and Nazmul Hossain -- fired on all cylinders for Khulna Tigers yesterday as the Mushfiqur Rahim-led side secured a thumping eight-wicket victory over Sylhet Thunder during their Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League (BBPL) encounter under the lights at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium

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BNP picks Tabith, Ishraq for DCC mayoral polls

AL to announce candidates today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP yesterday announced its mayoral candidates for the January 30 Dhaka city polls while the ruling Awami League said it would name its nominees today.

The BNP picked Tabith Awal and Ishraq Hossain to run for mayor of Dhaka north and south city corporations respectively.

The AL nomination board for local government polls held a meeting at the Gono Bhavan yesterday to choose its candidates.

Speaking to journalists later, AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader said they finalised two mayoral candidates

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Tabith Awal Ishraq Hossain

Tragedy rips apart family

BB official, two daughters killed as lorry rams car in Ctg; wife, son fighting for life

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, Ctg

Saifuzzaman Khan Mintu was returning to Dhaka with his three children and wife yesterday after a long-awaited trip to Bandarban.

The joint director of Bangladesh Bank had earlier promised to his 7th grader daughter Tasfia that they would visit the hills this winter. While in Bandarban, they planned to make another trip in near future.

But everything changed when a lorry rammed his car at a roundabout on Dhaka-Chattogram highway in Faujdarhat

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THE YEAR IN REVIEW: CORRUPTION

Big fish still off anti-graft radar

ACC actions were mostly confined to prosecuting low and mid-level officials

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

Charging the wrong person, bribe scam involving its own official, going soft on the influential corrupt people, and graft charges against political leaders and government officials kept the Anti-Corruption Commission a hot topic in 2019.

As the year began, the ACC came under fire for its mistake in identifying a corruption case accused that led to jute-mill worker Jahalam to suffer three years in prison.

By mid-2019, the commission was again in the soup as one of its directors taking bribe came to

the fore.

In July, the ACC sued its director Khandaker Enamul Basir, now suspended, for taking Tk 40 lakh bribe from suspended deputy inspector general of police Mizanur Rahman.

Mizan brought the allegation against Basir and had said he bribed Basir so that he be let off graft allegations against him.

However, the government's drive against illegal casino operators gave the ACC a chance to recover its image.

The anti-graft watchdog also filed 17 cases

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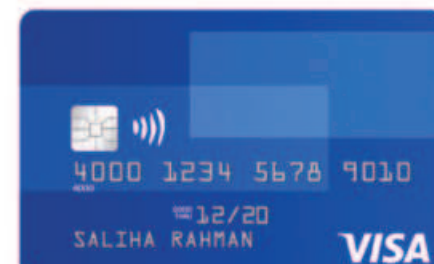


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