

MONGLA PORT AUTHORITY BILL-2021 Strict penalties proposed for polluters

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Keeping provisions of tougher punishments for polluting environment, the Mongla Port Authority Bill-2021 was placed in parliament yesterday. State Minister for Shipping Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury placed the Bill which was sent to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Shipping for further scrutiny.

The parliamentary watchdog was asked to submit its report before the House within two months.

The Bill will replace the Chalna Port Authority Ordinance, 1976, which was promulgated during a military regime.

As per the proposal of the Bill, the punishment for damaging the environment by polluting water, land and coast will be raised to a one-year imprisonment or a fine of Tk 5 lakh or both.

The fine is Tk 50,000 in the existing law.

The Bill says if any individual or any ship throws or give permission to throw oil or oil-like material, waste, ash into water, beach, shore or land in the port area causing damage of water animals or pollution to water

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Madhurjo, a seven-year-old boy, talking to her mother, a coronavirus patient, inside an ambulance in front of Mugda General Hospital in the capital yesterday. Using glasses and mask for protection, he is spending as much time possible with his mother before she gets admitted to the hospital and goes into isolation.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HUQ

Egypt gears up for pharaohs' 'Golden Parade'



AFP, Cairo

The mummified remains of 22 Egyptian pharaohs, including the most powerful ancient queen, were scheduled to be paraded through the streets of Cairo yesterday, in a procession to a new resting place.

Under the watchful eyes of security forces, the mummies will be moved seven kilometres (four miles) across the capital from the iconic Egyptian Museum, where most have resided undisturbed for over a century, to the

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Accident or murder or death?

Woman dies after Hatirjheel car crash; cops smell foul play; husband held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mystery shrouds over the death of a housewife after a car driven by her husband hit a road divider in the capital's Hatirjheel area yesterday morning.

Saki ul Alam claimed that his wife Arpita Jhlik, who was already unwell and being taken to hospital, died following the accident.

But police suspected it was murder while the deceased's family claimed that her in-laws "tortured her to death" and "staged the accident to cover up the murder".

Police detained Alam and the caretaker of his house in Gulshan for interrogation.

A CCTV camera -- at the building -- footage shows Jhlik in an unconscious state being carried to the car by several persons, police said.

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ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Tajuddin calls on Indira

APRIL 4, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

INDIRA-TAJUDDIN MEETING

On April 4, 1971, Tajuddin Ahmad called on Indian PM Indira Gandhi at the office in her residence. The conversation started with Indira's question, "How is Sheikh Mujib? Is he alright?" Tajuddin said that he had no contact with Mujib since the night of March 25, but added that Mujib had proclaimed the independence of Bangladesh. He sought Indian government's support for carrying forward the Liberation War. [Barrister M. Amir-ul-Islam, Muktiyuddher Sriti, Kagoj Prokashoni, 1991, pg. 31]

Indira Gandhi offered support that included arms and ammunitions, communication facilities, civil supplies and



medicines, safe passage and transit arrangements. However, she didn't touch upon the question of recognition.

Earlier a committee was formed by Indira Gandhi to consider the requirements of the liberation movement of Bangladesh. It was also decided that relationship at the political level would be handled only through the agency of R&AW, and, at this stage, BSF would be main executive agency. [Srinath Raghavan, 1971: A Global History of the Creation of Bangladesh, Permanent Black,

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'Hefajat an anti-Islamic, militant outfit'

Sheikh Selim at JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Senior Awami League MP Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim yesterday told parliament that Hefajat-e-Islam is anti-Islamic, anti-independence, and "they are the enemy of the country".

Hefajat activists must pay for their recent rampage, he said.

"The government should handle them with an iron hand. If necessary, a tribunal should be formed to try them," Selim said while speaking on a point of order.

Those who do not acknowledge Bangladesh have no right to live here, he said.

Madrasas from where Hefajat militants took to the streets, attacked and killed people, and

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CRACKDOWN ON ANTI-COUP PROTESTERS

Myanmar ethnic rebels groups condemn junta

Five more killed as protests continue; military hunts critics

AGENCIES

Ten of Myanmar's major rebel groups threw their support behind the country's anti-coup movement yesterday, fanning fears that a broader conflict could erupt in a country long plagued by fighting between the military and the ethnic armies.

Myanmar has been in turmoil since

the military ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi from power on February 1, triggering an uprising that the junta has sought to quell with deadly crackdowns.

According to a local monitoring group, more than 550 people have been killed in the anti-coup unrest, bloodshed that has angered some of Myanmar's 20 or so ethnic

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Amid a surge in the number of coronavirus infection and deaths in the country, people disregarding safety guidelines in markets and public gatherings regularly. The photo was taken yesterday at the fish market in Karwan Bazar in the capital.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Man sent to jail for rape of minor

A CORRESPONDENT, Feni

A court in Feni yesterday sent a youth to jail on charge of raping a minor girl in Fulgazi upazila.

The accused is Touhidur Rahman, 26, of Uttar Sreepur village in the same upazila, said police.

Quoting the victim's family members, police said the 10-year-old victim

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PRAYER TIMING APRIL 4

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-40 12-45 4-45 6-21 7-45
JAMAAT 5-15 1-15 5-00 6-24 8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

India braces for Covid-19 curbs

Nearly 90,000 cases reported in 24 hours

AGENCIES

India's biggest cities yesterday braced for stricter lockdowns and other Covid-19 curbs as millions of Christians around the world were facing another Easter weekend under restrictions because of coronavirus surges.

There have been worrying spikes in infections in many parts of the world, even as vaccine rollouts gather pace, forcing the reimposition of deeply unpopular restrictions.

India's richest state, Maharashtra, accounted for more

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