




BURIGANGA RIVERBANK

Up for grabbing

BIWTA planning walkways when excavation of filled-up stretches needed

TARUN SARKAR

Local syndicates are out again to grab swathes of the Buriganga riverbank in the capital's Kamrangirchar, blocking the natural flow of the river.

Over the last few months and years, they set up at least two truck stands, dozens of construction material businesses and a motor workshop by filling up the riverbank in the area.

In several recent drives, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) cleared about 670 metres of the riverbank at Hujurpara, Sirajnagar and Kholamora under Kamrangirchar Police Station, but many illegal businesses still occupy the riverbank.

Experts and environmentalists say excavation of the filled-up riverbank is very crucial to ensure the natural flow of the river and to stop future occupation, but the BIWTA now plans to construct walkways there instead.

During a visit in early September, nearly 100 feet of riverbank inside the river-boundary pillars between Hujurpara mosque and Kholamora terminal area were found filled up.

One of the two truck stands has been set up between pillar 27 and 28 in Hujurpara. The other has been built on the east part of Kholamora terminal, filling up a large area of the riverbank between pillar 40 and 43.

Parking of different sorts of vehicles and loading and unloading of construction materials go on here with little regard for river protection laws and multiple High Court orders.

A signboard titled "Stand and Parking: Kholamora Terminal" has been hoisted there by Kamrangirchar unit of Bangladesh Inter-District Truck Drivers Union. Dozens of trucks, pickups and other small vehicles were seen parked there.

Nearby, a motor workshop has been set up to overhaul vehicles. It is not clear who set up the workshop, as there is no signboard to claim its ownership.

Trading of wood, sand, brick and stone is going on in full swing at

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Trucks parked on the bank of the Buriganga at Kholamora ghat in the capital's Kamrangirchar. Influential locals encroached upon the river to make this truck stand. The BIWTA removed other structures that encroached upon the river, but the truck stand remains. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

CHINA ANNIVERSARY

PM greets Xi, hopes strong cooperation

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina sent a letter of felicitation to Chinese President Xi Jinping and hoped that exchanges and cooperation at various levels between the two countries will be further strengthened in the coming days.

The prime minister sent the letter on the occasion of the 72nd anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

Hasina, on behalf of the government and the people of Bangladesh, conveyed to President Xi and through him to the government and the friendly people of China her heartfelt felicitations and warmest greetings.

"Modern China under the leadership of the Communist Party of China is a significant partner for the socio-economic development of Bangladesh," said the PM.

Hasina fondly recalled President Xi Jinping's visit to Bangladesh in 2016 during which the two leaders agreed to

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ROAD TO FREEDOM
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Bangladesh cabinet discusses Indo-Soviet talk



PHOTO: THE HINDUSTHAN STANDARD

OCTOBER 2, 1971
SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

CABINET MEETING HELD
The Bangladesh cabinet met today to review the Kremlin meeting between the Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and the Soviet leaders, and to assess its implication on the War of Liberation. Earlier, Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Mahub Alam had a meeting with Indian Foreign Secretary TN Kaul, who had accompanied Indira to Moscow. Although no official comment on the cabinet talks was available, informed sources indicated that the cabinet was satisfied with the outcome of the Moscow talks and in particular with the growing realisation among the Soviet leaders of the extent and intensity of the Liberation War in Bangladesh.

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UNAUTHORISED HANDSETS

BTRC begins to snap their connectivity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission yesterday started implementing the decision to disconnect unauthorised handsets from cellular connectivity.

The BTRC launched the programme after the deadline for mobile phone registration with the National Equipment Identity Register (NEIR) expired on September 30.

NEIR is a central database for International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI), a unique 15-digit identification or serial number that all mobile phones must have to remain connected to networks.

Mobile phones with proper documents have been automatically included in the database. The NEIR was launched

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Drawings by boxing legend Muhammad Ali up for auction



REUTERS, New York

A rare collection of sketches and paintings by American boxer Muhammad Ali - who loved to draw between fights - is going up for auction in New York next week.

The 24-piece collection, many of them in cartoon style and some of them signed, reflect Ali's interest in religion and social justice, but there are also some that picture him in the ring.

"Ref, he did float like a butterfly and sting like a bee!" reads the speech bubble from a boxer knocked out by an opponent with his arms raised in victory.

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Low turnout as Mamata fights to retain her CM post

NDTV, The Hindu

The bypoll in the Bhabanipur Assembly constituency in West Bengal, which Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is contesting to retain her chief minister's post, saw a relatively low voter turnout amidst isolated disturbances, a senior Election Commission official said yesterday.

The constituency registered over 57 percent polling during Thursday's by-election, the official told PTI.

In April when the West

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3kg crystal meth seized in Teknaf

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rab officers yesterday arrested a Rohingya man with three kg of crystal methamphetamine in Teknaf, Cox's Bazar.

Officers caught Abdul Latif, 64, carrying the haul in a shopping bag around 3:30pm near Shapla Chottor on Marine Drive, said Abdullah Mohammad Sheikh Sadi, senior assistant director at Rab-15.

Latif, a resident of Aliabad area, told Rab officers in primary interrogation that he brought the substance, popularly known as ice, from the border in Teknaf to sell it in Cox's Bazar and elsewhere, the officer said.

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THE OLD NORMAL?... Hundreds of people shopping at a street market in the capital's Gulistan yesterday evening. Other than one or two people wearing masks, the picture is similar to those of pre-pandemic times. Covid-19 transmission has been steadily declining across the country and people have been ignoring the health safety guidelines.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 2

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
4:45	12:45	4:15	5:53	7:30
JAMAT	5:20	1:15	4:30	5:56
				8:00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Star HEALTHLINE

Asthma more prevalent in CHILDREN AGED 5-14

DR RUKHSANA PARVIN

Bronchial asthma is a condition in which airways are inflamed and become more sensitive. When sensitive airways are exposed to certain triggers, they overreact, become narrower and breathing becomes difficult.

If the condition is not managed well, it can lead to life-threatening asthma attacks. Asthma can begin at any age, but most children who have it, have their first symptoms by the age of 5.

Childhood

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