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DoE failed to protect Savar wetlands

Says HC verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday lambasted the Department of Environment (DoE) for failing to protect waterbodies -- Baghil Beel, Dholai Beel and Pakuria Beel, and Kornapara Khal -- in Savar from pollution and encroachment.

Delivering a verdict on a writ petition, the court said the DoE was negligent in properly monitoring and enforcing environment protection laws to save and preserve ecology and the livelihood of people in areas surrounding the waterbodies from pollution caused by the dumping of hazardous and toxic industrial waste.

The full text of the verdict, however, has not been released yet.

The action taken by the DoE against the industrial companies, which are dumping hazardous waste into the waterbodies, is inadequate, the HC bench of Justice KM Kamrul Kader and Justice Muhammad Mahub Ul Islam observed.

The bench said the explanation by the DoE, saying it cannot take proper steps due to shortage of manpower and Covid-19 pandemic, is not acceptable.

The bench also directed the authorities concerned to take necessary steps to protect and save the wetlands and waterbodies from further pollution and damage.

It further asked the DoE to submit a report before it on the position of the waterbodies, the quality of the water, and the steps taken against the polluters every six months.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4



Passengers complaining to a BRTA mobile court about being charged extra in the capital's Ramna yesterday. Inset, a sticker that says the bus runs on CNG being stuck on the windscreen as the fare of CNG-run vehicles has not increased. Meanwhile, mobile courts fined 336 buses and minibuses in Dhaka and Chattogram cities for overcharging passengers.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

DEATH IN BOGURA Staffer admits removing oxygen mask of patient

Says Rab after his arrest in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rab yesterday arrested Asadul Islam Mir Dholu, who worked on daily wages at Bogura Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital, over the death of a boy allegedly due to removal of the oxygen mask by the staffer for not getting a "satisfactory tip".

A Rab team held him from the capital's Abdullahpur early yesterday, said Commander Khandaker Al Moin, Rab's legal and media wing director, adding that Dholu, 40, fled immediately after the incident on Tuesday night.

During primary interrogation, Dholu

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

RECRUITMENT FOR 5 BANKS BB cancels tests after question paper leak

DB nabs 3 more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Bank has cancelled the preliminary test for hiring 1,511 cash officers in five state-owned banks which was marred by allegation of question leak.

In a notification on its website yesterday, the central bank said it cancelled the Saturday's MCQ test for "unavoidable reasons". It will publish the new date of the exam on the bank's website and in national dailies through a circular, the notification added.

Meanwhile, police yesterday arrested three more persons for their alleged involvement in the gang that leaked the question papers.

They are: Emdadul Haque Khokon, senior officer of Janata Bank, Sohel Rana, a former official of the same bank, and AB Jahid, a former student of Dhaka College.

Shahadat Hossain, additional deputy commissioner of the Detective Branch of police (Tejgaon division), said they arrested the trio after conducting raids in different parts of the capital on Wednesday.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Indira rules out Tashkent-type talks

NOVEMBER 12, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

INDIRA GANDHI'S PRESS CONFERENCE

A Tashkent-type conference is not possible to solve the crisis created by Pakistan. But no problem is unsolvable and that even at the last moment the world can make the Yahya regime see reason and bow to the wishes of Bangalees. Indira Gandhi stressed these points in her press conference today in Bonn. She, however, made it clear that India would not allow the crisis to continue for long because the Bangladeshi refugees must go back in safety and with dignity.

FEAR OF FULL WAR BY INDIA, PAKISTAN
US Secretary of State William P Rogers expressed the administration's growing concern today that the border clashes between India and Pakistan might lead to an all-out war. Addressing a press briefing, Rogers said that the United States had "urgently counseled both sides to follow maximum restraint" and was "quietly trying to defuse the situation" between the two South Asian neighbors. In answer to a question, Rogers said that the United States, in case of war, "will do everything we can to stay out."

Pakistani Foreign Secretary Sultan Mohammad Khan said today that there is a "virtual state of war" with India along the borders of Pakistan. He said at a news conference at United Nations headquarters that only "extreme patience and care" by Pakistan had kept this "state of war" from being "expanded." Sultan, who was en route to Washington in a world tour in which he had already visited Moscow and Peking, indicated that Pakistan was not

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5



Judiciary has zero tolerance against communalism

Says CJ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain has said the judiciary maintains a zero-tolerance policy against those trying to damage the country's communal harmony.

He also said necessary steps would be taken so that the trial in any case for harming the harmony is completed in 90 working days after the charge sheet is filed.

The CJ was speaking as chief guest at a function organised by the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) at its auditorium on the SC premises yesterday afternoon. The programme was arranged on the occasion of "Bijaya Punarmilani", a reunion after Durga Puja celebrations.

"Religion teaches us generosity, humanity and

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

Mexico City sets world record for free Wi-Fi hotspots



AFP, Mexico City

Mexico City has set a world record for free Wi-Fi access thanks to thousands of public internet access points across the capital, Guinness World Records announced Wednesday.

Official adjudicator Carlos Tapia presented the award for the most hotspots -- 21,500 -- in a single free urban Wi-Fi network to Mexico City Mayor Claudia Sheinbaum.

The access points are spread across the sprawling city of some nine million people, particularly in public transport, although at times the network can become saturated.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

US to provide another 14m Pfizer jabs

UNB, Dhaka

The US administration has declared that it will provide another 14 million Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine doses to Bangladesh under the COVAX facility, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen said yesterday.

"It's good news," he said in a message from Paris mentioning that US Secretary of State Antony Blinken moderated a high-level ministerial virtual meeting on Covid-19 and beyond on Wednesday.

The Bangladesh foreign minister and his 25 counterparts from other

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4



PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 12

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5:00 12:30 3:45 5:22 7:00
JAMAAT 5:35 1:15 4:00 5:25 7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Star HEALTHLINE

Stomach ulcer: CAUSES AND PREVENTION

STAR HEALTH DESK

Stomach ulcer, also known as gastric ulcer, is a kind of peptic ulcer. It is a painful sore on the stomach lining.

Peptic ulcers were once more common than they are now. The declining trend is noticeable in Bangladesh as well.

From January 2012 to July 2013, a group of researchers used 5,608 subjects from multiple tertiary referral centres of Dhaka city to study prevalence of the disease.

Among them, benign gastric ulcer was found in 184

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2



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NATURE QUEST

Green bee-eaters spotted in the capital's Aftabnagar just before the sunset. Like other bee-eaters, this species is a richly coloured and slender bird. They are mainly insect eaters and are found in grassland, shrubs and forest and often quite far from water sources.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF ASKER IBNE FIROZ

VIOLENCE IN MYANMAR UNSC expresses 'deep concern'

AFP, New York

The UN Security Council expressed its "deep concern" Wednesday about recent unrest in Myanmar and called for an "immediate cessation of violence" and for efforts to ensure that civilians are not harmed.

In a statement issued as reports emerged of clashes between junta troops and fighters from a major militant group in Rakhine state, the Security Council warned that "recent developments pose particular serious challenges for the voluntary, safe, dignified, and sustainable return of Rohingya refugees and internally displaced persons."

The clashes, reported by a rebel spokesman, broke a ceasefire that had kept the peace in the western region since a February coup by the military junta.

The Southeast Asian country has been in chaos since the February putsch, with a brutal crackdown on dissent and

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2



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