

DHALESHWARI RIVER 15,000 cubic metres of untreated waste being dumped daily

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Central Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) of Savar Tannery Industrial complex is discharging around 15,000 cubic metres of untreated waste liquid directly into the Dhaleshwari per day.

Experts say that the untreated liquid waste is detrimental to the biodiversity of the river.

The information surfaced in a meeting of the National River Conservation Commission held at its office yesterday.

The generation of liquid waste has raised to 40,000 cubic metres per day for the last six to seven days while the highest capacity of CETP to treat waste liquid is 25,000 cubic metres per day, admitted Mostaque Ahmed, managing director of Dhaka Tannery Industrial Estate Wastage Treatment Plant Company Ltd (DTIEWTPCL).

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Leather processing after Eid-ul-Azha have made the situation even worse in the last few months, he noted. "We would implement production rationing procedures to reduce generation of liquid waste from the tanneries."

A sample test of the Department of Environment (DoE) conducted in last July, found waste generated from these tanneries is way higher than the standard allowed by Bangladesh Environment Conservation Rule 1997, even in the CETP-treated water.

The meeting, presided over by Dr Manjur Ahmed Chowdhury, chairman of National River Conservation Commission, hosted environment officials, relevant experts, representatives of the Savar Industrial Estate and law enforcers. Earlier, the NRCC chairman expressed disappointment over the efficiency of the CETP and similar labs in the Savar industrial area.



Students stand idly outside as the only teacher of Natarkandi Government Primary School at Chilmari upazila in Kurigram is busy holding another class. Due to a lack of teachers, around 203 students are being deprived of education at the school.

PHOTO: STAR

NATARKANDI PRIMARY SCHOOL IN KURIGRAM

Lone teacher for 203 students

S DILIP ROY, Kurigram

On the banks of the Brahmaputra stands a primary school in a remote char at Chilmari upazila of Kurigram.

River erosion, flood, poverty and child marriage are some of the factors which stand in the way between quality education and Chilmari children.

However, against all odds, some 203 students are still pursuing their education at the Natarkandi Government Primary School on paper. Of them, 55-60 students regularly attend classes.

If only the classes were held regularly.

The school is run by only one teacher. Despite giving her best, acting headteacher Rozina Khatun struggles to hold all the classes.

Currently, there are five vacancies in the school out of six teaching positions offered.

The crisis started five years ago when the rest of the teachers retired together, leaving Rozina alone with the responsibilities of over 200 children in a remote area.

"Due to the unavailability of teachers, students' attendance has also decreased," Rozina said.

"I have told the education officer about this several times but nothing has been done," she added.

Simu Akhter, a fifth grader at the school, told this correspondent that there was no teaching at the institution. They come to school only to spend their time and then they go back home.

"There is a teacher. She sometimes holds one or two classes," she said, adding that many of her friends have stopped coming to school as a result.

Sohrab Hossain, a guardian of a student, told this correspondent,

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1.90 lakh yaba pills in truck's fuel tank!

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion claimed to have seized 1.90 lakh yaba pills from a truck's fuel tank and arrested three persons in this connection.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab-3 intercepted the truck in Dhaka's Jatrabari on Saturday night and seized the pills hidden inside a special chamber of the tank, Khandaker Al Moin, Rab's legal and media wing director, told a press conference yesterday.

The arrestees, led by their kingpin and truck owner Sohel, had been involved in smuggling yaba tablets from Cox's Bazar for four to five years.

They had been supplying those to drug dealers in the capital and elsewhere in the country using various means. This consignment in the fuel tank was supposed to reach Gazipur, he said.

The gang has seven to eight members. After collecting yaba pills in Teknaf, they created a chamber in the fuel tank in Chakaria and hid the drugs there. Rab has seized the truck.

Man sent to jail for raping 6-yr-old girl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

A court in Noakhali yesterday sent a man to jail on charge of raping a six-year-old girl in Subarnachar upazila. The accused is Md Belal Uddin, 30, a resident of Dokkhin Charlek village.

Quoting the victim's family, police said the child, a first grader at a local school, was returning home from school around noon on Saturday.

On the way, Belal intercepted the girl, took her to a secluded place and raped her.

After returning home, she told her mother about the incident, who filed a rape case against Belal with Charjabbar Police Station.

Police arrested Belal the same night, said OC Debapriya Dash of the police station. The child was sent to a hospital for medical test.

Advertisement for Dhaka Line featuring a recruitment notice in Bengali. The notice includes details about the company, job openings, and application procedures. It features the Dhaka Line logo and a photo of a man in a suit.