



MEGHNA RIVER

Remove illegal structures: NRCC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National River Conservation Commission (NRCC) has recommended authorities concerned to take action against Meghna river grabbers in Char Hogla village under Shambhupura union of Narayanganj.

The letter dated December 21 was received yesterday by the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) chairman and Deputy Commissioner of Narayanganj, according to sources at NRCC and BIWTA.

These recommendations came following a December 12 report in The Daily Star exposing how two ruling party leaders have encroached parts of Meghna River to operate unauthorised sand business.

"The port received instructions from the BIWTA chairman yesterday to conduct an eviction drive and remove the illegal structures," said Shahid Ullah, the port officer of Narayanganj.

RANA PLAZA MURDER CASE

Finish trial in six months: SC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday directed the lower court to conclude the trial proceedings of the Rana Plaza murder case within six months.

The case was filed following the collapse of Rana Plaza on April 24, 2013, which resulted in the death of 1,135 individuals, and injury of over 2,500 others.

The SC also extended its earlier order that stayed a High Court verdict which granted bail to Sohel Rana, owner of Rana Plaza, in the murder case.

A four-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Abaidul Hassan passed the order after holding a hearing on a petition filed by the state challenging the HC verdict.

On April 6 last year, the HC granted bail to Sohel Rana in the case.



On a cold winter morning, farmer Md Abul Hossain, 57, sets up a handmade scarecrow in his vegetable farm to prevent birds from damaging the crops. This guardian of the crops is crafted with bamboo poles, straw, old cloths, and a clay pot.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

MEDICAL WASTE MANAGEMENT

DSCC initiates separate collection, disposal system

DIPAN NANDY

To ensure better waste management in the capital, Dhaka South City Corporation has initiated a project to collect medical waste separately.

The decision came following the 13th board meeting of the city corporation in April 2022 as the authorities decided to bring medical waste collection, transportation, and removal services under a registration process.

Mentionable, healthcare or medical waste contains potentially harmful microorganisms that can infect hospital patients, health workers, and the general public. Thus, WHO recommends separate and isolated disposal of such waste.

In the first phase of the project, the areas under DSCC jurisdiction were divided into 10 zones, each of which

will have a registered contractor.

The registered collectors will be responsible for collecting medical waste separately from hospitals, clinics, diagnostic centres, and health care services. The collection will be properly processed and disposed of at the incineration plant at DSCC landfill in Matuail.

The process of collection has already begun in four zones, starting with zone-1, where two largest hospitals of the capital - Dhaka Medical College Hospital and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital are located.

Collection in zones 2, 4 and 5 began in October last year while the registration process for zone-3 is almost complete, according to DSCC sources.

The authorised workers separately collect medical waste from BSMMU

regularly, said its director (hospital) Brig Gen Dr Md Rezaur Rahman.

Ittikher Ahmed Chowdhury, chief waste management officer of DSCC, said Dhaka is home to over a thousand medical institutions, including clinics and pathology labs, which generate a good amount of waste. But it should not be disposed of with household waste as it is harmful to the people and nature, he said.

"The response we got from the four operational zones is promising, and we are looking forward to starting the process in other zones by this year," he added.

Urban planner Prof Adil Mohammed Khan said, "The initiative is good, but if medical scraps keep being disposed of with domestic waste, the total move will fail."

Protect Malam beel: HC

New rule issued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule for protecting Malam beel adjacent to ecologically critical Hakaluki Haor at Borelekha upazila in Moulvibazar.

In the rule, the court asked the government to explain why their failure to protect Malam beel should not be declared illegal.

The HC bench of Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam and Justice Md Atabullah issued the rule following a petition filed by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association.

The bench also asked the deputy commissioner of Moulvibazar to dispose of the application submitted by BELA on October 25, 2020 for cancelling the lease of Malam beel to Monadi Matsajibi Samity.

Advocate Hasanul Banna assisted by lawyer Shamima Nasrin appeared for BELA while Assistant Attorney General Md Selim Azad represented the state during hearing of the petition.

GAZIPUR CITY

Appointment of three panel mayors stayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday stayed for six months the decision to elect three panel mayors for Gazipur City Corporation.

The three are GCC's councillors Masudul Hasan Billal, Rakhi Sarkar and Md Mizanur Rahman.

The court also issued a rule asking the government to explain why the decision taken by GCC mayor on October 15 last year, to elect them as panel mayors, should not be declared illegal.

The bench of Justice Naima Haider and Justice Kazi Zinat Hoque issued the order and rule following a petition filed by councillor Md Nurul Islam Nuru.

Petitioner's lawyers said the GCC councillors cannot function as panel mayors following the HC order.

They were selected as panel mayors in violation of the relevant rules, they added.

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