



PHOTO: STAR
Prof Muzaffer Ahmad speaks at a discussion on 'Importance of jute as environment friendly agriculture and industrial product' at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. Nagorik Sanghati organised the discussion.

37cr litres of Ctg Wasa water pilfered in 2 yrs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A total of 46 commercial buildings, industries and firms pilfered around 37 crore litres of Wasa water in last two years in the port city.

A mobile court in its month-long drive in August against pilferage and wastage of water supplied by Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) unearthed the incidents and realised around Tk 1 crore in arrear and fine.

Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Magistrate Mohammad Munir Chowdhury led the drives titled 'Operation Save Wasa' at different places in the city with the help of the officials of engineering and revenue departments of Chittagong Wasa.

The court fined 62 people and business firms and realised Tk 96,74,519 in fine while it realised unpaid bill amounting Tk 2.29 lakh.

During the drive the court also fined two Wasa officials Tk 20 thousand for their involvement in helping tax evasion.

It also seized 19 motors and 400-foot-long GI and plastic pipe during the drives.

The court conducted the drives at different business firms like hotel and restaurant, community centre, washing plant, service centre, workshop, guesthouse, commercial building and flourmill.

The drives were conducted at different areas including Agrabad Commercial Area, East Madarbari, Sagarika Industrial Area, Jahur Hawkers' Market, Hamjerbagh, Strand Road, Majhirghat, Pathantuli, Sadarghat, Oxygen, Bayezid and Port Connecting Road.

Sources said different business firms including SF Chamber, SA Chamber and Kulsuma Building,

Hotel Mehraj, Hotel Ajmir, Simon Hotel, Munmun Community Centre, Navy Cigarette Factory and Kohinur Flour Mills were fined for pilferage.

During the drives the court found that the authorities of these commercial firms pilfered water through illegal pipeline, tempering metres, expanding Wasa main line illegally, digging unauthorised deep tubewells, and collecting water from the disconnected lines.

The court also found that some of the commercial firms paid the bills at residential rates.

When contacted, Magistrate Munir said such pilferage of water increased the sufferings of a large number of people owing to poor supply.

RMCH doctors withdraw strike

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Doctors at Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH) at an emergency meeting withdrew their strike with RMCH Director Saidur Rahman in the chair yesterday.

The doctors took the decision after the hospital authorities formed a three-member committee to investigate the Friday's incident.

The doctors called an indefinite strike following a clash between some doctors and relatives of a patient who died in the hospital allegedly due to wrong treatment.

Mahbubar Rahman, acting principal of Sathibari College, died in the hospital on Friday due to wrong treatment, relatives said.

JSD to discuss electoral reforms with EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) yesterday decided to participate in the ongoing dialogue with the Election Commission (EC) on electoral reforms.

The decision was taken at an emergency meeting of the central working committee (CWC) at the

party central office in the city with JSD President Hasanul Haq Inu in the chair.

Syed Jafar Sajjad, Moinuddin Khan Badal, Sharif Nurul Ambia, Rabul Alam, Mozharul Haq, Shirin Akhter and Nazmul Haq Prodhan were present at the meeting.

The meeting discussed electoral reforms and prepared its

strategy in this regard.

"We have decided to sit with the EC to discuss electoral reforms," Hasanul Haq Inu told The Daily Star about the decision of the meeting.

He said the meeting has urged the EC to complete all formalities soon to hold the election as early as possible.