


# HC outlines river steps

Hails The Daily Star -  for their role in creating awareness to save rivers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a set of directives for the government to save the rivers around the capital from encroachment and pollution.

It directed the deputy commissioners of Dhaka, Narayanganj, Gazipur and Munshiganj to determine the exact boundaries of Buriganga, Shitalakhya, Turag and Balu rivers by November 30.

The bench of Justice ABM Khairul Haque and Justice Mamtazuddin Ahmed said the land records and survey department will help the DCs by doing cadastral surveys for delimitation of the river boundaries.

It directed the forest and environment secretary to designate the four rivers as 'Ecologically Critical Areas' to facilitate the demarcation work.

The directives came in response to a writ petition filed as public interest litigation by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh.

Reading out the orders, Justice ABM Khairul Haque lauded The Daily Star and Channel i for their campaign to draw attention to the pollution and encroachment on the rivers.

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## Eviction halts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Narayanganj district administration suddenly stopped the eviction drive against the encroachers of Shitalakhya river on the 12th day yesterday although Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) was all set for the day's drive.

"We all knew the eviction drive would continue and we mobilised tugboats and labourers as usual for the drive," said Md Abu Zafar Hawlader, senior deputy director (Narayanganj river port) of BIWTA.

The eviction team waited nearly two hours at the site for the magistrate and later contacted with the district administration around 10:45am only to know that the drive would not be conducted until further orders.

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Defiant businessmen engage workers to illegally fill up a stretch of the River Buriganga near Postogola with sand, despite the continuing government drive against all kinds of encroachment.

PHOTO: SHAFIQU ALAM

## HC rallies for rivers

- Demarcate Buriganga, Shitalakhya, Turag and Balu rivers by November 30
- Announce the four rivers as ecologically critical areas till then
- Officials involved with river demarcation cannot be transferred till the tasks complete
- Get demarcation done without any discrimination and influence
- Provide sufficient security to officials during the work
- Set up pillars by May 30, 2010, to protect demarcated river boundaries
- Remove all garbage and illegal structures from the rivers by November 30, 2010
- Construct walkways and plant trees on the riverbanks by May 31, 2011
- Continue ongoing eviction drive
- Dredge the source areas of drying rivers within five years
- Govt officials concerned will be held responsible, if court directives are not followed duly



## Mainul's graft charges under JS scanner

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The parliamentary standing committee on housing and public works ministry yesterday formed a five-member sub-committee to investigate the allegations of corruption against Mainul Hossain, law and housing adviser to the last caretaker government.

The former adviser, if necessary, would be summoned to appear before the committee to defend the charge against him, said chief

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## Aug 21 probe still in question

Govt seeks further investigation; court hears plea July 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government wants further investigation into the August 21 grenade attacks on an Awami League rally as it believes even the probe by the last caretaker government, which corrected the farcical investigation of the BNP-Jamaat alliance's rule, is not a complete one.

The state lawyer yesterday submitted a prayer to a Dhaka court for further investigating the attack that aimed to assassinate AL President Sheikh Hasina in 2004, saying expert and influential people who had supplied the grenades have still remained untraced.

The grisly attack on Hasina's rally on Bangabandhu Avenue killed 23 AL leaders and workers and maimed over 300.

After a brief hearing on the petition, Judge Masdar Hossain of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 fixed July 1 for full hearing.

The Criminal Investigation Department, which investigated the two cases filed in connection with the sensational incident, submitted charge sheets in June last year, accusing 21 members of Harkatul Jihad Al Islami (Huji) including its top leader Mufti Abdul Hannan and former deputy minister of BNP-led government Abdus Salam Pintu.

In its earlier probe, however, the CID had not found any proof that the banned Islamist outfit Huji or anyone from BNP were involved in the attack.

The first group of CID investigators rather

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## GOVT PROPOSAL FOR WHITENING MONEY Scope breach of UN convention: WB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The World Bank (WB) said yesterday the provision of whitening money in the proposed budget for the next fiscal year (FY) is in conflict with the UN Convention against Corruption Bangladesh signed, and anti-graft laws of the country.

It described the budget as expansionary and innovative but protectionist. The increase in protection will hurt consumers while not benefiting the economy as a whole, it claimed.

The WB gave its reaction to the proposed budget at a press briefing at its office in the capital.

Senior economist at the WB Dhaka office Dr Zahid Hussain presented a detailed analysis of the budget for FY2009-10.

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earned through legal way," Zahid said responding to queries from journalists.

"The two categories of money are not the same. So much more clarity is needed even in practical terms," he said.

"There is no controversy in Bangladesh regarding the moral or ethical side of whitening money. All are saying that whitening money is not right as it discourages honest taxpayers," the WB official said in reply to a question.

He went on, "Morally we all agree that it is not a right policy. Another practical concern is that much black money will not get whitened or much revenue earned from the provision. There is also question regarding how much investment will be attracted by the public-private partnership (PPP) initiative."

He mentioned that Bangladesh has passed anti-money laundering law. This (money whitening) provision is in conflict with that. And it is not clear how these conflicts would be addressed, he added.

WB economist Priyanti Malik pointed out that Bangladesh signed the UN Convention

## One more swine flu case found First diagnosed person cured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Swine flu cases in the country rose to eight as one more person was found infected with the H1N1 virus yesterday.

Official sources said the newly infected person carried the virus as he came into contact with the first diagnosed person of the deadly flu detected on June 18.

"He has mild symptoms of swine flu and is undergoing treatment in home confinement," said Prof Mahmudur Rahman, director of Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research, adding that the incubation period of the A (H1N1) virus is seven to ten days normally.

Though the first diagnosed person of the deadly flu has been cured by this time, the rest seven are kept under

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