

**PHULTALA WATER PROJECT
HC asks KCC
to submit
feasibility,
EIA reports
by Aug 10**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday asked Khulna City Corporation (KCC) authorities to submit the feasibility and the environmental impact assessment (EIA) reports on Phultala Water Supply Project in Khulna before this court by August 10.

The HC bench of Justice ABM Khairul Haque and Justice Mohammad Momtazuddin Ahmed verbally passed the order following an application filed by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association (BELA).

The application stated that the KCC authorities have been working on the water supply project at Phultala in Khulna without having any feasibility and EIA reports.

KCC's lawyer Advocate Kamrul Haque Siddiqui, however, yesterday told the court that the KCC authorities will not work on the project until further order on the case.

Earlier on July 7, the HC asked the KCC authorities to obtain the EIA report from the department of environment (DoE) on the project as early as possible and to inform about the EIA report to it (court) within a month.

The court had also fixed August 10 for hearing the petition.

Earlier, on May 25 this year, the HC upon a writ petition filed by BELA issued a rule upon the authorities concerned to explain why the water supply project without having EIA report and environmental certificate should not be declared illegal.

Advocate Iqbal Kabir Litan argued for BELA, while Deputy Attorney General Mostafa Zaman Islam stood for the government yesterday.



PHOTO STAR
Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdul Latif Biswas examines a fish after inaugurating a formalin testing centre at Karwan Bazar kitchen market in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 2)

Tobacco control act to be amended

Says health minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Health Minister Dr AFM Ruhal Haque yesterday said the government has taken initiatives to amend the existing tobacco control act incorporating pictorial health warnings on tobacco products to control tobacco consumption.

"The amended version of the law will be submitted to the law ministry soon for its recommendation," the minister said, adding, "Then we will expedite the process at cabinet division and parliament secretariat to raise a bill in the Jatiya Sangsad."

He hoped that the government would pass the bill in parliament very soon in order to free the country from tobacco which kills around 57,000 people every year.

The health minister was speaking at a programme organised by the country office of World Health Organisation after receiving an award titled 'World No Tobacco Day 2009 Award' at a ceremony.

Leaders and activists of the unit formed the human chain

Sungkhobol, WHO representative to Bangladesh, formally handed over the award to the health minister.

This year WHO selected the minister for the award for his initiatives to amend the law incorporating pictorial health warnings on tobacco packets.

Attending the programme as chief guest Prime Minister's Health Adviser Dr Syed Modassar Ali stressed the need for a tobacco control cell at each community clinic.

"As majority of tobacco

consumers are illiterate it is necessary to include pictorial warnings on tobacco products depicting the harmful diseases caused by tobacco for their better understanding," he added.

With BD Mitra, additional secretary to health and family welfare ministry in the chair, the programme was also addressed by Prof Shah Monir Hossain, director general of DGHS, and Dr Anwar Hussain Munshi, joint secretary (WHO and Public Health).

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