

## 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.



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 Ruhul 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 in Dhaka.

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 Modasser 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 Munsil, joint secretary (WHO and Public Health).

## 'Make Eden College varsity'

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Eden College unit of Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF), a left-leaning student organisation, yesterday formed a human chain to realise its 12-point demand including declaring the college a full-fledged autonomous university.

Leaders and activists of the unit formed the human chain

in front of the college gate in the morning to press home their demands.

These include naming of the university after Pritilata Waddadar who died in anti-British movement, introducing bus service for the students, building classrooms and more dormitories, and providing food in canteens at reduced price, says a press release.

## AUG 21 GRENADE ATTACK Defence completes arguments on govt petitions

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Defence lawyers yesterday completed their arguments on the government petitions filed earlier seeking further investigation into the August 21 grenade attack cases.

During the hearing, Advocate Khondaker Mahbub Hossain, counsel of the detained former deputy minister and BNP leader Abdus Salam Pintu, argued that the court had earlier recorded statements of 61 prosecution witnesses.

But the prosecution had recently submitted petitions seeking further investigation into the grenade attack cases only to implicate several BNP leaders in the incidents. So, they prayed to reject the government petitions, lawyers said.

On the contrary, chief prosecution lawyer Advocate Syed Rezaul Rahman told the court that they had earlier submitted two petitions seeking further investigation into the cases. But the description of the petitions did not point to any words in which they mentioned that BNP leaders would be implicated in the further investigation, Rezaul Rahman said.

After hearing both the sides, Judge Masdar Hossain of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 fixed July 21 for further hearing on the petitions.

Earlier on June 25, Advocate Rezaul Rahman, chief prosecution counsel, submitted two separate petitions for further investigation into the cases.

## Woman's body found in travel bag

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The police recovered the body of an unidentified woman in a travel bag left abandoned on the roadside at Dania in the city early yesterday.

The body was found around 1:00am. The neck of the victim was tied with a piece of cloth. Officer-in-charge (OC) Nur Hossain of Kadamtali Police Station said.

He suspects that the killers might have strangled the woman somewhere else and dumped the body on the road at Nurpur.

## Contractor shot dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified assailants gunned down a contractor at Purbo Rajabazar in the city last night.

The deceased was identified as Mantu D Costa, 40, a contractor of Khamarbari at Farmgate.

Witnesses said a gang of three to four armed criminals fired on Mantu at Shadhon Para lane at Purbo Rajabazar at about 9:45pm, leaving him dead on the spot.

"There was no electricity during the incident in the area. I rushed to the spot after hearing gunshots and saw a man lying on the ground," Abul Hossain, a security guard told The Daily Star.

Sources at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital said the body bore mark of five bullet injuries.

Tejgaon police said they are investigating the incident. No case was filed in this connection till filing of this report at 12:05am today.

## GRAFT CASE

## Ex-NBR director, wife sent to jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent former National Board of Revenue (NBR) director Zahurul Haque and his wife Afia Haque to jail in a graft case in which they were sentenced to imprisonment on different terms in absentia.

Judge Mohammad Mozammel Hossain of the Special Court-3 passed the order after they along with their lawyers

surrendered before the court and sought bail in the case.

On November 13 last year, Zahurul Haque was sentenced to 13 years' imprisonment for amassing wealth beyond his known sources of income and concealing information in the wealth statement submitted to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

Afia got 3-years for abetting her husband in acquiring illegal wealth.

## Govt plans to preserve Jyoti Basu's house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is planning to preserve the house of veteran communist leader and former chief minister of West Bengal Jyoti Basu at Barodi in Narayanganj.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has directed party Joint General Secretary, Obaidul Quader to visit the place and submit a report upon her arrival from Egypt. Hasina left Dhaka yesterday and she is expected to return on July 17.

Sources said the prime minister had asked Quader to have a survey whether the veteran leader's house could be made a library.

The AL leader said he would visit the house today.

Mitali, an Indo-Bangladesh cultural society, on Monday called on the government to preserve the house of Basu.

It also demanded the road from Bishwa Road to his Barodi house be named after him.



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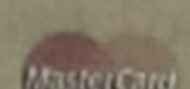
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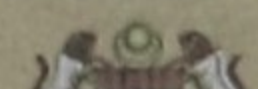


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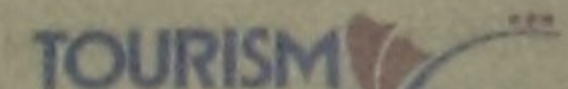
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