

RAMANABAD RIVER Remove all structures

HC asks govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday asked the government to remove all structures from the bank of Ramanabad river at Golachipa upazila in Patuakhali within two months.

The bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Gobinda Chandra Tagore also declared construction of structures for commercial purposes on the riverbank illegal.

Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela) filed a writ petition on April 5 last year in this regard as public interest litigation.

Bela in its petition said local lawmaker Golam Sarwar Roni has been filling earth and constructing structures on the riverbank in Ulania Bazar area damaging the Ramanabad river and violating the laws.

The court also issued a rule upon the government to explain why the earth filling and construction of structures on the riverbank should not be declared illegal.

Iqbal Kabir Lytton appeared for Bela while Deputy Attorney General ABM Altaf Hossain represented the government.

RMG workers, cops clash: 20 injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 20 people including five policemen were injured in a clash between agitating workers of a garment factory and law enforcers in the capital's Shewrapara area yesterday morning over termination of some workers by the factory authorities.

Incensed, workers of SQ Sweaters Limited vandalised about 20 vehicles on Begum Rokeya Sarani, said witnesses.

Transport movement on the road came to a halt for one and a half hours till 10:00am. Commuters suffered due to a huge traffic jam in the area even after hours following the incident.

According to witnesses, about 1,000 garment workers blocked the road around 8:30am demanding withdrawal of termination orders against some of their colleagues.

Police asked them to leave the spot but the disgruntled workers pelted law enforcers with brick bats, said Kazi Wazed Ali, officer-in-charge of Mirpur Police Station.

They charged truncheons, fired teargas and used water cannons to disperse the protesting workers. Kafrul and Mirpur police picked up at least 10 workers.

Factory workers claimed the authorities sacked about 60 workers on May 29 and 78 more the following day as they staged demonstration for increasing the piece rate fixed for each item.

The unit was shut down indefinitely on June 1.

A tripartite meeting between the management, workers and Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) was held on Sunday, but it failed to reach a solution.

The authorities opened the factory on Tuesday. But they again sacked some workers yesterday which triggered the protest, noted the workers.

Contacted, Chairman and Managing Director of SQ Group Ghulam Faruque said he declared the factory closed yesterday morning as a group of workers attacked some senior officials to realise their demands.

The management has agreed with most of their demands, excepting termination of a few senior officials, which is quite impossible, he told The Daily Star.



Shattered glass and brickbats lay strewn across Begum Rokeya Sarani in the city's Shewrapara yesterday after garment workers of SQ Sweaters Limited clashed with police over job cuts.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Three commit suicide in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two housewives and a teenage shop employee allegedly committed suicide in the city's Jatrabari, Shah Ali and Badda yesterday.

Police said Ranu Begum, 22, killed herself at her relative's house at Matuail of Jatrabari. Police arrested her cousin's husband Sagar Miah, 27, in this connection.

Ranu came to visit her cousin's house on Tuesday where she hanged herself in its washroom around 12:30 am, claimed Sagar who took her to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Meanwhile, police recovered the body of Mainur Begum, 26, wife of Billal Hossain, from a house at Mirpur in the morning.

SI Abdul Qaiyum of Shah Ali Police Station said quoting family members of the deceased said the victim was mentally challenged.

Police recovered the hanging body of Moslem Uddin Sardar, 17, a sales assistant from a telecom shop at South Anandabagh of Badda at 8:00 am.

The relatives of the deceased said the boy had a love affair.

Tk 1,216cr more for defence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has increased by Tk 1,216 crore the allocations for modernisation of the defence forces in the proposed budget for the 2011-12 fiscal year.

The proposed budget for the defence forces is Tk 12,134 crore, which was Tk 10,918 crore for the outgoing fiscal year.

"Considering our country's defence and glorious role of our armed forces all over the world, I propose a total budget allocation of Tk 12,134 crore for the FY 2011-12," Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith said in his budget speech in the parliament.

He also said, "...We have taken steps to provide training to the three forces to enhance their operational capacity and efficiency. Side by side, we have been trying to procure modern equipment and modern technology-based military hardware."

**Tk 12,134 crore
budgetary
allocation
proposed**

9th Death Anniversary



We pray for Marhum M. Masihur Rahman on his 9th death anniversary today on 10th June 2011. Marhum Masihur Rahman was the Founder Life Member of NSU Foundation, which established NSU. He was also the Member of Parichalona Porshod, NSU and Board of Governors, NSU Foundation.

He was a successful industrialist, promising banker and enthusiastic philanthropist who breathed his last on 10th June 2002.

May Allah bless his departed soul and give the members of his family the strength to keep on bearing the loss.



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