

PURBACHAL HOUSING

HC stops project

Asks Rajuk to get environmental clearance certificate first

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed Rajuk to stop its land development or financial work for a Purbachal housing project in Gazipur until it obtains clearance certificate from the Department of Environment.

In response to a petition, the court also issued a rule upon the authorities concerned to explain in four weeks why the layout plan of the Purbachal New Town Project at Borokau and Parabarth moujas under Kaliganj upazila of Gazipur should not be declared illegal, arbitrary and against the public interest.

In the rule, the court also asked the authorities of the government and Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) to explain why they should not be directed to protect and conserve the unique ecology, and forests, wetlands and cultivable land of the two areas.



MA HASAN

The verdict reflected aspirations of the people, said freedom fighter and war crimes researcher MA Hasan.

Jamaat not only sided with the Pakistan army during the Liberation War but has also been spreading wrong messages in the name of religion, he said, adding the verdict would help dispel the wrong philosophy about religion.

Hasan termed the verdict a milestone for the South Asian region.

"The religion-based politics take an alarming turn in South Asia," he said, adding the verdict would be a positive development in containing the spread of religion-based politics.

SHAHRIAR KABIR

FROM PAGE 1
political activities, said Shahriar, executive president of Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee.

"So, the government should take immediate steps towards banning Jamaat in the light of the verdict."

The verdict labelled the party as anti-constitutional. It strengthened the long-cherished demand for a ban on Jamaat, he said.

Besides, while delivering verdicts in war crimes cases, the International Crimes Tribunal observed that Jamaat had been involved in crimes against humanity during the Liberation War in 1971. One of the verdicts even described the party as a criminal organisation, he added.

AKBAR ALI KHAN

FROM PAGE 1
constitution or can work as an underground party, Akbar Ali Khan said.

"So, how Jamaat reacts to the verdict is an important thing to look at." The issue should be solved politically as well, he said.

Snowden gets

FROM PAGE 20

Security Agency (NSA) contractor was given asylum by Moscow and said it would now review the need for a US-Russia summit in September.

Snowden, 30, is wanted on felony charges by the United States after leaking sensational details of vast US surveillance programmes, but Russia has refused to extradite him.

The fugitive was whisked away in a taxi to an undisclosed location, leaving his lawyer to reveal that he had received temporary asylum in Russia just two weeks after making an application.

"Snowden has left Sheremetyevo airport. He has just been given a certificate that he has been awarded temporary asylum in Russia for one year," his lawyer Anatoly Kucherenko said.

In a statement released by



ASIF NAZRUL

Dhaka University Prof Asif Nazrul said he was not clear as to on what grounds the HC had declared Jamaat's registration illegal.

"If the verdict has been given on the basis of its [Jamaat's] role in 1971, it is an excellent and praiseworthy verdict."

But he said, "If the verdict has been given on the basis of religion, it would create a new debate. Many organisations in Bangladesh may be banned in future then."

And if the court passed this verdict because Jamaat's constitution contradicts the country's charter, then "it is unfortunate", said Nazrul. In that case, no political party in the country will form a federal form of government.

In reply to a question, he said it was not wise to say at that moment that Jamaat would not be able to participate in the next general elections.

NASIRUDDIN YOUSUFF

FROM PAGE 1
move to ban Jamaat.

Jamaat had committed war crimes and its constitution is in conflict with the country's charter, Nasiruddin said. "So the party has no right to politics."

He said he feared that there would be some political implication of the verdict. "Definitely, Jamaat will try to create social instability and so we have to be alert."

SHAHDEEN MALIK

FROM PAGE 1
registrations are pending with the High Court.

Against this backdrop, declaring Jamaat's registration with the EC illegal was not unique, said Shahdeen Malik, a jurist.

Now Jamaat can appeal to the Appellate Division or meet the requirements for registration, he said.

Jamaat should be banned, he said. Considering that Jamaat's deregistration with the EC is a welcoming development, he added.

the WikiLeaks anti-secrecy website, Snowden thanked Russia for giving him asylum and slammed the administration of US President Barack Obama for having "no respect" for international or domestic law.

"But in the end the law is winning," Snowden said.

Kucherenko said Snowden's new place of residence would be kept secret for security reasons.

Interviewed by Rossiya 24 television, Kucherenko held up a scanned copy of Snowden's asylum certificate. It was issued on July 31, valid until July 31 of 2014, and is complete with his fingerprint.

Kucherna said that Snowden would eventually emerge into public view and give interviews to the press. But he said Snowden first required an "adaptation course" after so long in the transit zone.

Jamaat dodging EC

FROM PAGE 1

Jamaat's charter including the call for establishing rule of Islam through organised efforts and refusal to accept parliament's plenary power to enact laws do not conform to the country's constitution and the RPO.

Jamaat was supposed to lose its status as a registered party as the RPO says a political party will not be qualified for registration if the objectives and provisions in its charter are at variance with those in the country's constitution and the RPO.

But the party managed to retain the registration with the EC as the latter's actions were confined to urging Jamaat to amend its charter.

Registration with the EC was made a prerequisite for every political party to contest the elections through electoral reforms in 2008.

Like other 38 political parties, Jamaat got registered with the EC by making some provisional changes in its charter before the December 29 parliamentary polls. The party then prom-

US agency taps

FROM PAGE 20

The programme gives analysts the ability to search through the entire database of your information without any prior authorisation - no warrant, no court clearance, no signature on a dotted line. An analyst must simply complete a simple onscreen form, and seconds later, your online history is no longer private. The agency claims that XKeyscore covers "nearly everything a typical user does on the Internet."

As The Guardian points out, this programme crystallises one of Snowden's most infamous admissions from his video interview on June 10: "I, sitting at my desk," said Snowden, could "wire-tap anyone, from you or your accountant, to a federal judge or even the president, if I had a personal email."

While United States officials denied this claim, the XKeyscore programme, as the public understands it, proves Snowden's point. The law requires the NSA to obtain FISA warrants on US citizens, but this is pushed aside for Americans with foreign targets - and this programme gives the NSA

initiative are the Institute of Architects Bangladesh, Ain o Salish Kendra, Dhaka Ahsania Mission, ActionAid Bangladesh, Campaign for Popular Education, Transparency International Bangladesh, The Daily Star, Naripokkho, Nijera Kori, the Prothom Alo, Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust, Manusher Jonno Foundation and Sushaner Jonno Nagorik.

The first monitoring report of this initiative will be presented at a dialogue titled "100 Days of Rana Plaza Tragedy: A Report on Comments and Delivery" tomorrow.

Earlier, the CPD had convened two in-house meetings with the partners to discuss the activities to be carried out under this initiative.

This civil society monitoring exercise is intended to continue for at least one year.

Civil society

FROM PAGE 20

Initiative" will closely monitor and document the progress being made as regards the work plans that have been designed by key stakeholders. Based on this exercise, the partnership will prepare periodic reports which will identify the status of implementation of various initiatives and draw attention to the gaps which will need to be addressed in this regard.

The partnering organisations of the CPD in this

Answer to future

FROM PAGE 20

Institute, Ecovative makes use of a part of the mushroom known as 'mycelium' to grow sustainable products.

Mycelium is the unseen part of a mushroom which consists of millions of tiny fibres.

"Eben made the observation while he was taking a stroll in the woods, that fungal mycelium was growing on the wood chips and holding them together," McIntyre told Foxnews.com.

"The thought process was - can we use mycelium as growing glue?"

Ecologically, mycelium's function is to break down waste. As it does this it secretes various products including enzymes, lipids, proteins, which act as glue and hold things together.

Ecovative built the tiny home structure from pine wood and poured the fungal

mix inside the wall mould, where it was left to grow.

This dried over the next month, in similar way to how concrete cures, leaving it with an airtight seal.

The company claims it saves on material costs, as it doesn't require any studs in the wall, and it gives high thermal performance since it provides one continuous insulated wall assembly.

McIntyre told FoxNews.com that the fungal flat is self-repairing -- if a tree fell on the house, the wall would have to be rebuilt, but the insulation would grow back.

It also has its own 'immune system' which prevents micro-organisms from starting colonies within.

McIntyre and his team now hope to scale-up the process to meet growing interest in the home.

clause from its provisional amended charter to get registration before the polls. But later it reinstated the clause in its ratified charter, breaching its earlier pledge.

The Jamaat charter still has discriminatory provisions regarding sex and religion as no woman and non-Muslim are allowed to become the party's chief. This provision runs counter to the constitution which prohibits such discrimination.

As per the EC's directive, the party also did not include in the main body of its charter the provision of keeping 33 percent posts reserved for women in all committees at all levels and achieving the goal by 2020.

Jamaat rather mentioned the provision in a special note in the last page of its charter.

The EC informed a High Court bench in April this year about the latest status of Jamaat's charter.

The HC bench yesterday declared Jamaat's registration with the EC illegal.

Rab claim found

FROM PAGE 1

Sources at Dhaka Medical College morgue confirmed to The Daily Star that Tarek's body bore no bullet wounds other than those he suffered during the "shootout" on Wednesday night.

The inquest report also said there were two eight-inch bandages on both sides of Tarek's back. But morgue sources involved in the autopsy said those were minor cut wounds, not bullet injuries.

Tarek, who was the prime suspect in the Milky murder case, was killed in a "shootout" between his cohorts and Rab members at Kaola near air port around 10:15pm on Wednesday.

According to Rab officials, the shootout took place when they came under attack on their way to Gulshan Police Station to hand Tarek over to the police.

Following Milky's murder around 1:07am on Tuesday, Rab had arrested Tarek at a clinic in Uttara and kept him in its custody.

After the arrest, Rab claimed that Tarek had been accidentally shot by his accomplice, Sohel, at the time of shooting Milky.

Yesterday, when asked about its previous claim, Rab Media Wing Director Habibur Rahman told The Daily Star that they had made the statement based on the assertion of the doctors at the clinic.

Meanwhile, the home ministry yesterday authorised Rab-1 to investigate the Milky murder case filed by Milky's brother Major Rashedul Haque Khan.

Milky's murder is the result of an internal conflict that brewed over securing nomination in a DCC ward and controlling tender business, said sources in the Jubo League.

At least a dozen Jubo League leaders having involvement in criminal activities secured positions, either through money or clout, in the



From left, fugitive accused Zahidul Islam Tipu, a leader of the ruling Awami League, and Shakhawat Hossain Chanchal, a leader of Jubo League.



Dhaka City units of the ruling Awami League's youth wing.

Having secured important posts, they have taken control over tender, land grabbing and cable TV network businesses to amass money. The lion's share of the money goes to their patrons, who remain oblivious to the irregularities that plague the organisation.

To do all these, the patrons form their own cadre groups that fight each other to establish supremacy in their areas, according to Jubo League leaders and sources in the law enforcement agencies.

CHANCHAL Shakhawat Hossain Chanchal, an accused in the Milky murder case, is one such "criminal" in Jubo League.

Another top accused in the case is Zahidul Islam Tipu, general secretary of Awami League's Motijheel unit.

Both of them are on the run, police said.

Chanchal, 44, organising secretary of Dhaka City (north) unit Jubo League is a stark example of how notorious criminals are using the AL's youth wing.

Chanchal, who now lives at Gulshan's Niketan and rides a Prado, had entered the crime world around 1988 as a thief and mugger, while living at south Badda in the capital with his mother and two brothers, said locals of Badda.

Forming a gang in 1998

with Dulal, Zia and Sohel Chanchal carried out various illegal activities including land grabbing and extortion, at Anandanagar and Merul-Badda.

The group flexed its muscle after Chanchal abducted and later married a sister of Khalil, leader of another gang of Badda area during the time.

In 2008, he met a minister through the minister's assistant personal secretary.

In 2009, he joined Tarun League (another pro-AL youth body) and became vice-president of its Dhaka City committee.

"About one and a half months ago he joined Jubo League's committee by spending Tk 50 lakh. In fact, the committee's formation was delayed just to include Chanchal," said a Jubo Leader of Dhaka City (north) unit, wishing anonymity.

Iqbal Hossain, officer-in-charge of Badda Police Station, said: "Chanchal is an accused in one murder case and three other cases for attempts to murder filed with our station."

Contacted, Jubo League Chairman Omar Faroque Chowdhury admitted that there might be some criminals in Jubo League, as it was a big organisation.

He, however, claimed that whenever they received any allegations of criminal activities against any member they had taken immediate action against him.

Razakar founder Yusuf

FROM PAGE 20

has been in jail since.

The tribunal said his release on general amnesty did not create any obstacle to trying him as he was not tried for the killings, genocide, arsons or lootings.

The tribunal neither granted nor denied Yusuf bail yesterday. As per the tribunal's earlier order, the jail authorities yesterday gave a report on Yusuf stating he was physically and mentally "stable".

Yusuf was a minister of AM Malek's government in 1971. He was allegedly the chairman of Peace Committee, an auxiliary force of Pakistani army, in greater Khulna district. He reportedly formed Peace Committee and Razakar force in subdivision, thana and union levels there.

The three-member Tribunal-2 led by Justice Obaidul Hassan with members Justice Md Mozibur Rahman and Judge Md Shahinur Islam said, "Since we find that there are prima facie allegations against the accused, the charges are thus framed against him..."

"The truthfulness of these pertinent factual issues may be well adjudicated at trial only."

The court said the statement of witnesses and prosecution documents prima facie showed that Yusuf was an influential person of his locality and had founded the Razakar force.

Yusuf, exercising his superior status, allegedly indulged in criminal activities of the

Razakar force, and actively provided support for and aided and abetted commissioning of crimes, the court said.

One of the 13 charges says that Yusuf used to regularly make inciting speeches at the meetings of the peace committees in Khulna to encourage committee and Razakar members to annihilate the Hindus and pro-liberation people.

Around 2:00pm on May 13, 1971, a group of 50-60 armed Razakars, being incited and encouraged by the speech, attacked the Hindu-dominated village Ranjitpur with intent to destroy the community, in full or in part, said the charge.

The perpetrators looted properties and destroyed the houses belonging to the Hindus, tortured and killed 50-60 Hindus, whose bodies were buried in a ditch.

The other war crimes charges piled against him include looting and burning down 400 shops and homes at Morelganj Bazar on May 17, 1971; act of genocide at Morelganj Bazar on May 19, 1971; act of genocide at Dakra village in Rampal, Bagerhat, on May 21, 1971; act of genocide at Chulka on October 14, 1971; act of genocide at Vashabazar in Kachua in Bagerhat on October 15, 1971; act of genocide on November 5-6, 1971, at Shakharikathi in Kachua; forced conversion and act of genocide at Shakharikathi in mid-July, 1971; killing of Abu Bakkar Siddiqui at Morelganj on

May 13, 1971; killing of three unarmed freedom fighters at Rayendabazar on June 7, 1971; killing of two unarmed freedom fighters on June 9, 1971; Dr Mazid's killing at Morelganj on July 26, 1971; and Salam's killing at Rayendabazar on July 29, 1971.

YUSUF'S BACKGROUND

According to the brief profile of the Jamaat leader read out by tribunal Chairman Justice Hassan, Yusuf, son of late Azim Uddin Howlader of Rajoir village in Sharanikhola of Bagerhat joined Jamaat in 1952. He became the chief of Khulna division Jamaat in 1957.

He started his profession as a madrasa teacher in 1952 and became the principal of Khulna Alia Madrasa in 1958.

In 1962, Yusuf was as an elected member of the National Assembly. He was nominated provincial joint secretary of Jamaat in 1969. In 1971, he was the deputy ameer of then East Pakistan Jamaat and he was one of the two provincial ministers from Jamaat.

According to prosecution documents, Yusuf established the Razakar force, an auxiliary force of the Pakistani army, on May 5, 1971, at an Ansar camp on Khan Jahan Ali Road in Khulna with 96 Jamaat activists.

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 on May 12 took the charges against him into cognisance. The case was later transferred to the Tribunal-2 following a petition by the prosecution.

July deadliest for Iraq in 5 yrs

AFP, Baghdad

Violence in Iraq, from bombings against cafes to assaults on prisons, killed about 1,000 people in July, more than any month since 2008, when the country was emerging from a bloody sectarian conflict.

Iraq was racked by a bloody Sunni-Shia

sectarian conflict that peaked in 2006-2007, when thousands of people were killed because of their religious affiliation or forced to abandon their homes under threat of death.

According to Iraqi government figures, 989 people were killed in July, making it the deadliest month since April 2008.