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HC judgment goes against Ashiyan City

Its project in Ashkona declared illegal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday declared the Ashiyan City housing project in the capital's Holan and Ashkona illegal and against public interest.

Following yesterday's judgement, the realtor has to pay Tk 50 lakh as fine for destroying wetlands, flood plains, aquatic life and local ecology by filling land in Ashkona under Khilkhet Police Station illegally.

The environment department in November 2011, had fined the realtor Tk 50 lakh, but the environment ministry later reduced it to Tk 5 lakh.

The ministry's decision has now become illegal, writ petitioners' counsel Iqbal Kabir Lytton told The Daily Star.

Delivering the verdict on a writ petition, a HC bench by a majority of 2-1 also ruled that the project's site clearance certificate, issued by the Department of Environment (DoE), and its subsequent renewal were unlawful.

The court announced the short verdict without making any observation, and the grounds for the decision.

The DoE on December 24 2009 had issued the certificate to Ashiyan Lands Development Ltd, which had a conditional and partial approval from the housing ministry to develop land. The certificate was renewed on June 12 2012.

The permission granted by the Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) for the project was illegal, Lytton said, adding that the company cannot continue with the project now following the HC verdict.

However, the realtor has already stopped its activities,

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With the tents almost up, pontoons on the Turag placed, and other necessities arriving, preparations for the Biswa Ijtema are almost done. The second largest congregation of Muslims is scheduled to begin on January 24.

PHOTO: STAR

Cops asked not to arrest Fakhru

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the law enforcers not to arrest or harass



BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir in three cases in connection with arson attacks on buses until submission of police reports to lower courts.

Fakhru was made an instigator in the cases of arson attacks on buses in the capital's Bangla Motor, Shahbagh and Malibagh areas in November and December last year. Those attacks left several people dead and some others injured.

The HC came up with the orders after holding hearings on three separate petitions filed by the BNP leader on January 15, seeking anticipatory bail, and direction on the government not to arrest or harass him in the cases.

In the petitions, Fakhru says he fears that police could arrest him in

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Egypt voters back new constitution

Gives more rights to women; clauses inserted by Morsi govt removed

AGENCIES

Egypt awaited results of a referendum on a new constitution yesterday that could launch a presidential bid by the army chief, with initial tallies indicating overwhelming support for the charter.

Given a boycott by the Islamist opposition, the result has never been in doubt, but the military-installed government is hoping

for a large turnout to bolster its democratic credentials after the overthrow of president Mohamed Morsi.

More than 90% of voters opted to ratify Egypt's third constitution in as many years, state-run media reported - a result likely to be portrayed by the Egyptian establishment as a conclusive endorsement of the direction the country has taken since the

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Charges against Destiny okayed

51 accused of cheating Tk 42,00cr from investors

M RAHMAN

The controversial Destiny Group actually cheated more than Tk 4,200 crore from its investors, not Tk 3,285 crore as assessed earlier, reveals a fresh investigation by the Anti-Corruption Commission.

According to the new findings, the multi-level-marketing company misappropriated Tk 2,433 crore through its tree plantation project and Tk 1,861 crore through the cooperative society. Of the money, at least Tk 100 crore was siphoned off abroad.

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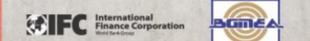
Please join building and fire safety product and service companies along with the leaders in the ready-made-garment (RMG) industry as we share expertise and technical assistance to upgrade factories with proper fire doors, sprinklers and appropriate building, electrical and fire safety equipment.



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Eat grass, get closer to God!

ODDITYCENTRAL.COM

Pastor Lesego Daniel, of Rabboni Centre Ministries, is a highly unusual person. In order to be closer to God, the South African preacher is encouraging his congregation to eat grass.

He also tramples on them for added effect. The pastor is said to have claimed

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think that the government would respond to the call of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia to reach a consensus through resuming dialogue to resolve the ongoing political impasses?

Yes (28%)
 No (72%)

TOTAL VOTES: 518

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think that the government has failed to keep its promise to bring about reforms and enact laws to make the public administration merit-based and service-oriented?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING January 17

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-36	5-40
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation



Felicitations

The Chairman, Board of Directors, Management and all the employees of **BASIC Bank Limited** like to felicitate and congratulate the able daughter of the Father of the Nation **Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman** and the Daughter of Peace

Sheikh Hasina for

being elected the Prime Minister of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for the 3rd time.



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