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SAVAR TANNERY ZONE CETP must be ready within 4 weeks: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the authorities to complete the construction of all relevant structures, including the central effluent treatment plant (ETP), at the tannery estate in Savar in the next four weeks.

Though the construction of the ETP is almost done, work on the solid waste dumping yard has not even started yet. Besides, work of the administrative building, internal surface drainage line and dewatering house has not been finished.

In the order, the court asked the authorities to install necessary devices, including bar screen and sedimentation tank, in each factory so that chromium and heavy waste materials don't mix, and submit a report by November 12 upon complying with the directives.

A bench of Justice Syed Rezaat Ahmed and Justice Md Salim passed the orders following a petition by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association (BELA) seeking orders on the government bodies to prevent pollution in Savar.

BELA's Chief Executive Syeda Rizwana Hasan told the Daily Star that Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC), Department of Environment, industries ministry and tannery owners have to implement the directives.

The court asked the BSCIC authorities to run the ETP 24 hours a day until November 4 and submit an hourly chart for the court to see whether it would function properly

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A tannery, which recently moved to the tannery estate in Hemayetpur of Savar, discharges untreated waste directly into the Dhaleshwari. The High Court yesterday directed authorities to finish the construction of all needed structures at the estate, including the central effluent treatment plant (ETP).

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Law ministry issues circular on CJ's leave

Govt to seek review of 16th amendment verdict in 30 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Law Ministry yesterday issued a circular on Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha's leave.

"The chief justice can now go abroad anytime," Matabbber Rahman Sarkar, deputy secretary of the law ministry, told the Daily Star.

The ministry issued the circular after President Abdulla Haamid on Wednesday gave his consent to the CJ's leaving the country. The CJ is now on a month's leave on health grounds.

According to the circular, Justice Md Abdul Wahhab Miah, the most junior judge of the Supreme Court after Justice Sinha, will carry out the CJ's duties till November 10 or till the CJ rejoins office.

Meanwhile, Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said Justice Sinha would travel to Australia, Canada, the USA

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Two hacked to death in Narayanganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A group of assailants hacked to death two men in Hosaini Nagar area of Narayanganj sadar last night.

Police said feud over money and establishing supremacy in the area could be the reasons behind the double murder.

Quoting locals, the law enforcers said the attackers stormed a rickshaw garage owned by Milton Hossain around 9:00pm and hacked the 40-year-old man and Parvez Ahmed, 35, indiscriminately with sharp weapons, killing them on the spot.

Later, the assailants vandalised the garage and fled.

Milton and Parvez were also the top organiser and manager of a local cooperative society called Chayabrita Shramajibi Samabai Samity.

Visiting the spot, Moinal Haq, superintendent of police in Narayanganj, said the attack seemed pre-planned.

Kamaluddin, officer-in-charge of Fatulla Model Police Station, said they were trying to arrest the killers.

The body was sent to Narayanganj General Hospital for autopsy, he added.

29hrs under water Engine room staffer rescued alive from sunken vessel in Shitalakhya

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Twenty-nine hours after a cargo vessel had capsized rescuers were preparing to dive one last time to recover the body of one Shohag Howlader.

Hearing the news, Shohag's brother reached the scene, awaiting his brother's corpse, his eyes scanning the watery grave 30 feet under which his brother lay.

Back home, his mother had been crying ever since the news of his probable death broke.

The sand-carrying vessel sank near Dhakeswari Sonachar area under Bandar upazila around 11:00am Wednesday after it hit a sunken BWTC vessel. Of the six labourers in the vessel, five managed to swim ashore.

There was no trace though of Shohag Howlader, 30, engine-maker of the ill-fated MV Musapur.

During the final mission the next afternoon, a Bandar upazila Fire Service diver brought some miraculous news. Shohag was still alive, trapped in the engine room.

By some twist of fate, Shohag had shut the door to the engine room when he began his work. While this may have prevented him from realising the boat was sinking, it also stopped the water from gushing in.

Diver Abdul Lahangir Shikder said Shohag was stranded in the engine room and could escape death because water had only entered a portion of it.

According to Jahangir, since the entire room wasn't flooded, it created a pocket of oxygen that allowed Shohag to breathe. But he added that the oxygen would run out in a day or so.

Shohag was finally rescued 29 hours after his ordeal had begun.

Abu Taher Khan, officer-in-charge of Narayanganj River police, said divers failed to locate Shohag in two earlier operations and had given up all hope.

He was miraculously found alive under 30 feet deep water during a mission

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Three workers die taking disinfectant They wanted to 'relax'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Rajshahi

Three construction workers died and nine fell sick yesterday after drinking isopropyl alcohol, a disinfectant, on Tuesday night at BSCIC industrial estate.

They diluted half-a-litre of the substance with water and drank after work hoping to relax.

Bekul, 35, and Tohjidul, 26, died at home yesterday morning while Dulal, 22, died at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) in the afternoon.

Hearing about the deaths, families of other workers, who are from Davingpara Chabnisnagar village in Godagari upazila, took them to RMCH.

Hijipur Alam Munshi, officer-in-charge of Godagari Police Station, said.

Six of the workers are admitted at RMCH.

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Italian granted sick pay to look after dog



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

An Italian woman has been granted sick pay after taking time off to care for her ill dog.

The unnamed academic from Rome's La Sapienza University, brought her fight to the courts arguing she deserved to be compensated for the two days she had taken to care for her pet.

Her lawyers cited Italy's strict animal protection laws, which say people who abandon an animal to "grave suffering" should be jailed for a year and fined up to €10,000 (€9,000), according to La Presse.

A judge accepted the lawyers' case, and ordered the university to count her two days off under an employee allowance for absences related to "serious or family personal reasons".

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Raped and blackmailed, teenage girl takes her life

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A female secondary school student has died from suicide, close to two youths, after raping the girl, threatened to release the video clips of the incident on the internet.

The victim, 14-year-old Rohina Akhter Sorita, daughter of Jaberul Islam of Kalamrajodith village in Pentulia upazila of Tanjagarh, had been gang-raped by local youths.

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PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 13

Fazr Juma Ar Maghribi Esha
AZAN 4:45 12:30 4:15 5:45 7:15
JAMAAT 5:20 1:15 4:30 5:50 7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Arrest warrants issued against Khaleda Zia

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Arrest warrants have been issued against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in two cases filed in connection with Zia Orphanage Trust corruption and determining the county's map and national flag.

With this, four arrest warrants have so far been served on the BNP chief in different cases.

On completion of recording self-defence statements in Zia Orphanage Trust graft case yesterday, Judge Md Akhtuzzaman of the Special Judge Court-5 set up at a makeshift court in Bakshi Bazar issued an arrest warrant for Khaleda.

Her lawyers submitted a petition, seeking an adjournment of hearing the case. But the court dismissed it, saying it was filed only to delay the trial proceedings.

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STARVING IN SHRINE

Monkeys in a Sylhet shrine were starving but as the number of visitors dropped, so did the monkeys' food supply. Now, more than 500 monkeys are starving. Left with no other option, they have resorted to sneaking food away from the homes of locals. The human and ape conflict has reached such a level that locals have reportedly killed a few monkeys.

PHOTO: SHEKH NASIR

Hamas, Fatah sign reconciliation deal

Palestinian Authority is to resume full control of Gaza Strip by Dec 1

RELUTERS, Gaza

Rival Palestinian factions Hamas and Fatah signed a reconciliation deal yesterday after Hamas agreed to hand over administrative control of Gaza, including the key Rafah border crossing, a decade after seizing the enclave in a civil war.

The deal brokered by Egypt bridges a bitter gulf between the Western-backed mainstream Fatah party of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Hamas, an Islamist movement designated as a terrorist group by Western countries and Israel.

Palestinian unity could also bolster Abbas's hand in any revival of talks on a Palestinian state in Israeli-occupied territory. Internal Palestinian strife has been a major obstacle to peacemaking, with Hamas having fought three wars with Israel since 2008 and continuing to call for its destruction.

Hamas's agreement to transfer administrative powers in Gaza to a Fatah-backed government marked a major reversal, prompted partly by its fears of financial and political isolation after its main patron and donor Qatar plunged in June into a major diplomatic dispute with key allies like Saudi Arabia. They accuse Qatar of supporting Islamist militants, which it denies.

Thousands of Palestinians took to the streets across Gaza yesterday in celebration of the unity pact, with loudspeakers on open cars blasting national songs, youths dancing and hugging and many waving Palestine and Egyptian flags.

Egypt helped mediate several previous attempts to reconcile the two movements and form a power-sharing unity government in Gaza and the West Bank, where Abbas and the Fatah-led Palestinian Authority (PA) are based.

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