Date: 21.06.2017.

Enclosed is the news clipping of 'The Statesman' an English daily dated 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2017, the news item is captioned "Teenager drowns in pond in Howrah".

The Commissioner of Police, Howrah Police Commissionerate is directed to furnish a detailed report to the Commission by  $16^{th}$  August, 2017.

The Mayor, Howrah Municipal Corporation is also directed to furnish a detailed report to the Commission by  $16^{\rm th}$  August, 2017

(Justice Girish Chandra Gupta) Chairperson

( Naparajit Mukherjee )

M.S. Dwivedy

Encl: News Item Dt.21. 06. 17

Ld. Registrar to keep NHRC posted about cognizance taken on the subject by WBHRC and uploaded in the website.

## Teenager drowns in pond in Howrah

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA. 20 JUNE

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A 16-year-boy today drowned in a pond near Salkia in Howrah. The pond was being dug deeper by Howrah Municipal Corporation (HMC) for installing a pump station.

Local residents staged a protest accusing HMC of not making adequate safety arrangements before undertaking the work.

Vinod Mallik, a resident of Mohinath Porel Lane off Malipanchghora police limits, was walking near the roadsidepond, at around 12.40 p.m. when he inadvertently slipped in and fell inside the deep pond located a few metres away from his house.

The incessant rains since

last evening had led to waterlogging, with both road and pond covered with water.

As he screamed for help, a woman noticed him and informed her husband who rushed to his help, but he couldn't be rescued.

Later, a diver rescued him and took him to TL Jaiswal Hospital where doctors declared him brought dead.

As the news of his death spread, several local residents took to the streets and staged a blockade at Benaras Road near Salkia accusing the HMC officials of negligence,

"The pond is around 15 feet deep as it is being converted into a reservoir for a pumping station. They should have barricaded the area to keep pedestrians away but they did nothing. That has led to the loss of a life," said Sujay Verma, a local resident. The blockade was lifted after senior police officers rushed to the spot/and assured them of looking into the matter. The protest led to traffic disruption in the area.

Dr Rathin Chakroborty, Howrah mayor, said, people staying in the vicinity had already been informed through loudspeakers to shift to other locations before starting work on the pumping station,

"We had already informed them to avoid the vicinity of pond but they didn't listen and instead threw garbage in it. The presence of wastage made the pond more slippery and dangerous," Mr Chakroborty said.

**LEISURE**