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More encroachments on Turag removed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) yesterday, the second day of the three-day eviction drive, knocked down five concrete structures, scores of tin sheds and walls built illegally on the river Turag in Tongi.

The BIWTA along with the district administrations of Dhaka and Gazipur began the drive at 9:00am but it gained momentum after 12:00 noon when two tugboats Khanika and Asha --started pulling down illegal structures.

Around 200 workers splitting into several groups got engaged in the demolition works that continued till evening.

BIWTA Director Emdadul Haque, Executive Engineer Rabindra Ranjan Saha, senior Deputy Director Golam

Kabir, Deputy Director Saiful Islam, Gazipur UNO AKM Tipu Sultan, Dhaka district's Executive Magistrate Mokbul Hossain and other officials of Gazipur and Dhaka monitored the eviction drive.

"We have demolished over 60 percent illegal structures," said BIWTA Director Mahabubul Alam who is leading the three-day eviction drive.

On the basis of survey by the administrations concerned BIWTA identified 68 structures on the northern part of the Turag and 59 structures on its southern part.

Once these illegally structures from Ashulia to Demra are demolished, 1.72 acres of land to the north of the Turag and 1.88 acres to its south will be recovered.

As Azmiri Garments obtained stay

order from the High Court (HC) the eviction team spared it while Bengal Indigo, a knitting factory on the southern bank of the Turag, sought time to remove their machinery before demolition.

"We could not pull down Azmiri's structure because of stay order and we gave some time to Bengal Indigo so that they could remove their machinery. But we have already knocked down the walls of the factory and demolished the parts that were encroached on the river," Mahabubul told The Daily Star.

Yesterday's eviction drive was hindered because of stay orders. On Wednesday, the first day of the drive also experienced the same problems.

Noman Group that has three structures on the Turag produced HC stay

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



Workers of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) yesterday tear down the walls of The Merchant Ltd, which had erected it occupying a section of the Turag at Pagar of Tongi.

PHOTO: STAR

PM directs Met officials to be more alert to cyclones

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the weathermen to remain more alert in forecasting cyclones and tidal surges in future.

The directives came yesterday when Bangladesh Army and Air Force donated Tk 35 lakh to PM's relief fund in aid of the cyclone Aila-affected

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Aila-hit embankments getting quick repair

STAR REPORT

Repair works of small breaches in the dams in Satkhira are almost complete while repair of the large ones will begin today under supervision of the army, said Food and Disaster Management Minister Abdur Razzaque yesterday.

The minister disclosed it while distributing relief materials and Tk 5,000 each for rebuilding houses to Aila-affected families in the cyclone-hit areas in Shyamnagar and Assani upazilas in the district.

Many survivors requested the minister to take immediate steps to repair the large breaches in the dams as soon as possible.

"We don't want any relief. Just repair the embankment, otherwise we shall not be able to stay on it for long," Kutub Uddin, an elderly man of Dumuria village in Shyamnagar, pleaded to the minister.

He said they are getting enough relief but it would be of no use if their remaining belongings get washed away by tidal surge during the full moon.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 6

Tarique's firm got dubious waiver of Tk 12cr interest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dandy Dyeing Ltd owned by ex-premier Khaleda Zia's elder son Tarique Rahman got a waiver of interest worth Tk 12 crore on bank loans within a week after the BNP-Jamaat coalition assumed power in 2001.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith disclosed it in parliament yesterday in a written answer to a query of Awami League (AL) lawmaker Muhibur Rahman Manik of Sunamganj-4.

The Bangladesh Bank waived Tk 12.16 crore in bank interests

SEE PAGE 7 COL 8

Taliban men blow up girls' school

Free abducted students in Pakistan

AFP, Peshawar

Taliban militants yesterday freed all remaining Pakistani staff and students from an army-run boarding school who were snatched three days ago, drawing a line under the brazen mass abduction.

At least 42 students and two staff from a college in the tribal area of North Waziristan, where Washington says al-Qaeda are plotting attacks on the West, were released to tribal elders, officials and the Taliban said.

Masked gunmen had ambushed a convoy of about 30 vehicles carrying staff and students from Razmak in North

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

BNP REORGANISATION Grassroots leaders seek more time

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

BNP's plan to reorganise the party in the district level in two months is likely to prove futile, as grassroots level leaders think such a massive task cannot be done within this short time.

The party high command decided to give two months to district convening committees, which are to be announced soon, to reorganise the party from ward to district level.

Grassroots level leaders, however, termed the decision 'illogical', and said it would be impossible to hold council at all units in a district in such a short span of time.

While talking to The Daily Star a number of district level leaders said convening committees would have to recruit members before the council at grassroots level, which would be a daunting task for them.

"When the Standing Committee itself failed to announce convening committees in three months, how could it expect a convening committee to complete the reorganisation in just two months," questioned a district unit president, wishing anonymity.

On this issue BNP Standing Committee member Dr RA Gani said they would look into the matter once the convening committees start functioning, and if necessary, they will extend the time.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Sohel Taj joins office

Says he didn't resign

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Making a U-turn from his bid to step down, State Minister for Home Affairs Tanjim Ahmad Sohel Taj resumed office yesterday after a four-day "leave on account of sickness".

The turnaround came after a two-hour-long meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wednesday night.

Officials and staff at the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

World T20 starts today

SPORTS REPORTER

Traditionalists and liberals collide today at Lord's as the home of cricket will play host to the second edition of the World T20 when England take on the Netherlands under the floodlights.

T20 has long been considered the "prodigal child" of the cricketing fraternity but with Lord's playing host to the second such World Cup, there is finally feeling that this form

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

OnlinePoll

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education Ministry made recommendations for banning 'unapproved books' in madrasas, including those written by Syed Abul Ala Moududi. Do you support?

☐ Yes (56.6%)
☐ No (42.1%)
☐ No Comments (1.3%)

Total votes: 779

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the Parliament Secretariat Commission's decision of giving vehicles to MPs instead of allowing them to import duty-free cars is a good idea?

Please cast your vote at
www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing

June 5

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-45	6-50
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

Story of a New Dawn

Akte! - The Daily Star englishinschools has embarked on a voyage to ensure brighter future for the students across Bangladesh. Students in secondary schools will have opportunities to learn English correctly and easily in their own school premise and prepare themselves for a world of possibilities waiting for them.

1000 secondary schools in 64 districts all over the country will be covered under Akte!-The Daily Star englishinschools with the following supports:

- Special weekly page in The Daily Star dedicated to English learning
- 3 copies of The Daily Star will be provided to the selected schools, 5 days a week, free
- Interactive programmes, activities and events for students and teachers aimed at improving their English learning skills

Let's meet our opportunities as we step ahead.

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২০৪৩ সাল