



# The Daily Star

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MCCI vows  
to rally for  
rivers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Metropolitan Chamber of  
Commerce and Industry  
(MCCI), the country's leading  
business chamber, yesterday  
pledged to work for saving the  
rivers of the country.

An MCCI delegation, led by  
its president Abdul Hafiz  
Choudhury, came to The Daily  
Star office and said the  
chamber will make it mandatory  
for its members to be compliant  
with pollution control regulations.

The MCCI also said it would  
hold meetings with wider  
range of stakeholders of indus-  
tries concerned to chalk out an  
action plan. It would create a  
win-win situation for indus-  
trial development and protec-  
tion of the environment.

The chamber felt that the

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PHOTO ON PAGE 3

## National service for youths on the cards

Post-HSC students to be trained, given jobs for two  
years; trial run in 3 upazilas from next fiscal year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will introduce 'National  
Service' programme at upazila level in the  
next fiscal year to train the HSC-passed  
unemployed youths and recruit them for

a two-year term, Finance Minister AMA  
Muhib said yesterday.

Initially, the programme will be  
launched in three upazilas and gradually  
expanded to other upazilas.

Under the project, the youths who  
have completed HSC will be first trained  
for six months and then employed in  
agriculture, social welfare, and housing

and public works ministries for one and a  
half years, Muhib told a press briefing at  
the National Economic Council (NEC)

auditorium.

He said the upcoming budget will have  
an allocation for the scheme.

The finance minister said the  
programme has been taken in line with  
Awami League's election manifesto.

He said the youths would be trained  
mainly in military education, agriculture  
and housing works.

Their jobs would be secured as the  
ministries would not recruit anyone to  
the posts meant to be filled by the youths,  
he said.

After two years, they would decide on  
whether to go for higher education or  
continue in their current jobs.

The finance minister said the military  
training would not be compulsory.

Finance ministry sources said the  
labour ministry's district bureaus would  
coordinate the efforts in this regard. They  
will register the unemployed youths.

Yesterday's press briefing was organ-  
ised to inform journalists about the out-  
come of the Islamic Development Bank  
(IDB) conference that the finance minis-  
ter attended in Turkmenistan last week.

Replies to a question on hike in  
duties on vehicles, Muhib said, "Every-  
body knows taxes on cars would go up in  
the next budget."

He said AL is a people's party that takes  
populist actions. Since common people  
cannot afford cars, taxes on the vehicles  
would rise.

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Touhid hid killings  
in talks with PM  
Confesses to have led BDR carnage

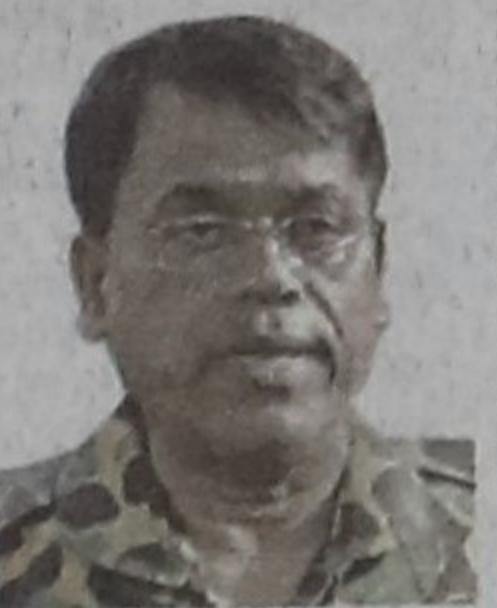
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Deputy Assistant Director (DAD)  
Touhidul Alam yesterday confessed  
before magistrate of a Dhaka court to  
have led the planning of the BDR  
mutiny and all operations during the  
carnage.

Terming the confession a big step  
forward, sources in the CID said  
Touhid, prime accused in the BDR  
carnage case, admitted that he had  
taken the leadership as rebel Bangladesh  
Rifles (BDR) jawans gave him the responsibility.

Sources in the CID, which is investigating the case, said in the  
three-hour-long confession Touhid said he had led a team of 14  
BDR mutineers to the talks with the prime minister at her resi-  
dence Jamuna on February 25 to get general amnesty. He said he  
knew that the army officers were already killed but he did not  
reveal the information during the talks with prime minister and  
other government representatives.

Detained Sepoy Habib also made a statement yesterday  
admitting that he and Sepoy Muhib shot and killed director  
general of BDR Maj Gen Shakil Ahmed and other senior officers  
at Darbar Hall in Pilkhana soon after the revolt sparked.



SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Culprits to  
get stern  
punishment

Reiterates PM at  
ALCWC meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina  
yesterday reiterated her govern-  
ment's commitment to  
handing down exemplary  
punishment to the perpetra-  
tors of the massacre at the  
Pilkhana BDR headquarters.

"Persons involved in the  
massacre will be given exem-  
plary punishment. The trial  
will begin soon," AL spokes-  
person and LGRD and  
Cooperatives Minister Syed  
Ashraf Islam told reporters  
quoting Hasina after the  
Awami League (AL) Central  
Working Committee meeting  
at the premier's political office  
in the city's Dhanmondi.

The meeting with Hasina in  
the chair decided to ensure  
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## ILLEGAL STRUCTURES ON TURAG

# Demolition goes on, not the restoration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Officials involved in the ongoing government  
drive for demolishing illegal structures in the  
Turag river, yesterday expressed an urgent need  
for excavators to remove the debris, for recover-  
ing the river's encroached upon channel.

Abul Bashar Md Amit Uddin, the on-duty  
magistrate from Gazipur district administra-  
tion, who is helping Bangladesh Inland Water  
Transport Authority (BIWTA) in the drive, told  
The Daily Star that they need another team,  
which will work with an excavator and some  
other modern equipment to remove the debris  
following demolitions.

The huge volume of debris generated during  
a demolition must immediately be removed to  
render the recovered land and the portion of  
the river unencumbered.

"Whenever the crane or labourers demolish  
a structure, debris fall into the river or on its  
shore keeping the land still encumbered," he  
added explaining the urgency of an additional  
team with an excavator.

The demolition team, comprising officials  
from both Gazipur district administration and

BIWTA and about 50 labourers, yesterday pulled  
down nearly 15 light and heavy illegal construc-  
tions consisting of about 60 structures on the  
banks of the Turag, at Tongi Sarak Bridge, Bazar  
Launch Ghat, Pagar Mouza, and Rail Bridge areas.

Hundreds of onlookers stood along the  
riverbanks witnessing the drive to free the  
Turag of encroachments.

Officials present at the sites said the whole  
demolition process has been painstaking and  
time consuming, as they had to mainly depend  
on manual labour for demolition.

"Large BIWTA tug boats can't enter the  
Turag due to a lack of required draft in its chan-  
nel. Moreover, since there are many low bridges  
under which those powerful tug boats cannot  
pass, we are completely dependant on a small  
tug boat and manual labour," said Assistant  
Engineer of BIWTA Shahajadur Rahman, who is  
supervising the drive.

Another official expressed the urgent need  
for establishing coordination among the High  
Court administration, the offices of lawyers  
of alleged encroachers, and district administra-  
tions -- for on-the-spot crosschecking of

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PHOTO: SHAFIQU ALAM

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority during a drive against river encroachers tears down illegal structures erected on the  
Turag near Tongi Bazar area yesterday.

Historic  
June 7  
today

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League (AL) observes  
the historic 7th June today to  
commemorate the six-point  
movement it launched 42 years  
ago demanding autonomy of  
eastern East Pakistan.

The six-point movement,  
marked by the supreme sacri-  
fice of Sramik League leader  
Manu Mia, Shafiq and  
Shamsul Haq, paved the way  
for the Bengalees' final strug-  
gle for independence in 1971.

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Another low  
over Bay

UNB, Dhaka

The monsoon low over north-  
west Bay and adjoining areas  
intensified into a well-marked  
low over the same area, said a  
Met Office bulletin yesterday.

"It is likely to intensify  
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A large number of headmasters and English teachers of schools in Dhaka zone attend the  
inauguration of English in Schools, a joint initiative of The Daily Star and Aktel, at  
Emmanuel's Convention Centre of Rifles Square yesterday. (Another photo on page 3)

## Unique bid to spread English in schools

Star - **AKTEL** initiative launched to help students  
learn English; over 1,000 schools across country  
to get the newspaper for free

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

English in Schools (EIS), a joint initiative  
by The Daily Star and AKTEL, will help the  
students learn English and prepare them-  
selves for global challenges, educationists  
and policymakers said yesterday.

This will also enable the school chil-  
dren to develop a reading habit and  
broaden their knowledge base, they  
observed at an EIS orientation session for  
school teachers.

At least 376 headmasters and English  
teachers from 189 schools under Dhaka  
zone participated in the event at  
Emmanuel's Convention Centre in the  
capital's Rifles Square.

Participating teachers lauded the  
initiative by the mobile operator and the

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