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EVICTION ON SHITALAKHYA, TURAG

## 5 major structures knocked down

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) along with Narayanganj and Gazipur district authorities yesterday pulled down five major structures built illegally on the Shitalakhy and Turag rivers.

The eviction team BIWTA and Gazipur district administration officials arrived at the Sajid Washing and Dyeing Ltd, a concern of Ha-meem Group, at 10:00am along with 105 labourers and a tugboat.

"We encountered resistance for the first time from Ha-meem Group chairman AK Azad," said BIWTA Deputy Director Saiful Islam.

Sajid Washing, a huge building located near Kamarpura Bridge in Tongi, was built so as to devour a 150 x 95 area of Turag, said the on-duty BIWTA officials.

"Ha-meem Group chairman picked an altercation with the team and threatened with worsening law and order situation but finally he gave in as the on-duty magistrate was tough on him," Islam said.

Assistant Commissioner (Land) of Gazipur Atul Sarkar said the government officials engaged in the drive did not have to face any difficulties or any persuasion from any influential quarter during the eviction.

Meanwhile, the eviction drive in the

Shitalakhy in Narayanganj continued yesterday for the second day starting from 10:00am.

The eviction team of BIWTA and the Narayanganj district administration partially knocked down two buildings - a six-storey and a seven-storey - of the Blooming Fashion garments factory located at Tanbazar.

Md Shahnewaz, owner of the factory, admitted that around 22 feet of the same building built illegally on the river was demolished in a drive during the caretaker government.

Magistrate Abdul Hai of Narayanganj said, "We are continuing with the eviction drive in full swing and there has been no resistance so far."

"We will continue to do so as long as it requires and spare none," said Hai.

BIWTA Joint Director Abul Bashar vowed that they would continue with the drive in the Shitalakhy until all illegal structures are dismantled.

Two magistrates including Abul Kashem were engaged in the drive in the Shitalakhy. Narayanganj Sadar UNO Motahar Hossain was also present during the eviction.

Two BIWTA tugboats and 120 labourers were engaged during the demolition.

A total of 134 structures including small makeshift ones jutting into the river Shitalakhy have been listed for demolition.

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PHOTO: SHAFIUL ALAM

The BIWTA as part of its ongoing anti-encroachment drive demolishes an establishment that encroached on the Shitalakhy in Shahpara area of Narayanganj yesterday.

Anti-crime drive to be beefed up in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) is going to step up vigilance in the city to improve law and order, said DMP Commissioner AKM Shahidul Haque yesterday.

After a meeting with the senior officers at Rajarbagh Police Telecom Auditorium he said the special drive will be beefed up from Thursday night (tonight).

This time the DMP commissioner himself will join the anti-crime drive. The number

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## 4-LANE DHAKA-CTG HIGHWAY Tender in a week, work starts this year

Committee formed for bidding, study on metro rail in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tender will be floated for constructing the four-lane Dhaka-Chittagong highway within a week while its construction will begin this year, Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain said yesterday.

A firm will be selected by October to do the job, the minister said while speaking at a seminar on "Problem of road safety and its solution" at Sarak Bhaban in the capital.

He also hoped that its construction would be completed within the present government's tenure at a cost of Tk 2,000 crore.

The government has a plan to construct two more four-lane highways on Dhaka-Mymensingh and Dhaka-Faridpur-Barisal-Kuakata routes, Abul Hossain told the seminar jointly organised by Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA), Roads and Highways Department and communications ministry.

He said they would reform the BRTA and computerise its services to improve performance.

The minister said it has become necessary to update the motor vehicle ordinance and make

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Illegally and inconsiderately placed construction materials on an ally near the Gulshan-2 intersection narrow down the ally making it difficult for vehicles to manoeuvre.

### Online Poll

Law Minister has said a parliamentary body could be formed to investigate the last caretaker govt's 'wrongdoings' and initiate necessary actions. Do you support?

○ Yes (61.5%)  
○ No (36.9%)  
○ No Comments (1.6%)

Total votes: 740

TODAY'S POLL  
Who is to be blamed for Bangladesh's loss to Ireland in the ICC World T20?

Please cast your vote at [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

Procurement, speedy trial amendment bills passed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The House yesterday passed two bills - Public Procurement (Amendment) Bill, 2009, and Law and Order Disruption Offence (Speedy Trial) (Amendment) Act, 2009 - with an empty opposition bench.

Objection notices and amendment proposals from the opposition lawmakers were not raised in the House.

The BNP-led opposition has been boycotting

## Heavy fighting in Pak tribal belt kills 33

AFP, Peshawar

Pakistan's army pounded Taliban fighters in a northwest region close to a lawless tribal belt yesterday, killing at least 33 insurgents as a military offensive spread, officials said.

Troops are already locked in a more than six-week battle against Islamist extremists in three northwestern districts, and officials said operations were now also underway in Bannu district bordering semi-autonomous Waziristan.

"We launched an operation in Jani Khel area against the militants. We are using artillery and helicopter gunships to target the

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## Speaker rejects opposition notices on Aila, BDR issues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speaker Abdul Hamid yesterday turned down all five notices from BNP-led opposition legislators asking for discussions on various issues adjourning other scheduled businesses of the House.

The opposition lawmakers in their notices, submitted to the parliament secretariat, demanded discussions on issues like scarcity of relief materials in Aila-affected areas and confessional statement of detained BDR Deputy Assistant Director Tawhid.

They also demanded discussion on the items taken from the parliament secretariat by the late speaker Humayun Rasheed Choudhury and advocate Fazle Rabbi Mia.

In defence of his action, the speaker said the notice on scarcity of relief materials could be addressed by the ministry concerned while the subjects of other notices were related to parliament secretariat.

Hamid said the massacre at the BDR headquarters is a matter of sub-judice.

The speaker refused to accept any of the notices, as the treasury bench did not agree to have discussions on those issues.

As per the rules of procedure, the speaker chalked out businesses of the House in consultation with Leader of the House and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

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Gang tries to break in a Gulshan house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Residents of a Gulshan Avenue house claimed that a gang of 25-30 people allegedly led by ATN Bangla Chairman Mahfuzur Rahman tried to evict them early yesterday.

The criminals, saying that they were Mahfuzur Rahman's men, claimed the couple was no longer the owner of the house and the ATN Bangla chairman had bought the house from its original owner.

Locals, however, captured 11 of them at the spot and handed them over to police.

In this regard, chairman of private satellite TV channel ATN Bangla Mahfuzur Rahman said people of the former owner of the house,

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### Prayer Timing

June 11

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Magrib	6-50	6-55
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

50,000 farmers to get agri input, tech support

Tk 82cr EU-funded scheme starts in January

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government under an over Tk 82 crore three-year project will help 50,000 small and marginal farmers with agriculture input support and assistance in the use of modern technologies and proper fertiliser application to improve their economic status.

The project will begin in January next year in 50 upazilas of 31 districts across the country.

"Our objective is to bring the selected farmers out of poverty," said Khandker Moyeenuddin, project director of Soil Fertility Component (SFC) Project under Food Security Programme-2006.

European Union (EU) will provide over Tk 73 crore, Bangladesh government over Tk 2.12 crore and implementation partners will provide over Tk 6.80 crore to implement the project, said officials at the launching of "Call for Proposal" at the auditorium of Khamarbari in the capital yesterday.

Government agencies or NGOs experienced in the agriculture sector can submit proposals on how they would implement the project in six regions. Soil Resource Development Institute (SRDI) is the implementing agency of the project and it is seeking project implementation partners.

The regions are: the coastal zone of the south and southwestern districts, active floodplains and chars in the northern

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