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Rubber factory fined for air pollution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Environment (DoE) in an enforcement drive yesterday fined the authorities of a rubber factory Tk 7 lakh for polluting the environment in its surrounding areas in Tejgaon industrial area.

This is for the first time DoE punished the authorities of any factory for odour pollution under the environment act, says a DoE media release.

According to the department, Northern Rubber Manufacturing Company Ltd has been polluting the surrounding areas where 120 families reside.

The department
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BCL men stab JCD activist at RU

RU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) men stabbed an activist of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) at Rajshahi University (RU) yesterday evening.

The victim was identified as Ahasan Uzzaman alias Olin, son of Prof Asaduzzaman of Applied Physics department at RU. He is an activist of RU unit JCD and also a fourth year student of Material Science department.

He was admitted to Rajshahi Medical College and Hospital (RMCH) with critical
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City cops raid criminals' den

Bomb-makers flee
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered explosives and bomb-making materials busting a den of criminals at Moghbazar in the capital last night.

Around 9:30pm, a sound of explosion came from a five-storey building in the area. Hearing the bang, crime busters started a raid to trace its source and found the den, a three-room flat of the building.

Police said they recovered some explosives, splinters and bomb-making materials and also caught three women from the flat.

Detained Salma, Rojina and Ankhi told police Kabir, Sumon and another youth
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PRAYER TIMING February 9

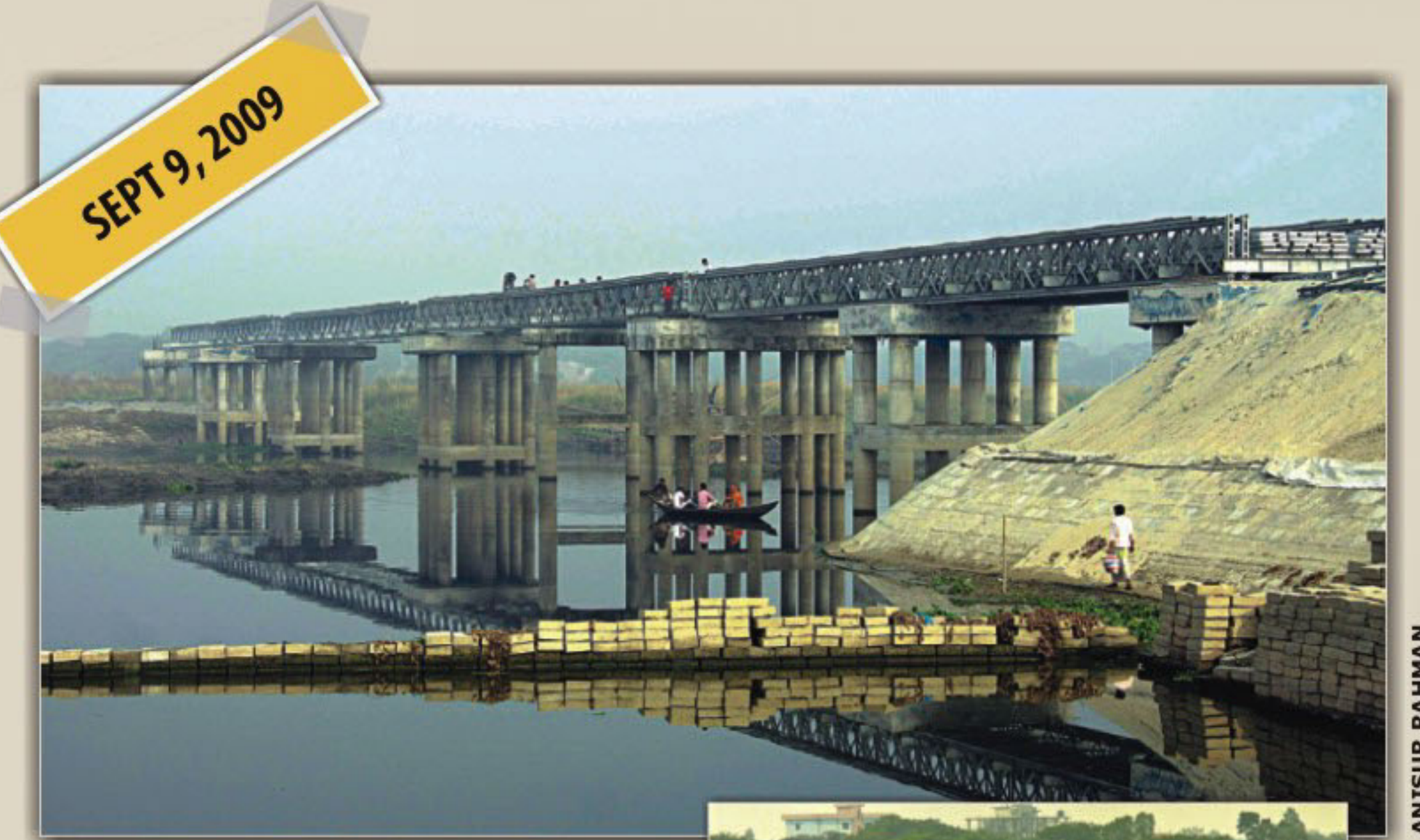
Azan	5:30	6:05
Fajr	12:45	1:15
Zohr	4:15	4:30
Maghrib	5:52	5:56
Esha	7:15	7:45

Source: Islamic Foundation

RIVER-GRABBING NOW & THEN



The top photo shows the now-completed low bridge over the Turag River connecting the Pratyasha housing estate, near Kamarpara, and land grabbers have moved in to grab river land. The inset photo shows temporary fences that are being used on the other side of the river to occupy land.



The inset photo taken on May 28, 2009, shows construction going on of a low bridge that connects the Pratyasha housing estate on the Turag River near Kamarpara. People were photographed filling the river with silt. The top photo shows progress of the bridge in September that year, violating the Dhaka Master Plan.



Grand goal lacks bucks

Unhappy education minister presses for doubling budgetary allocation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday decried shortage of budgetary allocation for education sector and said it is impossible to achieve the goals of this sector with such allocation.

During the question hour in parliament, the minister said allocation for education sector is now 14 to 15 percent of the annual budget. But it should be raised to at least 30 percent or more, he stressed.

The government should now consider it seriously since discus-

sions in this regard have been going on for the last 25 years, he said.

"It is difficult to achieve even the present goals (of education sector) with the budgetary allocation, let alone the future targets," Nahid said.

Referring to observations at an international conference of education ministers, he said allocation for education sector should be eight percent of GDP.

"But, we the education ministers of SAARC countries agreed that the allocation should be at least six percent of GDP for now," Nahid said.

He mentioned that education

sector in Bangladesh is allocated only 2.3 percent of GDP or 14 to 15 percent of the annual budget.

But countries like Sri Lanka and Malaysia allocate 25 to 32 percent of their annual budgets for education. Even a country, Kenya, allocates 31 percent of its annual budget for education, the minister said.

Awami League lawmaker from Sylhet-5 Hafiz Ahmed Majumder raised the question about budgetary allocation for education sector.

Nahid thanked him for raising this
SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Proposals drafted to empower JS bodies

Attendance of witnesses, submission of documents to be made a must

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The law ministry has drafted proposals to enact a law for empowering parliamentary committees so that they can force witness attendance at hearings and production of documents before the committees.

The proposed legislation, made in line with a constitutional provision, also seeks to empower the committees to punish witnesses or other individuals for refusal to respond to their summons and for

failure to produce documents they want.

Chiefs of the parliamentary bodies are expected to sit together on February 15 to discuss the draft proposals and make necessary changes to strengthen the committee system.

Once the proposals are made a law, a committee will have the authority to punish anybody for contempt of it or failure to appear before it or refusal to produce required documents or create obstacles to its functioning. The House body will be
SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

Chandpur rapist held

Madrassa teachers try to bury crime by asking the 11-yr-old victim's father to marry her off to the 60-yr-old rapist

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

Police yesterday arrested a madrasa teacher from Hajiganj Bazar in Chandpur on charges of raping an 11-year-old girl.

Chandpur Additional Police Superintendent Amir Jafar said the accused, Abdul Jalil, had confessed to the crime.

Hajiganj police also detained two other madrasa teachers, Kawsar Ahmed and Abul Khair, and brought them to the station for interrogation in this connection.

Jalil, 60, an Arabic teacher of Hajiganj



Abdul Jalil

Kapaikap Alim Madrasa, hails from Pekda village under Barura upazila in Comilla and has a wife and six children.

A resident of Hajiganj has provided him with lodging.

Jalil used to tutor some madrasa students including the girl at the house in morning.

On August 3 last year, he asked all but the girl to leave calling it a day. He afterwards raped her.

After the incident the victim stopped going to Jalil.
SEE PAGE 7 COL 4

Govt wheat for schoolchildren feeding seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

An executive magistrate seized on Tuesday night 493 sacks of wheat meant for the government's schoolchildren feeding programme.

The magistrate said they seized around 51 tonnes of wheat after Rapid Action Battalion members found those being sold in a black market here.
SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

1,600 sued for hartal violence

2 pro-BNP DCC ward councillors held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police in separate drives yesterday and Monday arrested two pro-BNP ward councillors of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) in connection with torching vehicles on the eve of and during the hartal.

Besides, over 1,600 BNP leaders and activists were accused by the Paltan police on charge of damaging vehicles, arson attack and impeding police duties in front of the party's Naya Paltan office during the dawn-to-dusk hartal.

Mohon Miah, councillor of Ward-69 was arrested at about 3:30pm for setting a bus ablaze on North-South
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India to stop killing of innocent

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

India has pledged to stop killing innocent Bangladeshis at the borders.

The assurance came from Indian External Affairs Minister SM Krishna during a meeting with Foreign Minister Dipu Moni in Thimphu Monday.

The two are attending a two-day Saarc Council of
SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

UK trained Rab with full respect to human rights

Says British envoy

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The UK provided specific training to Rapid Action Battalion, fully respecting human rights, said Stephan Evans, the British high commissioner in Dhaka yesterday.

"The UK decided to impart training in the area where Rab needs support and assistance to develop its capacity and understanding about the importance of the human rights," he said speaking at a certificate awarding ceremony in Hotel Sonargaon.

WikiLeaks did not reveal anything new about the UK government providing training to Rab, as the information had already been in the public domain, he added.
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ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with the prime minister that BNP is behind the stock market scam and price hike of essentials?

Yes (45.91%)
No (52.50%)
No Comments (1.59%)

TOTAL VOTES : 1760

TODAY'S POLL

Do you believe the government will investigate the alleged influence on Ghorashal power project tender by the communications minister?

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