

# RECLAIMING TURAG RIVER BIWTA takes down illegal building, walls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) team in a drive yesterday knocked down a building and six boundary walls and detained nine workers from seven dredgers and a sand carrying vessel in the Turag river.

Dhaka district Magistrate Abu Sayeed of the team also seized six sections of a pipe, approximately 100 metres in length, used in pumping out sand from rivers and auctioned off a pile of sand for Tk one lakh.

The second day's drive of the two-day campaign was carried out along a 15-kilometre stretch from Sinnirtek to Ashulia to free the river from grabbers.

The team was led by BIWTA Director (port) Md Shafiqul Haque and Magistrate

Sayeed and comprised a tugboat Agropathik, workboat Argroz and 60 workers.

The building and boundary walls were constructed by illegally filling up the river and the pipe was seized for being used to illegally extract sand from the river, said Turag and Ashulia police station sources.

The sand pile was auctioned off as the owner had illegally deposited it on the shore of the Turag while the workers were detained for illegally extracting sand from the river. The workers were released without any case being filed, added the sources.

Newly appointed BIWTA Chairman Dr Md Shamsuddoha Khandakar earlier said he would make rivers around the capital free from pollution and encroachment within a year.

## Two bodies recovered in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the bodies of two unidentified persons in the capital's South Keraniganj and Gabtoli yesterday.

South Keraniganj police said they recovered the body of a girl, aged around 5, from the Buriganga river in Hasnabad area around 10:00am.

The body was sent to Mitford hospital morgue.

Meanwhile, police recovered the body of a person, aged around 40, from Gabtoli Beribandh around 9:00am.

Darus Salam police said locals informed them of the body which was, later, sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue.



The second namaz-e-janaza of renowned journalist Ataus Samad at Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

## Ataus Samad laid to rest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Veteran journalist Ataus Samad was laid to eternal rest in the grave of his father at the capital's Azimpur graveyard yesterday afternoon.

His first namaz-e-janaza was held at Gulshan Azad Mosque after Zohr prayers. In the morning, his body was taken to his Baridhara residence from Apollo Hospital where he breathed his last on Wednesday night at the age of 75.

Around 3:00pm, he was taken to Jatiya Press Club where colleagues, politicians, social workers, well-wishers and people from all walks of life placed wreaths at his coffin to pay their last tributes. A short commemorative meeting was also held there.

His second namaz-e-janaza was held there around 3:30pm.

Different organisations and persons expressed deep shock at the death of Ataus Samad, considered one of the leading journalists in the country.

In a condolence message, Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus said, "I am deeply saddened at Ataus Samad's sudden death. Ataus Samad was a shining example of objective journalism. His untimely death is a permanent loss to the country."

He also sympathised with Samad's bereaved family and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

Home Minister Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir and different journalist associations and political organisations also expressed shock at his death.

### WEATHER TODAY

#### Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Sylhet, Chittagong, Dhaka, Barisal and Khulna divisions and at one or two places over Rangpur and Rajshahi divisions in 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places, Met Office said.

Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

**The sun sets in the capital today at 5:49 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:50am.**

Country's highest temperature 36.3 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chuadanga and lowest 22.5 degrees at Rangpur.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.2	26.8	78	82
Chittagong	33.0	25.8	81	78
Rajshahi	36.0	26.0	81	74
Rangpur	33.7	22.5	76	68
Khulna	35.7	26.5	77	84
Barisal	33.9	26.3	78	85
Sylhet	33.1	26.7	83	80

# Biman to start Hajj flights from Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Amid demand from local travel agencies and passengers, Biman Bangladesh Airlines will start operating direct Hajj flights on Chittagong-Jeddah route from Shah Amanat Airport on Monday, officials said yesterday.

Biman's District Manager of Chittagong Dilip Kumar Chowdhury said they got approval for eight flights

and received schedules for five of them. The first flight will take off early Monday, while each flight will carry over 500 pilgrims, he said.

In addition, Biman will carry about 1,800 passengers to Jeddah on nine regular flights starting on October 18.

The new flight arrangement however has disappointed the Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh (Haab) and the Association of Travel Agents of Bangladesh (ATAB).

Biman will carry passengers of only two agencies--Shah Amanat Hajj Kafela and Mayor Hajj Kafela--which are owned and managed by persons linked to the ruling party, said SM Mubiniul Haque, chairman of Haab, Chittagong.

Chairman of ATAB, Chittagong MS Alam said there were about 10,000 Hajj passengers from Chittagong but Biman could carry only a small number of them. The rest will have to travel from Dhaka, he added.

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