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## TURAG ENCROACHMENT Only small structures demolished

TAWFIQUE ALI

With the lean flow of the Turag remains choked with massive encroachments, a joint team of the BIWTA and Gazipur district administration yesterday changed its priority in a two-day eviction drive.

It prioritised knocking down around 60 makeshift structures, including five semi-concrete ones, at Tongi kitchen market to make room for a walkway along the river bank.

The team even spared a three-storey and a four-storey commercial building within the river's foreshores on "religious considerations."

The Turag, which stretches from Basila to Tongi, has already been reduced to a virtual sewer as demarcation pillars were wrongfully set up a couple of years ago excluding areas within the foreshore line.

On Wednesday, a director of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) instructed its officials to first remove major encroachments near Dhour Bridge in Bhakral mouza with enhanced manpower and equipment.

Backed by police, the joint team on the same day embarked on the drive and attempted to remove an enormous pile of

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A digger demolishes illegal structures on the river Turag near Tongi kitchen market yesterday leaving a pile of debris along the shore. Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority, the district administration of Gazipur and police on the second day of their drive only cleared the land for building a pavement, leaving most of the illegal structure untouched.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## ASSAULT ON JOURNO Hospital staff held, doctor absconding

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested ZH Sikder Women's Medical College and Hospital's staff Abu Sufian who along with a doctor confined and assaulted a senior journalist of Bangla daily Prothom Alo on Tuesday.

Shishir Morol, special correspondent of the Bangla daily, went to the hospital that day to verify whether Shafiqul Azam, the cardiology department

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## QATAR EASES RULES

# Expat workers can now switch jobs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Qatar, a major manpower destination for Bangladeshi workers, has announced reforms in its labour policy to ensure foreign workers' rights amidst international criticism over the Middle-Eastern country's treatment of foreign workers.

Expatriate workers will now be able to move to new jobs after their contracts expire under new changes as the current mandatory requirement to obtain a no objection certificate from the past employer has been abolished.

"[The no objection certificates] which

currently regulate transfer of employees will be replaced with an employment contract system. If the employment contract is for a fixed term, the employee may transfer to another employer at the end of that term," a Gulf News report stated, quoting a press release from the Qatari interior ministry.

"If the contract is for an indefinite term, the employee may transfer after five years from the date of the contract," the statement released in Doha yesterday states.

The Bangladesh embassy in Doha welcomed the move.

"The opportunity to change employers

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Traders selling vegetables on the pavement at Karwan Bazar kitchen market use their empty baskets as hats to get some respite from the blazing sun yesterday, the first of Bangla month Jaistha, considered one of the hottest.

## KIDNAP OF NIGERIAN SCHOOLGIRLS

# Villagers fight back, kill scores of militants

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Villagers in an area of Nigeria where Boko Haram operates have killed and detained scores of the extremist Islamic militants behind the kidnapping of more than 270 schoolgirls.

Residents in northern states have been forming vigilante groups to resist the militants who have held the girls captive since last month.

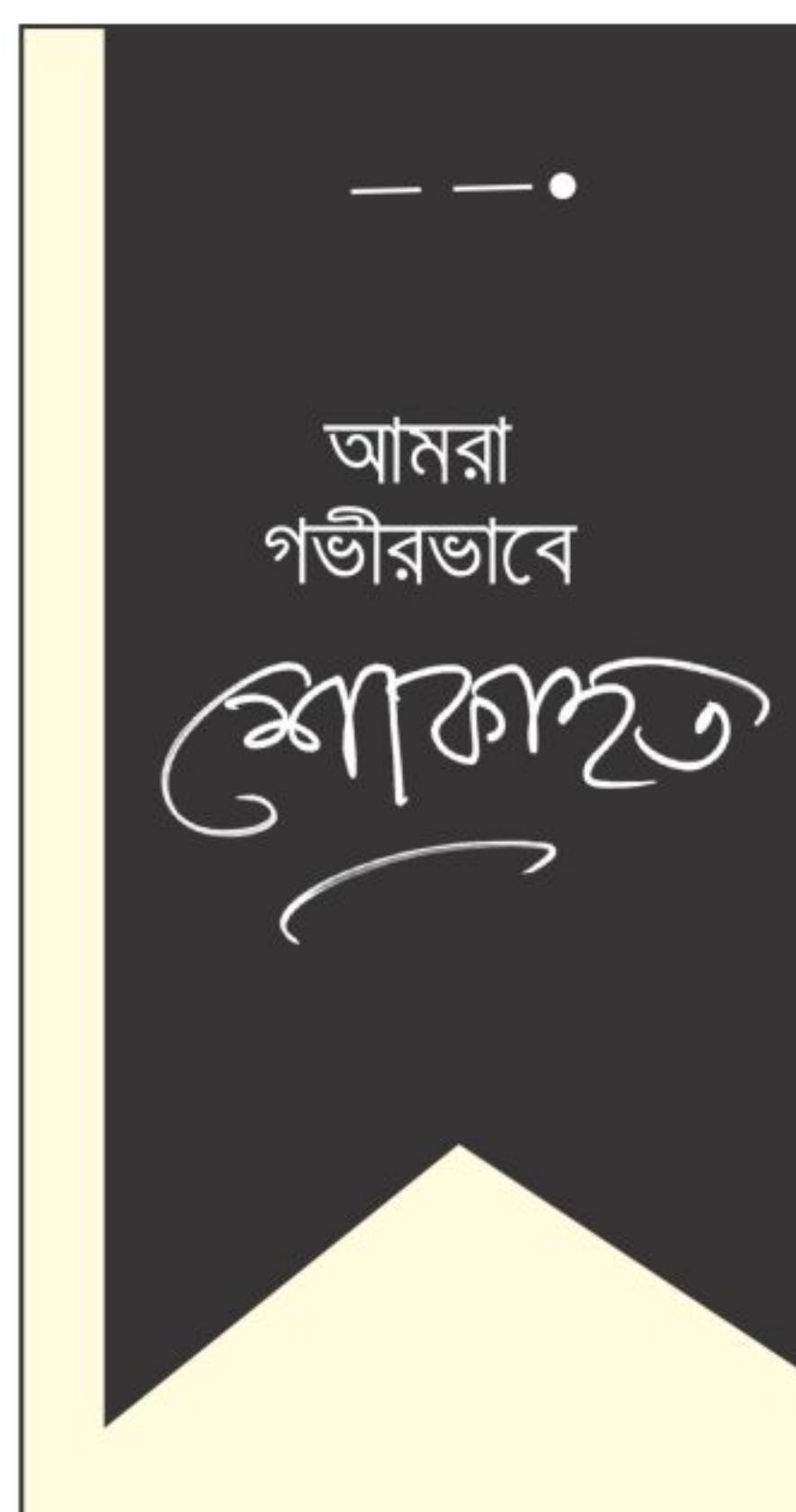
In Kalabalg, a village 155 miles from the

Borno state capital of Maiduguri, residents said they were taking matters into their own hands because the military was not doing enough to stem Boko Haram attacks.

On Tuesday morning, after learning about an impending attack by militants, locals ambushed two trucks with gunmen, a security official said. At least 10 militants were detained, and scores were reportedly killed. It was not immediately clear where the militants were being held.

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**The Daily Star**  
Integral Energy Limited  
ONLINE POLL  
Do you agree with BNP Chairperson Kheda Zia that the government's dilly-dallying over arresting Rab men involved in seven-murder in Narayanganj proves that it is patronising the killers?  
Yes (90%)  
No (10%)  
TOTAL VOTES: 373  
TODAY'S POLL  
Do you agree with TIB report that the judiciary has been increasingly subjected to political manipulation under successive governments?  
PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)



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Make joint move to save Buriganga  
PM asks officials of 3 ministries

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged all concerned to take joint initiatives in saving the Buriganga river from pollution.

The river is in a very bad shape as all kinds of sewage are being dumped into it through the drainage system at 135 points, she said.

To save the river, she underscored the need for taking joint initiatives by the ministries of environment and forests, water resources and shipping.

An effluent treatment plant (ETP) could be set up through establishing a strong, separate drainage system to protect the river, she added.

The premier made the remarks during a meeting with high officials of the environment and forests ministry at the secretariat.

Hasina also suggested stopping the shallow

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## Finger vein ID to replace ATM cards



THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

Cash machine cards may become a thing of the past following the launch of hi-tech ATMs.

The new ATMs let users withdraw money simply by pressing their finger on an infra-red reader that identifies them from the unique pattern of veins in their hand.

Poland has become the first country in Europe to introduce a network of "finger vein ID" cash machines, with 2,000 of the new ATMs opening in bank branches and supermarkets this year.

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PRAYER TIMING		May 16
Azan	Jamaat	
Fajr	4-15	4-50
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-34	6-38
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation