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# Turag not freed yet

## Half-hearted eviction drive spares many illegal structures

TAWFIQUE ALI

The Dhaka and Gazipur district administration and the BIWTA called off an eviction drive along the Turag halfway through on August 28, leaving out a large encroached part of the river.

The High Court in a July 24 order had asked them to save the river by clearing it of encroachments.

Stretching from Kholamora to Teramukh across Tongi, the 38-km river has been turned into a lean flow of a virtual sewer by scores of “land owners” occupying the river.

The district authorities and Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) jointly embarked on the three-day drive on August 26 to remove huge earth filling, concrete walls and pillars from the river in Machhimpur mouja of Tongi.

Visiting the area on September 6, this correspondent found that the encroachments were still there.

Md Nurul Islam, deputy commissioner of Gazipur, said, “We couldn’t fully remove the encroachments as the BIWTA did not provide us with required technical support.”

He also blamed slack monitoring of the eviction drive for the incomplete work. The district officials concerned have been asked to remove the encroachments fully, added the DC.

Talking to this newspaper on Sunday, Md Saiful Islam, joint director of BIWTA, said, “It was not fair to evict those who appear to have grabbed the river because the establishments are actually out of the river area and they have land ownership documents.”

“We are often compelled to evict those apparent grabbers due to High Court orders and media reports,” he mentioned.

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The encroached upon portions of the river Turag at Machhimpur mouja in Tongi. Grabbers occupied several acres of the river by setting up concrete pillars and retaining walls. A three-day eviction drive against the encroachment was abandoned halfway last month.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

# Obama orders Syria airstrikes

AP, Washington

Opening a new military front in the Middle East, Barack Obama authorised US airstrikes inside Syria for the first time, along with expanded strikes in Iraq as part of "a steady, relentless effort" to root out Islamic State extremists and their spreading reign of terror.

The US president announced Wednesday night that he was dispatching nearly 500 more troops to Iraq to assist that country's besieged security forces, bringing the total number of American forces sent there this summer to more than 1,500.

He also urged Congress anew to authorise a programme to train and arm Syrian rebels who are fighting both the Islamic State militants and Syrian President Bashar Assad.

"We will hunt down terrorists who threaten our country, wherever they are," Obama declared in a prime-time address to the nation from the White House. "This is a core

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## Rejoinder, our reply

Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) on September 4 sent a rejoinder signed by its director Brig Gen Md Mustafizur Rahman to protest a report headlined "Uncared for: Patient takes his life" that The Daily Star published on September 3. We are printing the rejoinder in full along with our reply.

The rejoinder stated that "Nurnobi, 40, got admitted into the DMCH on August 16 under medicine department. After the admission, the patient was managed accordingly and investigated thoroughly. According to the investigation report, he was

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# Conflicts rattle JP

## Bablu denies, justifies some party leaders' meeting with PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Secretary General Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu yesterday denied that there was any rift in the party, and said the discussion between the prime minister and four JP leaders over JP's internal affairs was nothing unusual.

"The prime minister [Sheikh Hasina] is the leader of parliament. Therefore, she is also leader of the opposition party. That is why we must talk to the premier," Bablu said at a press conference at the JP chief's office in the capital.

When a reporter asked him whether Hasina was holding sway over the JP, Bablu said the question was absurd.

His statement came a day after JP leaders Moshir Rahman Ranga and Tajul Islam Chowdhury along with Kazi Feroz Rashid and Ruhul Amin Hawlader talked to the premier at parliament about the JP chief's decision to remove the duo from JP presidency.

Ranga, also state minister for LGRD and Cooperatives, and Tajul, chief whip of the opposition, sought the premier's interference in the matter, according to JP insiders.

Bablu, however, claimed that the JP leaders didn't seek the premier's intervention in JP's internal matters.

Meanwhile, Ranga and Tajul nearly got into a scuffle with Bablu at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan lobby last night.

During a break at yesterday's parliament sitting, Ranga and Tajul got involved in a

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# Killing, not a murder

## Pistorius cleared of murder charges

AGENCIES, Pretoria

A South African judge cleared Oscar Pistorius of all murder charges yesterday, saying prosecutors had failed to prove the Olympic and Paralympic track star intended to kill his girlfriend or an imagined intruder on Valentine's Day last year.

As Judge Thokozile Masipa delivered her decision, Pistorius, who would have

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MORE IN STAR SPORT



Oscar Pistorius



The Tribute in Light is illuminated on the skyline of lower Manhattan during events marking the 13th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center in New York.

PHOTO: REUTERS

# 9/11: Never ending pain

CBSNEWS ONLINE

Jaime Hazan has been a volunteer and first responder for nearly all his life. He grew up volunteering with his local ambulance squad, and in 2001, he had six years as a New York Emergency Medical Technician under his belt. So when terror struck his city that Sept. 11, he knew he had to help, even though he wasn't affiliated with any volunteer

or aid group at the time.

"When I was growing up, volunteering was a staple of your upbringing," Hazan told CBS News. "On 9/11, it was in that spirit that I volunteered -- it wasn't even a choice."

It wasn't until years later, in 2005, that Hazan began noticing symptoms that were ultimately linked to his service at Chelsea Piers on Sept. 11 and Ground Zero

on Sept. 12.

"I was in denial for a very long time," he said. He couldn't stay in denial for long, though, as his respiratory problems and other symptoms changed his life. "It destroyed my livelihood," he said.

Sept. 12, 2001, when he faced the greatest exposure to toxins, "will go down as the day that changed my life forever."

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## Convicted Adflame director gets HC bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court has granted one year's bail to Helena Pasha, a director of Adflame Pharmaceuticals, who was sentenced to 10 years in prison in the paracetamol syrup adulteration case.

The HC bench of Justice Sayed AB Mahmudul Huq and Justice Akram Hossain Chowdhury on Wednesday passed the order following an appeal filed by Helena against the lower court verdict.

Deputy Attorney General Shafiu Bashir Bhandary told The Daily Star that the High Court gave the bail to Helena, considering her illness and old age.

Helena is now at the Coronary Care Unit (CCU) of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University under custody, he said, adding that Helena is now 78-year old.

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PRAYER TIMING September 12		
Fazr	4-35	5-10
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-14	6-17
Esha	7-45	8-15
Source: Islamic Foundation		

# CU teachers stage protest

## One-hour work abstention from tomorrow ; 91 accused in 2 cases over bus attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Teachers of Chittagong University will observe a one-hour work abstention for four days from tomorrow demanding punishment of the culprits involved in Wednesday's attack on their colleagues.

The executive committee of the Chittagong University Teachers' Association (CUTA) made the decision in a meeting yesterday morning, said Prof Benu Kumar Dey, president of the teachers' body.

The work abstention will start from 11:30am, he said,

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## Memory loss linked to blood type

BBC ONLINE

There may be a link between a rare blood type and memory loss in later life, American research suggests.

People with AB blood, found in 4% of the population, appear more likely to develop thinking and

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