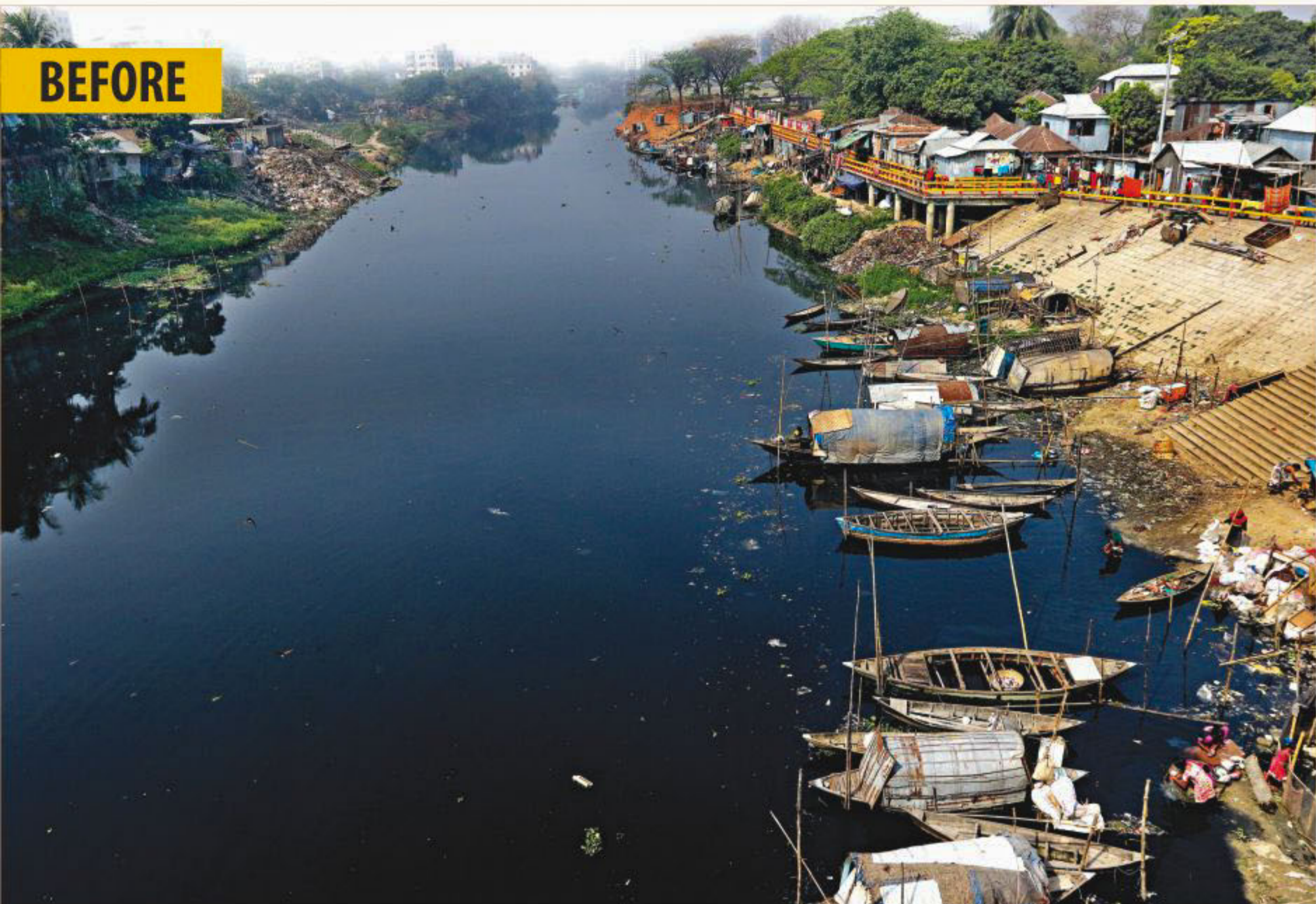


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MONSOON BREATHES LIFE INTO TURAG



BEFORE



NOW

Left, the photo taken in July this year shows a pitch-black Turag, heavily polluted by industrial waste discharged from nearby factories. Right, the condition of the river improved this month following monsoon rain. The photos were taken from the west side of Tongi Bridge in Dhaka.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Lost arm, not hope



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

He paid for his education with the earnings from private tuition and achieved brilliant results both in SSC and HSC examinations. Minar Uddin enrolled in Dhaka University and completed MBA in marketing. He passed the preliminary test of the 36th Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) examinations, sat for written tests and was preparing for viva voce. But all of a sudden, tragedy struck the 26-year-old man from Chittagong. Minar was electrocuted at one of his relative's home in Anwara upazila during Eid vacation. He was having a chat with his relative on the roof of the house on September 12 when he accidentally touched an overhead power cable, said his family.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

COUNCIL NEXT MONTH AL plans to bring in fresh blood

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

The ruling Awami League is going to hold its 20th tri-annual council in late October, keeping the next general election in mind. It is planning to inject fresh blood in the policymaking body with a view to infusing enthusiasm into the party activities, party insiders said. The declaration of the conference on October 22-23 will gradually be changed into the party's election manifesto before the 2019 parliamentary polls. It will feature the plans and goals that the country's oldest political party has set to implement and achieve by 2041. It will also highlight the party's major achievements and mega projects taken up during its two consecutive terms in office. "The next election manifesto will be prepared in the light of the declaration that will be placed at the council," AL presidium member Nuh-ul-Alam Lenin told The Daily Star. Postponing the date thrice, the Awami League finally fixed the schedule for its council session to be held in the capital's historic Suhrawardy Udyan. There it may make a formal announcement of its preparation for the 11th national polls. The AL might as well come up with a slogan for election campaigns. Before the 2008 election, the party's slogan was "Charter for Change" and before the 2014 polls, which were boycotted by most of the major political parties, it adopted "Digital Bangladesh" as the election slogan. The party will form a workforce through the council to work for the next polls, said AL Organising Secretary Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury. "As this council will be the last before the 11th [general] election, it will focus on the next polls and the strategy to win [them]," he added. The party has already come up with its slogan -- "We are marching down the development highway, now is the time for Bangladesh to stand tall" --

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Quader takes responsibility for accidents

Says he was shocked to see 'procession of deaths' on highways

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday accepted responsibility for the deaths in road accidents on the highways across the country during the holidays of Eid-ul-Azha. "I am not claiming that I have been successful in establishing discipline in the transport sector and as a minister I cannot avoid the responsibility for the accidents on the highways," he told journalists at a meet the reporters programme at Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU). The minister said he was shocked at such a "procession of deaths" on the highways. At least 64 people, including two policemen, were killed and 178 others injured in a spate of road accidents since September

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Woman torches 42 buses for biryani, Rs 100



TNN, Bengaluru

A 22-year-old woman suspected to have instigated the arson attack on 42 buses of a Tamil Nadu-based operator in Bengaluru last week was allegedly offered Rs 100 and a plate of biryani to join the protests over Cauvery water-sharing. C Bhagya is one of 11 people arrested for the September 12 attack. The suspects have been accused of dousing the crew of the KPN fleet with diesel and threatening to burn them. It was on account of CCTV footage from the yard where the buses were parked, as well as mobile phone videos filmed by the crew, that police suspected Bhagya to be the agent provocateur. However, Bhagya's mother Yellamma has told the media that her daughter was offered Rs 100

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

Boy jailed for FB comment about MP

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A mobile court in Tangail has sentenced a schoolboy to two years' imprisonment under the ICT act on the charge of "threatening" a ruling Awami League lawmaker via Facebook messenger. Executive Magistrate Mohammad Rafiqul Islam, also the upazila nirbahi

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PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 20

| | | | | |
|--------|------|-------|---------|------|
| Fazr | Zohr | Asr | Maghrib | Esha |
| AZAN | 4-40 | 12-45 | 4-30 | 6-05 |
| JAMAAT | 5-15 | 1-15 | 4-45 | 6-10 |
| | 8-00 | | | |

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

DMP's counter terrorism unit now to work beyond capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police can now carry out its operation across the country. In an order on August 25, the police headquarters extended the specialised unit's operation jurisdiction. The order came in the wake of several successful anti-militancy drives by the unit, in which several top militants were either killed or arrested. The executive office order issued by the Inspector General of Police said the unit could carry out its operation at any place outside Dhaka under three conditions with the prior permission from the IGP. The first condition reads: the unit's activities will be limited to drive and arrest of militants and extremists, recovery of arms and explosives, disposal of explosives and rescue of hostages.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Firefighters and army personnel continue their search for missing workers around the collapsed Tampaco Foils Ltd factory in Tongi of Gazipur. Inset, wife of Masum Ahmed, who went missing after the September 10 incident, shows a photo of her husband as their daughter looks on. The photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

NY, NEW JERSEY BOMBINGS Suspect held after shootout

Identified as Afghan origin US citizen; officials say there may be a terror cell at work in two states

AGENCIES

The Afghan-born American suspect wanted in connection with weekend bombings in New York and New Jersey was taken into custody yesterday after being wounded in a shootout with police, an official said.



Rahami

Ahmad Khan Rahami, 28, was shown stretchered into an ambulance, sporting a bloodied bandage on his right arm and moving his head from side to side with his eyes open in Linden, New Jersey, according to ABC footage. Two Linden police officers were also shot and hurt in the exchange, said the mayor of the suspect's neighboring hometown Elizabeth. "Mr Rahami is currently under arrest. This occurred on Elizabeth Avenue in the city of Linden," Elizabeth Mayor Chris Bollwage told CNN. "One police officer in the city of Linden was shot in the chest and one was shot in the hand. Mr. Rahami also sustained shots," Bollwage added. Contacted by AFP, police in Linden said they had no immediate comment. Rahami is wanted in connection with Saturday bombings in New York's Chelsea, which wounded 29 people, and a pipe bomb attack on the Jersey shore, which caused no injuries but forced the cancellation of a US Marine Corps race.

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