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# BIWTA filling up the Turag again

Experts say it's building multiple jetties violating HC order

TARUN SARKAR

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) has taken an initiative to build permanent structures in the capital's Gabtoli, Amin Bazar, and Diabari areas by filling the Turag.

The government body has come up with the initiative as part of its plan to construct large concrete jetties on the riverbanks.

In 2005, the same authorities constructed landing stations in the same areas by filling the riverbanks as the government introduced a water taxi service to facilitate commuters.

Despite spending a huge amount of money, the government failed to popularise the service that has been remaining shut for many years.

The landing stations have remained abandoned since then with the suspension of the service.

During a recent visit to the areas, this correspondent noticed that multiple private and government structures were set up adjacent to the landing stations by illegally filling the river.

The newly-planned large jetties will be constructed near these landing stations.

Contacted, environmentalists said that construction of such illegal structures by filling the river violates a directive of the High Court.

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Demarcation pillars have been installed inside the Turag river. Taking advantage of this, land grabbers encroach on the river and construct illegal establishments, including brick kilns. The photo was captured from Savar's Shyamlashi area recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## People with clout killing our rivers

Say experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Green activists yesterday observed World Rivers Day, vowing to save the country's rivers from pollution and encroachment.

The theme of the day was 'waterways in our communities' with a specific emphasis on the need to conserve and repair urban waterways.

The day is observed on the fourth Sunday of September every year to raise awareness and to promote conservation of rivers.

Youth-led organisation Green Voice held rallies, marched, and formed human chains in 51 places in the country.

Politically influential people are mainly responsible for killing the country's rivers through encroachment, they said at the programmes.



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## RT-PCR tests at HSIA now likely from Tuesday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The RT-PCR tests at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, mandatory for travel to the UAE, where a large population of expatriate Bangladeshis reside, is expected to start from Tuesday.

However, the start date of rapid PCR tests at the airport depends on the success of the trials, said M Mafidur Rahman, chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh.

Experimental tests were carried out yesterday at the labs that were finally set up on Saturday after missing several dates promised by ministers.

The health directorate would inform CAAB how the test run fared.

Based on the health directorate's feedback, CAAB will inform the concerned airlines to start selling their tickets, Rahman told reporters yesterday.

For this, 48 hours will be required.

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### ROAD TO FREEDOM

THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

## India calls for political settlement

SEPTEMBER 27, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

**TAJUDDIN'S MEETING WITH SECRETARIES**

Prime Minister Tajuddin Ahmad today held meeting with secretaries of different ministries of the exiled government. The finance secretary reported on his recent visit to Delhi in connection with formalisation of trade and commerce with India.

Various problems of the zonal administrative councils, particularly the question of strengthening the zonal administration through decentralisation of the Government's functionaries were discussed. The prime minister desired that the secretaries' committee should further deliberate on this issue and come up with specific suggestions to make the zonal administrative councils more effective and efficient.

The prime minister advised the agriculture secretary to help the Planning Commission in matters connected with agriculture. It was desired that the agriculture secretary should devote his attention to

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## Graft charges framed against ex-minister Mannan, wife

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday formed charges against former state minister for housing and public works Abdul Mannan Khan and his wife Syeda Hasina Sultana in two graft cases.

The couple, now on bail, pleaded not guilty and demanded justice after Judge Mohammed Ali Hossain of the Special Judge's Court-3 of Dhaka read out the charges against them, court sources said.

The judge then set October 28 for starting the trial of the case.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed

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## Oldest bone tools for clothesmaking found



AFP, Rabat

Archaeologists in Morocco have identified clothesmaking tools fashioned from bone dating back 120,000 years, the oldest ever found, one of the researchers said.

"It's a major discovery because while older bone tools have been found elsewhere, it's the first time

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## SABINA KILLING UK cops arrest 38-yr-old man on suspicion of murder

AFP, London

Police in Britain investigating the murder of Sabina Nessa, a 28-year-old British-Bangladeshi teacher who was found dead in a southeast London park last weekend, said they arrested a 38-year-old man yesterday.

Primary school teacher Nessa was killed after leaving her home to go to a bar just a five-minute walk away, in the latest case to galvanise public concern about women's safety in the UK.

Detectives from London's Metropolitan Police took the suspect into custody in the early hours of yesterday at an address in East Sussex, a county southeast of the British capital.

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## BACK TO STUDIES

Students studying on the verandah of Dhaka University's Science Library yesterday. Students rush into the library, bottom, as the authorities reopened the library and department seminars. The authorities also got locked into altercations with students for not "maintaining health safety guidelines".

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Afghans at risk of 'imminent' famine

Warns UN agency

AFP, New York

Afghanistan is at risk of "imminent hunger" with winter approaching and services disrupted by the return to power of the Taliban, a UN official warned in an interview with AFP.

Natalia Kanem, director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), said via video that the situation in the country was dire.

"It would not be an exaggeration to

say" that at least a third of Afghanistan's population of around 33 million is affected by "imminent hunger," Kanem warned.

Harsh winters, disrupting the ability to transport supplies to isolated areas of the mountainous country, plus the coronavirus pandemic will aggravate an already complicated situation, she added.

"There is a lot of anxiety over how we're going to deliver health care, where the next meal is going to come from," Kanem told

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### PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 27

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:35	12:45	4:15	6:00	7:30
JAMAAT 5:10	1:15	4:30	6:05	8:00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



## Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company (Pvt.) Ltd.

(A Joint Venture Company of BPDB and NTPC Ltd.)

Borak Unique Heights (Level-17), 117 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Eskaton Garden, Dhaka-1000.

Memo No.: BIFPCL/MSTPP/FLY ASH/EOI/2021/809 (818) Date: 23/09/2021

**CORRIGENDUM NO. 01 TO REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR ENLISTMENT OF APPLICANTS**

The contents of Memo No.: BIFPCL/MSTPP/FLY ASH/EOI/2021/809 Dated: 26/08/2021 published in various leading dailies for the subject EOI are hereby modified to the following extent:

The Last date to free download and submit the Applications by Interested parties for Enlistment have been extended up to 11/10/2021 with few amendments.

For more details and other information, please visit our website at [www.bifpcl.com](http://www.bifpcl.com). Interested parties may submit the Applications for Enlistment (Hard copy/through e-mail) on or before 11/10/2021 at aforesaid Dhaka/ Rampal address.



**Md. Mofijul Islam,**  
Chief Procurement Officer (CPO), BIFPCL