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City corpn polls Directive to bar loan defaulters

Star Report
The Finance Ministry has asked the Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Ministry to take measures so that loan defaulters can not take part in city corporation polls. The ministry has also taken a move to prevent defaulters from participating in trade body elections and has requested the central bank and the ministries concerned to take measures in this regard. The ministry after a detailed study has found that the existing law does not allow bank loan defaulters to contest in national as well as local body elections. But there has been no such bar in case of city corporation election. The Bangladesh Bank earlier urged the Finance Ministry to see page 11 col 8

Inside Today

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Barak in Political Turmoil- Only Peace Option may Return him to Power
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On fasting for Muslims in the month of Ramadan
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Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Dec 7	5.11 pm
Dec 8	6-29 am

Prayer Timings

December 7		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-04	5-15
Zohr	12-45	1-20
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-14	5-22
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

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Sehri, Iftar timings

Ramadan	Dec	Sehri	Iftar
10	7	5-04	5-15
11	8	5-05	5-15
12	9	5-05	5-15

ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন
আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিচ্ছন্ন রাখুন
আপনার শিশুকে টিকা দিন

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

মশা-
ম্যালেরিয়ার মত মারাত্মক ডেঙ্গুজ্বর ও ছড়াই!!
অক্টোবর হতে মার্চ মাস পর্যন্ত কিউলেব্র মশার উপদ্রব বেশী। বর্ষা মৌসুমে ডেঙ্গুজ্বরের বাহক এডিস মশার সংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি পায়।

এডিস মশা-
আপনার বাড়ির ভিতরে ও বাহিরে পরিষ্কার পাত্র ও টায়ার, ডাবের খোসা, ভাস্কি বোতল, পলিথিন ব্যাগ, পানির ট্যাঙ্কের নীচে, ফুলের টব, এয়ার কন্ডিশনারের নীচে প্রভৃতি পাত্র এমনিভাবে রাখা পাতায় জমা কৃত পানিতে জন্মায়।
ডোবা, খাল-বিল, গর্ত, সেকটিক ট্যাঙ্ক, নোংরা নর্দমা, ময়লা পানিতে কিউলেব্র মশা জন্ম নেয়।

আপনার বাড়ির ভিতরের আঙ্গিনায়
এমন সকল স্থানের
জমা কৃত পানি ফেলে দিয়ে
ঝোপ-ঝাড় কেটে
নিজস্ব এলাকা পরিষ্কার রাখুন।।

ডিসিসি/পিআরডি/২৩৯/০০-০১
জিডি-১১২০

প্রধান স্বাস্থ্য কর্মকর্তা
ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন, ঢাকা

Stop this destruction of rural Bangladesh Brick kiln destroying villages

By Morshed Ali Khan

The Ministry of Environment and Forest has surprised thousands of people in three environmentally pristine villages on the banks of the river Ichhamati in Nawabganj thana, some 35 kilometres off the capital city, by allowing a massive brick kiln at their doorsteps. The ministry has recently revalidated a cancelled environmental clearance certificate to allow a 4.5 lakh-capacity kiln on a 3.5-acre piece of land surrounded by Algichar, Balmantachar and Bakshanagar. With strong backing from Mohammad Abdul Baten, general secretary of the thana Awami League, Abdus Salam Mia, owner of Messrs Saudia Bricks, pushed his way through the commerce, industries and environment ministries to retain licence for the brick kiln even after it had initially been cancelled. As Salam prepares to light the kiln with mountains of logs and coal, apprehension of severe environmental damage amongst the villagers and local government officials intensifies. They fear that the kiln within 100 feet of their homes would not only destroy vegetation and soil but also badly affect their health. It all began on June 6 last year when, in defiance of all norms and regulations, the Department of Environment issued an environmental clearance to Messrs Saudia Bricks to set up the kiln. Conscientious people of the three villages, where Mahatma Gandhi and other famous personalities had camped during India's struggle for independence, lodged written protest with the environment ministry and the licensing authority, the Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka. It was only then the

DoE conducted an investigation and immediately cancelled the clearance four months after it had been issued. However, on December 9, the DoE secretly revalidated the environmental clearance for a period of one year. The villagers, under the umbrella of the Algichar Village Development Association, again wrote to the environment ministry. This time, Environment Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury cancelled the revalidated clearance, without raising any alarm over her department's dubious act. But on January 5 this year, Salam defied the ministerial order and went on to light his kiln, instantly blanketing the villages with thick black cloud. On the same day, the TNO of Nawabganj, Abdul Mannan, sought police help and confiscated all materials of the kiln and filed a case against Salam for illegally burning logs and running a kiln without a valid license. Circle ASP of Nawabganj, Keraniganj and Dohar Giasuddin told the Daily Star that in its investigation the police had found Salam guilty and submitted a charge sheet against him. The case is now under trial. Meanwhile, the environment ministry asked its joint secretary, Mosharraf Hossain to look into the matter again and submit a report. Without even bothering to visit the villages, Hossain submitted a report based on Salam's petition. The Daily Star investigation has found out that the report contains a series of misinformation. For instance, Hossain mentions in his report that there are several brick kilns in the area; therefore, complaints against one raise suspi see page 11 col 6



Ready to blaze... stacked coal and logs speak of Messrs Saudia Bricks' readiness to light its kiln anytime. The brick kiln on 3.5 acres of land surrounded by three villages in Nawabganj thana, 35 kilometres off the capital, has been given environmental clearance in defiance of all norms and regulations to start operations. Once it starts burning, human habitat and vegetation would come under serious threat. --Star photo by Amran Hossain

WB health policy under fire at PHA

By Staff Correspondent

Tanks or bread, say no to World Bank' this is how the third day's session of the People's Health Assembly 2000 in Nayrhat, Savar, about 35 kilometres west of Dhaka, started yesterday. Some 3000 delegates from 95 countries raised a storm over World Bank's policies at the jam-packed gigantic auditorium of the Gonoshashaya Kendra, saying that these are devastating Third World economies, public health systems, lives of the poor, and favouring wealthy multinational pharmaceutical companies. World Bank Regional Director for Health, Nutrition and Population for South Asia Richard Lee Skolnik tried to defend the rationales behind the so-called 'Caring for the Poor' policies across the world. From here for the same reason as you are here for.

What the bank is doing is to overcome and address inadequate access, low quality of health services and corrupt and negligent governments. The bank is the largest financier of healthcare world-wide with annual contribution of 1.5 billion dollars focused on the poor. Citing examples of successful tuberculosis programme being implemented in Bangladesh and India, Skolnik said. The programmes are some of the largest in terms of monetary involvement. The deaths world-wide is on the decrease. He continued amid slogans, "We must be driven by an overwhelming concern for the poor, tribal people and women, lower caste and other disadvantaged groups. see page 11 col 3

FM demands immediate departure of Irfan Raja

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad yesterday demanded immediate departure of Pakistan diplomat Irfan-ur-Rahman Raja for his audacious and derogatory remarks about the country's War of Liberation, reports BSS. "I do not understand why the diplomat is still staying on the soil of Bangladesh. He should be withdrawn immediately", he told a discussion on Democracy Day at Awami League Central office in the city. Raja's remarks sparked widespread protest across the country and Pakistan on November 30 decided to withdraw Irfan Raja from Bangladesh.

German entrepreneurs invited to invest in Bangladesh

STUTTGART, Dec 6: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina here today called upon the German investors to invest in Bangladesh which, she said, has now become an excellent place for investment, reports UNB. "I hope my visit to this State would help attract the attention of businessmen and industrialists to the immense possibilities of doing business in Bangladesh," she said before joining a dinner hosted by the Minister-President of Baden Wurtemberg, Erwin Teufel, at his palace. Prime Minister Hasina, who came here from Berlin by a special flight of German Air Force in the afternoon, attended the dinner of the Minister-President of the State and invited the German entrepreneurs to invest in Bangladesh. She said the State of Baden Wurtemberg, apart from black forest, is one of the most popular recreation areas in Germany, and also an important business and industrial location. The Prime Minister, who came to this industrial city to visit the Daimler, Chrysler automobile manu- facturing company, told the gathering that her country has a huge population in a small geographic area and added that her government is relentlessly working for bringing a change in the economy. "We will be successful in economic emancipation of the people, which is the main goal of the present government," she said adding that her government is trying to fulfil the basic needs of the people. Hasina said she has already achieved a lot in this regard and hope to be successful in her efforts. She said that through a long struggle her government has established democracy and voting rights of the people and is now working day and night for the economic emancipation of the people. Hasina said she believes that only democracy and political stability can ensure an environment for economic prosperity she has been "striving for so earnestly." She said due to the steps taken by the present government, per capita income and literacy rate have increased in Bangladesh and the country for see page 11 col 1

Develop linkage units before expiry of quota system

JS body reviews future of textile sector

By Nazrul Islam

Bangladesh has to develop its fragile linkage industries, if it wants to maintain a competitive edge in the garment sector when the preferential quota system expires globally in 2005, observed the parliamentary standing committee on the Ministry of Textiles at its meeting yesterday at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan. The meeting observed that country's prospective textile sector may suffer a serious setback in the coming years on expiry of quota system under the General Agreement on Trade and Tariff (GAAT) and Multi-Fibre Agreement (MFA) in 2005. The country earns some 4.35 billion US dollars (Tk 24,360 crore) by exporting readymade garments. However, a big chunk of export earnings is spent on fabrics and accessories -- some 70 per cent or 3.05 billion dollars, according to the JS body estimate. The country's value addition, it noted, is not more than 30 per cent. The country would have to invest some Tk 51,061 crore to set up some 213 spinning mills, 330 weaving mills, 72 knitting and knit-dyeing units, 264

dyeing-finishing units and some export oriented readymade garments and accessories industries by the year 2005 to meet up the increasing demands. "Otherwise we have to face a deficit of 63.97 crore kilograms of thread and 329.44 crore metres of fabric at that time," a source quoting a ministry report told The Daily Star. The meeting forecast that the situation was grave and it was time to take initiative so that the sector could meet domestic as well as export demands. The quota system would be intermitted in phases by 2005 under two international agreements -- GAAT and MFA -- which provide quota for developing and least developed countries to promote their exports in the global market. Besides, the generalised system of preference (GSP) facilities to the least develop countries by the developed world would also expire in the same year. The meeting observed that the demands in both domestic and export market is growing but the production-demand ratio was not. see page 11 col 2

Narsingdi fire: 3 assocs to pay compensation

By Staff Correspondent
Three associations including the BGMEA has decided to pay compensation to families of the victims of the recent tragedy at a garments factory in Narsingdi as per decisions of two parliamentary standing committees, said a press release here yesterday. At least 48 employees of Chowdhury Knitwear Ltd. in Narsingdi were killed in a fire-related incident at the factory on the night of November 25. The parliamentary standing committees on the Labour and Employment Ministry and the Commerce Ministry at separate meetings recently discussed the horrific incident and decided that the victims and their families be compensated. To comply with this, the Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers Association (BGMEA), Bangladesh Knitwear Manufac see page 11 col

Deteriorating law & order Business leaders in Chittagong threaten to stop paying tax

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 6: Business leaders here today threatened to stop paying tax if the government fails to immediately arrest deterioration of law and order. The leaders at a rally organised by the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) at the chamber house protesting the deteriorating law and order in the port city suggested that a cell be set up at Chittagong chamber to look into the problems related with law and order facing the business community. They also suggested a meeting with the Home Minister immediately in this regard.

Presided over by President of CCCI Saifuzzaman Chowdhury, the rally was addressed by the leaders of trade and industrial sectors, development organisations and different professional groups. SM Nurul Huq, Vice-President of CCCI, SM Jamal Uddin, Chairman of Greater Chittagong Development Action Council, Salauddin, President of the Federation of Shop Owners Associations, Mahbulul Islam, Honorary Secretary of Chittagong Engineers Institute, Sirajul Islam, General Secretary of C&F Agents Association, Khairul Islam Koksi, of Terribazar Shop Owners Association, were among see page 11 col 1

Uneasy calm at Mongla Port

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Dec 6: Uneasy calm is prevailing at Mongla Port following killing of four people in police firing yesterday. According to Police Super, Bagerhat, police had to open fire in self-defence when they came under attack by dockers. But leaders of Sramik Sangha said the clash ensued when a procession of dockers including women and children was intercepted by police without any provocation. Police fired nearly a hundred tear gas shells and similar number of bullets to disperse the processionists in which four persons died and over 50 others were injured, eyewitnesses said. Normal life was paralysed in Mongla town today. Shops, business establishments and banks remained closed. All modes of vehicles were off the roads. see page 11 col 7

Land Ministry Rejoinder and our Reply

The Land Ministry has issued a rejoinder to a report published in The Daily Star on December 3 under the headline "Tk. 50 cr. land leased out for only Tk. 1.6 cr." It said, according to the Land Ministry records, 0.4542 decimal of land under Ramna Mouza in the city was allocated to Bangabandhu Avenue Babsaiyee Samabai Samity Limited under a long-term lease on three conditions: a) A multi-storied building/car-parking complex has to be built on the land. b) Shops should be allotted see page 11 col 7

SEMINAR
(including Iftar Party)
ON
MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (MBA) - 64 credits
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Royal Roads University (RRU), Canada
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