

# Environment-friendly 'green bricks' introduced

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A pilot project under Efficient and Climate Change Programme of UNDP has introduced environment-friendly 'green bricks' at Dhamrai to improve kiln efficiency in brick-making industry.

Project officials yesterday said the new technology will reduce by 20 percent of average energy cost per unit bricks. To reduce pollution, energy wastage and production cost in the brick making industry,

the project uses Hybrid Hoffman Kiln (HHK) which is obtained from China.

Sources said 30 more such brick kilns would be set up across the country within a short time.

UNDP officials at a presentation at HHK demonstration plant at Universal Bricks Limited at Dhamrai said brick production is one of the most environmentally damaging activity among the whole industrial sectors.

Project Officer Iqbal Hossain said about 4000 brick

kilns across the country are producing over 12 billion bricks and emitting three to six tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent annually.

The currently used technology at the brick kilns in the country requires about 22 tonnes of coal for producing 100,000 bricks, while the HHK technology requires only 12 tonnes of coal for the output, he added.

Iqbal further said that this is a new option for the brick kiln owners and at the same time it is an initiative to reduce

pollution.

He hoped that around 4.3 percent of brick kilns would be energy efficient, greenhouse gas emissions would reduce by 186 tonnes of carbon dioxide and would save about 3,629 tonnes of coal by the end of the project.

UNDP Country Director Stefan Priesner, DoE Director General Najibur Rahman, Programme Coordinator of Sustainable Energy for Development Erich Otto Gomm and Project Promoter Iftekhar Hossain also spoke.

## Hotelier shot dead in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unknown criminals shot dead a former manager of a residential hotel at Karwan Bazar under Tejgaon police station in the city last night.

The dead was identified as SK Kuddus, 45, former manager of Hotel West-Inn at Karwan Bazar.

The miscreants threw the body of Kuddus from a pickup van at Karwan Bazar vegetable market and sped away at about 8:00pm, local people said.

Police said Kuddus was shot in his head.

Vegetable traders said they found the body lying on the ground after the vehicle sped away.

An employee of the hotel said Kuddus was sacked from the hotel on February 1.

He said the criminals were giving death threat for the last few days.

Tejgaon police said they were investigating the matter.

## Singapore navy ship in Ctg

METRO DESK

The Singapore Navy Ship RSS Regulation commanded by Lt Col George Goh yesterday arrives in Chittagong on a four-day goodwill visit to Bangladesh, says an ISPR press release.

During her visit commanding officer of the ship will pay courtesy call on general officer commanding of the 24 Infantry Division, Commodore Commanding Chittagong and Air Officer Commanding of BAF Base Zahurul Haque, Chairman of Chittagong Port and Divisional Commissioner of Chittagong.

Besides, officers and sailors of the ship will visit Naval Base BNS Shaheed Moazzom at Kaptai and different places in Chittagong.

## DAG Farid resigns

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Deputy Attorney General Farid Ahmed, who was appointed during the tenure of the caretaker government, resigned yesterday, a day after the appointment of 26 new DAGs.

Farid Ahmed submitted his resignation letter to the Attorney General's office but did not show any reasons for his resignation.

He told The Daily Star that he resigned to pave the way for the new law officers to deal with the cases on behalf of the state.

Sources said more law officers appointed by the previous governments might resign.

## Newly-wed killed by husband

*Domestic help succumbs to injuries in city*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A newly married housewife was allegedly killed by her husband in the city yesterday.

The victim was identified as Maria Khatun Polin, 21, wife of Redwan Mustafiz Shourav, a resident of Bangla Motor under Shahbagh Police Station.

Polin's brother Syed Akter Hossain alleged that Shourav strangled Polin at one point of their brawl in the early hours.

He said his sister was married to Shourav on November 14 of last year.

He also alleged that Shourav is a drug addict and does not do anything but groom's family hid

this before the marriage.

Family members of Shourav, however, said she committed suicide by hanging herself from the ceiling fan.

Polin's father Syed Uddin filed a murder case with Shahbagh Police Station accusing Shourav and three others.

Police arrested Shourav yesterday morning.

Meanwhile, a domestic help succumbed to her injuries at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) on Sunday night.

Shefali Begum, 40, who worked at an apartment of Road No-1 in Dhanmondi, received injuries while falling down from the roof of a six-storey building.

## Help save life of Mueed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Mueed Ahmed Bhuiyan, a meritorious student of Rajuk School and College, has been suffering from blood cancer, says a press release.

He is now under treatment at Mumbai Tata Memorial Hospital in India.

Mueed needs around Tk 40 lakh for his treatment.

His father is a government employee who cannot afford such a big amount of money for the treatment of his only child.

So his parents have appealed to well-to-do people of the society for financial assistance to save the life of their only son.

Teachers and students of Rajuk School and College have also made similar appeals.

Contributions can be sent to Nurshed Ahmed Bhuiyan, Savings Account No 117-101-82241, Dutch Bangla Bank Ltd, Uttara Branch, Dhaka.

Contact number of Mueed in Bangladesh is 01917703011, and in India 00919702870367.

## Scientific confce on health system research begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 12th Annual Scientific Conference of the ICDDR,B styled 'Health systems research: People's needs first' began yesterday with participation of researchers from home and abroad.

Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad inaugurated the four-day conference at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city.

The conference is regarded as a platform of disseminating results of research, experience and lessons learnt from recent public health projects and programmes.

Researchers from 13 different countries will present around 178 research abstracts at the conference.



## Makhan's death anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the fifth death anniversary of Abdul Quddus Makhan, member of the Swadhin Bangla Kendriya Chhatra Sangram Parishad and former general secretary of Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducus), says a press release.

On the occasion, Jatiya Bir Abdul Quddus Makhan Smriti Parishad will place wreaths at his grave and organise milad mahfil and Qurankhwani at 8:00am at Muktiyoddha Jatiya Gorasthan at Mirpur in the city. Milad mahfil and Qurankhwani will also be held at his residence in Brahmanbaria after Asr prayers today.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the programmes.



Jagrata Muktiyoddha Kalyan Samity takes out a procession from Mukangan in the city yesterday demanding punitive steps against the corrupt officials of Muktiyoddha Sangsad.

## \$ 4.5m Danish help to improve rural water supply

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh will receive 4.5 million US dollar from Denmark for improving drinking water supply in rural areas of greater Rajshahi Division.

The Embassy of Denmark has granted the assistance for the two-year project, to be implemented by the Barind Multi-purpose Development Authority (BMDA) in cooperation with local governments and communities.

The project includes construction of 200 rural piped water supply schemes that will benefit at least 400,000 people, said a Denmark Embassy release.

Funding to the project is provided through the dedicated Hygiene, Sanitation and

Water Supply (HYSAWA) Fund, which is an autonomous company established under the Companies Act, 1994.

The HYSAWA Fund has been established to improve rural water supply and sanitation in selected parts of Bangladesh by providing direct financial and technical support to the union parishes.

The Fund aims at strengthening the role and involvement of local governments in all aspects of planning, implementation and management of rural water supply and sanitation.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in this regard at the HYSAWA Fund Management Office in the city yesterday.

Executive Director of BMDA, Abdul Mannan and Managing Director of the HYSAWA Fund Management Office Enamul Kabir signed the agreement on behalf of their respective sides.

Jan Møller Hansen, Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy said: "We hope that the Danish assistance will contribute significantly to ensuring reliable and safe drinking water supply for poor communities in the north western part of Bangladesh."

He assured that assistance would also be provided for enhancing the capabilities of BMDA and local authorities in integrated water resources management, which is a critical issue in this part of the country.

## Sea turtles wash up

FROM PAGE 1

Yesterday morning this correspondent, during visits to Pachar dwip, Himchhari, Sonarpara, Inani and Jahazpara coasts, saw 12 carcasses strewn on the sandy beach.

Dead turtles are also being washed up to the shore at Sonadia, St Martins, Teknaf and Shah Parir Dwip coasts.

Two government and non-government organisations, working with sea turtles, have recovered 62 carcasses from Cox's bazaar area over the past week. They have expressed concern about the situation and also the environmental pollution caused by such large number of carcasses.

At present dogs and jackals are feasting on the dead bodies. Some locals have also been burying the carcasses because of the foul odour.

Chairman of St Martin's Union parishad Feroz Ahmed Khan said, the dead turtles started washing up to the shores from around the middle of January.

Rafiqul Islam, assistant

director of the Directorate of Environment (DoE) for Cox's

Bazar and management officer of Coastal Swamps Bio-diversity Management Project, confirmed the situation saying they have recovered 30 dead turtles from the beach in just one week.

Coastal Swamps Bio-diversity Management Project and Marine Life Alliance have been breeding turtles in hatcheries by collecting turtle eggs from the beach for the last two years and also works on creation of a congenial environment for turtles' egg-laying.

Director of Marine Life's biologist Zahurul Islam said each year at least 1,000 sea turtles get killed when they come to Cox's Bazar beach to lay eggs.

The officials said, the turtles get entangled in trawlers in deep sea who use "current" nets or "Bihingi" nets to catch shrimps.

Most of the turtles found in this area are of the "Olive Reedy" species. Each of these turtles weigh between 10 to 20 kg, are 63 to 70 centimetre in length and 60

to 67 cm in breadth.

The experts warn of an impending environmental disaster that could be caused by the large-scale deaths of turtles as it causes an imbalance in the ecology of the area.

Islam said that the warm zones of the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans are the natural habitats of Olive Reedy turtles. Sometimes they are found in the Bay of Bengal as they come to the coast only during breeding season to find mates.

Male turtles after they come out of eggs laid on the sandy beaches never return to the land during their lifetime. Only female turtles return to lay eggs during winter nights.

The fisheries department should take steps to save them, the biologist said.

A DoE district unit official, requesting anonymity, said though the fisheries department seizes banned nets near the coasts, the department is inactive in controlling the activities of trawlers out in deeper waters.

## Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Shahajan Ali Biswas, a freedom fighter under Kaliganj upazila Muktiyoddha unit, died after suffering a cardiac arrest at his home at Arpara village under Kaliganj upazila in Jhenidah yesterday at the age of 57.

Biswas left behind his wife, only daughter and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

He was given a state burial at his family graveyard where Kaliganj UNO Monirul Islam, Officer-in-Charge Shamsul Haq, Muktiyoddha Commander Sikander Ali and a number of freedom fighters were present.

They condoled the death of Biswas and prayed for the salvation of his departed soul.

## Prof Abdur Rahman

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Prof Md Abdur Rahman, former chairman of Sylhet Education Board and Accounting department at BM College, died of a cardiac arrest on Sunday night at his residence in Kashiur Ichhakati area in the city at the age of 62.

Also a former principal of Gournadi Govt College of Barisal, Rahman left his wife, three daughters, one son and a number of relatives, students and admirers to mourn his death.

He was laid to rest at Barisal Muslim Graveyard after his namaz-e-janaza at BM College mosque where teachers, students, local people took part.

## Farida Begum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Farida Begum, former lecturer of Eden Mohila College and wife of Brig Gen (retd)

Dr Kazi Delwar Hossain, passed away on February 5 at the age of 70, says a release.

She left behind her husband, one son, two daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn her death.

## Anowara Begum

BSS, Dhaka

Anowara Begum, a sub-editor of publication and feature section of Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB), passed away due to cancer on Friday at the age of 54.

She left behind her husband, one son, a daughter and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn her death.

She was buried at the Intellectual Graveyard at Mirpur in the city after namaz-e-janaza at Khilgaon mosque.

At her death, PIB organised a condolence meeting and milad mahfil on Sunday.

## ACC

FROM PAGE 1

Director General (Admin) Col Hanif Iqbal told a press briefing at the ACC headquarters yesterday.

Replying to questions on alleged torture of political leaders in the name of drive against corruption during the caretaker government's tenure, he further said, "Now, the matter of how and where those accused of corruption were tortured, and by whom, requires to be investigated."

Explaining the ACC Act, Hanif said questioning the accused is not mandatory for the commission, it can do so if it wishes. Arrest and custody of accused are the tasks of law enforcing agencies, and the ACC only deals with legal aspects.

He also mentioned that the commission is not the only body involved in the drive (under caretaker govt), there were other bodies like taskforces.

Meanwhile, since January last year, the ACC has submitted 236 final reports and final reports as mistake of facts against 403 graft-accused including 15 former ministers and lawmakers and one incumbent minister due to lack of evidence.

The former ministers and lawmakers exempted from charges include Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Asadul Habib Dula, Shah Mohammad Abu Zafar, Abul Hossain Khan, AKM Selim Reza Habib, AKM Fazlul Haque Milon, Salahuddin Ahmed, Abdus Sobhan and Abdullah Mohammad Taher.

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury is also among those exempted.

The others exempted from charges include 64 chairmen of union parishes and municipalities, 78 former and incumbent government staffs and people of different professions.

The accused were exempted from allegations like misappropriation of food and corrugated iron sheet meant for relief, bribery, abuse of power, money laundering and amassing wealth beyond known sources of income.

### DHAKA TODAY

**Roundtable**

Tourism Industries Association of Bangladesh organises a roundtable on 'Beautiful Bangladesh, country branding: Possibility and drawback of tourism'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 11:15am.

**Workshop**

International Organization for Migration and Campaign for Popular Education jointly organise a workshop on inclusion of trafficking issues in primary textbooks. Venue: LGED Bhawan. Time: 2:30pm.

**Seminar**

Bangladesh Polytechnic Teachers' Association organises a seminar on the role of graduates from polytechnic in building digital Bangladesh. Venue: Dhaka Polytechnic Institute auditorium. Time: 11:00am.

**Rotary Dhaka**

The regular meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka will be held. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 5:30pm.



## Light fog likely

UNB, Dhaka

Dry weather is likely to continue over the country in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Light fog may also occur over the country during late night till morning, Met Office said in a forecast.

It said that night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Highest temperature 31.4 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 11.3 degrees Celsius at Srirangal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:51pm today and rises at 6:34am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	29.0	16.8	50	36
Chittagong	29.6	15.8	59	39
Rajshahi	28.2	12.1	85	55
Khulna	28.8	15.1	85	58
Barisal	29.5	13.4	61	71
Sylhet	31.4	14.7	59	47
Cox's Bazar	31.0	17.5	40	68