

# Illegal brick kiln chimneys belching smoke freely

## Huge logs being used as firewood in Jhenidah ignoring law

AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenidah

A staggering 70 of the 80 brick kilns in Jhenidah district are running without license. Thousands of trees, mostly from forests, are destroyed daily during the brick production season as the brick kilns are using huge logs as firewood, ignoring the existing law. Investigation reveals that only 10 of the 80 brick kilns have license while only three or four owners are abiding by all the rules and regulations. Those few owners claimed that it is tough to abide by all the rules as production cost is high. Brick kiln association sources said brick production season lasts from February to June every year. Generally a brick kiln having a single-chimney brick kiln produces 27/28 lakh bricks in

each season and a two-chimney brick kiln produces 50 lakh bricks. Two thousand maunds of wood is needed to burn one lakh bricks and accordingly, one lakh maunds of wood is needed to burn 50 lakh bricks, they said, adding that one crore maunds of wood is needed to burn bricks in the district each season. Brick kilns should not be set up without the permission of Directorate of Environment, said District Forest Officer Gias Uddin. A 120-feet high chimney is needed to run a brick kiln and no brick kiln should be set up in a crop land or in the village. But most of the brick kilns are flouting the rules, the forest official said. Asked why no action is taken for flouting the rules, forest department officials said they do not have sufficient manpower.

Visiting different areas of Jessore district, this correspondent found that several brick kilns in Jhenidah Sadar, Kaliganj and Moheshpur upazilas do not have proper chimney or no chimney at all. As most of the brick kilns are situated in densely populated areas, many people are affected with respiratory diseases due to emission of toxic gases from the burning kilns. Children are the worst sufferers and most of them suffer from lungs disease, said Dr Abu Bakar Siddique of district civil surgeon's office. Wishing anonymity, a few officials of district and upazila administration said they fail to take action against the illegal brick kiln owners due to interference by influential ruling party leaders.

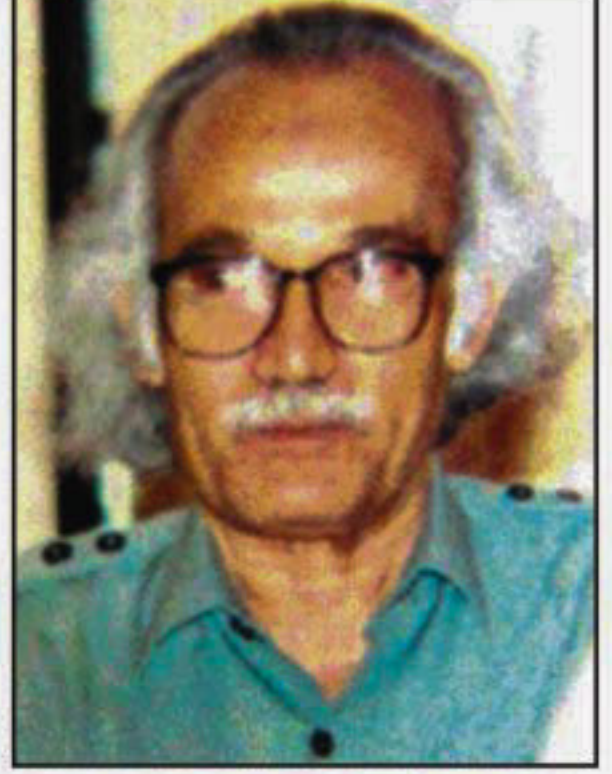


Huge amount of logs are piled on the premises of an unlicensed brick kiln in Jessore as callous people continue using trees as firewood for baking bricks, defying environmental laws.

# Verdict in Prof Yunus murder case today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Judgement in the sensational Rajshahi University (RU) teacher Muhammad Yunus murder case is scheduled to be delivered today. Rajshahi speedy trial tribunal earlier fixed the verdict date on completion of arguments in the case on December 31. However, the tribunal's public prosecutor Entajul Haque Babu told this correspondent that the verdict date might be deferred as the tribunal judge is on leave. Yunus, a professor of economics department, was murdered while on morning walk near his Binodpur house a few yards away from the campus on December 24 in 2004. Inspector Mohammad Helaluddin of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) submitted the charge sheet in the case against eight JMB militants on September 10, 2007. Meanwhile, a Rajshahi court on Tuesday issued arrest warrants against three people in connection with Lima



**Muhammad Yunus** Parvin murder after a judicial probe found that she was murdered over dowry dispute. The Women and Children Repression Prevention Court issued warrants for arrest of Lima's husband Anisur Rahman, father-in-law Abdul Malek and mother-in-law Anjara Begum. A student of management department of Rajshahi University, Lima was allegedly tortured and murdered at her in-laws' house at Jagirpara of Puthia upazila on

June 10 last year. Her in laws attempted to cover up the murder by showing it as an incident of suicide, said Lima's lawyer Zahurul Islam. Later, police pressed charges against the three accused for 'instigating' her to commit suicide. Challenging the charge sheet, Lima's father Taslim Uddin submitted a non-confidence petition and demanded a judicial probe into the incident on November 15. The court then ordered metropolitan magistrate Asaf-ud-Doula to investigate the matter. The magistrate submitted the investigation report on Monday revealing that Lima was tortured and killed over dowry issue, said Zahurul Islam. Rajshahi University chapter of Bangladesh Mohila Parishad is looking after the case, said the chapter's general secretary and psychology teacher Mahbuba Kaniz Keya. The Parishad employed the lawyer for Lima as her father is too poor to run the case, she said.

# Dense fog disrupts ferry, launch services

UNB, Manikganj

Launch and ferry services on Paturia-Doulatdia river route remained suspended for six hours till 9:00am yesterday due to dense fog causing sufferings to the passengers. Seven ferries and vehicles were also anchored at Paturia and Doulatdia ferry points. Ashraf Ullah Khan, Manager of (BIWTC) at Aricha told the news agency that ferry and launch services were suspended at 3:00am to avoid any accident as the visibility in the channel was very poor due to dense fog. The movement of river crafts, however, resumed at nine in the morning as the fog started to disappear. Sources said a huge traffic jam was created on both sides of the ferry points due to the suspension of services.

# JP MP's remarks anger Satkhira AL

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Leaders and activists of Kaliganj upazila Awami League (AL) and its front organisations brought out a procession and burnt the effigy of Jatiya Party (JP-Ershad) lawmaker HM Golam Reza on Tuesday night protesting his 'derogatory' remarks against the AL and Jubo League leaders of Kaliganj and Shyamnagar upazila units. Lawmaker Golam Reza, who was elected from Satkhira-4 constituency, made the remarks while delivering speech in parliament on Tuesday. He said a group of people under the shelter of Kaliganj AL President Sheikh Waheduzzaman, Shyamnagar AL Joint Secretary Shafiqul Azam Lenin, local AL leader

advocate Abu Bakar Siddique and Jubo League leader Abdus Sattar are grabbing lands in the upazilas. He demanded immediate arrest and punishment of the land grabbers. In an instant reaction to his speech, local leaders and activists of Kaliganj upazila AL and its front organisations took out a procession at upazila headquarters and then held a rally at Phultala intersection at around 8:30pm. Terming the allegations brought against the AL and Jubo League leaders false and baseless, the speakers asked the lawmaker to withdraw his remarks through a statement. Otherwise, they said he will be declared unwanted in his constituency. Later, the AL and Jubo League men burnt the effigy of Golam Reza.



A large number of vehicles get stranded at Paturia ferry terminal as plying of ferryboats on Paturia-Doulatdia route remained suspended yesterday due to dense fog caused by the countrywide cloud wave.

# Lawyers vandalise courtroom as Jamaat leader placed on remand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Pro-Jamaat lawyers yesterday vandalised furniture of the Court of Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate, Sirajganj, and threw files in anger after the magistrate granted a three-day remand for an upazila Jamaat leader. Court sources said the incident took place at around 1:30pm when Additional Judicial Magistrate Prodip Kumar granted a three-day remand for Belkuchi upazila Jamaat Secretary Ariful Islam Soheli in a case lodged by Belkuchi police on Friday last. Police arrested Soheli and 10 other Jamaat men on charge of attacking Bangladesh Chhatra League

(BCL) activists at Belkuchi on the day. Police on Saturday produced them in the court, seeking remand for Jamaat leader Soheli. The court fixed January 13 for hearing on the remand prayer and sent the Jamaat men to jail. As the court yesterday placed Soheli on remand, pro-Jamaat lawyers became angry, damaged furniture in the courtroom and threw files at the dias. Contacted, Public Prosecutor advocate Abdur Rahman said pro-Jamaat lawyers, led by advocate Humayun Kabir, damaged the furniture and threw files at the judicial magistrate. He demanded exemplary punishment to the lawyers responsible for the incident.

# BSF abducts one, opens fire on cattle traders

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) abducted a Bangladeshi farmer from Panchagarh border on Tuesday and opened fire on some cattle traders on Chapainawabganj border yesterday. In Panchagarh, the Indian border guards of Binandapur camp abducted Anwarul Islam, 35, of Ramjanpara village under Atwary upazila when he went to border pillar no 408/5-S to bring his cow back home at around 3:00pm, reports our Thakurgaon correspondent. Immediately after the incident, Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) sent a letter to its Indian counterpart, asking it to return Anwar. At around 5:30pm, a company commander level flag meeting was held on Giragaon border at about 5:30pm where BDR asked BSF to return Anwar. BSF refused to return Anwar, saying that he was handed over to Islampur police of India. Company Commander of Giragaon border outpost (BOP) Subder Abdul Malek led the Bangladesh side while company commander of Binondapur BSF camp Gopal Chandra led the Indian side. Our Chapainawabganj correspondent reported that BSF personnel opened fire on some Bangladeshi cattle traders at Azmatpur frontier under Shibganj upazila early yesterday. BDR and local people said the BSF troops of Swashani camp under Maldah district of West Bengal fired on some cattle traders while they were crossing Azmatpur border at around 3:00am. No casualty was, however, reported as of filing of this report at 5:00pm yesterday.

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# SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

## Fake gold coins seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in Faridpur seized 1790 pieces of fake gold coins on Monday and arrested two persons from West Goalchamat area of the town. Acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab-8 raided the house of Raja Mia at Betuapara. The team recovered the fake coins and arrested the two who went to the house of Raja Mia to sell them. The arrestees are Md Lutfor Rahman, 48, and Md Mahubub Sheikh of Sheikmatia village under Nazirpur upazila of Pirojpur district.

## All for only Tk 30

UNB, Bogra

A day-labourer was killed by a neighbour just for Tk 30 he borrowed from him at Boalmari village in Shibganj upazila Monday night. Locals said Anwarul Islam borrowed the amount from Haider Ali some days ago. On the fateful night, an altercation ensued when Haider along with his father Sarbesh Ali and younger brother Dildar asked Anwar to pay the money back. At one stage of hot exchange, Dildar hit Anwarul with a sharp weapon, killing him on the spot at about 8:00pm. Victim's wife Bulbuli Begum filed a case with the police.



A variety of fishes are on display at the traditional yearly fish fair at Sherpur, 20 kilometres from Mouvibazar town. The two-day fair marking Poush Sangkranti, the last day of the Bangla month of Poush, ended yesterday.

## Murder for dowry

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

A woman was murdered allegedly by her husband at Charnarua village in Sahzadpur upazila early yesterday. Police said victim Asma Khatun, 40, and her husband Abdus Samad had an altercation in the early hours of yesterday. At one stage, Samad slit Asma's throat with a sharp weapon, resulting in her death on the spot. Family sources said, Samad had been demanding a large sum of money as dowry for long from the parents of Asma. But Asma's father could not meet the demand because of poverty. Police yesterday sent the body to the Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy. Samad and his family members went into hiding after the killing.

## Principal's room locked

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Several hundred students of Boalia Muktijoddha College in Kalaroa upazila yesterday confined the principal to his office, locked the room and boycotted classes. Sources said, students of the college have been demanding holding of cultural and sports competitions for the last five years. But the principal refused to accept their proposal on various pleas. He also did not come to college regularly. Yesterday, as soon as the principal came to the college, the agitated students locked in an argument with him over the issue and at one stage locked his office room and confined him for an hour. Later, the college teachers and Boalia High School headmaster Anisur Rahman urged the students to call off their agitation programme and assured them of taking steps to meet their demand immediately.

## Militant held in Kurigram

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) on Monday arrested an alleged Islamist militant belonging to Allahar Dal from Kurigram Sadar area. Rab-5 in a press release identified the arrestee as Md Abdul Malek, son of late Botar Ali of Bholakopa Ekotapara village of Kurigram. Malek is an active member of Allahar Dal, said Rab. A team of the elite force from Rangpur camp arrested Malek from the toll box area of Dharla Bridge in Kurigram. He was an accused in a case lodged with Kurigram Sadar police station in April 2007.

## Youth killed in Magura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

A youth was murdered on Monday night allegedly by his stepbrother at village Derua under Magura municipality area. Victim Shibli, 26, was son of Abdur Rashid Biswas of the village. Police and locals said Shibli's wife Mala Khatun, 18, had an extra-marital affair with Shibli's stepbrother Lavlu, 20. On the fateful night, newly married Shibli went out to visit his in-law's house at the same village. On the way, Lavlu allegedly took him to the bank of nearby canal and slaughtered him with a sharp knife. Police recovered the body and picked up Lavlu and Shibli's wife Mala for quizzing.

## Woman's body recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Body of an unidentified woman, aged about 26, was recovered from Kumillahari village in Sadar upazila on Sunday morning. Locals noticed the body lying beside a road at the village and informed police. On recovery, the body was sent to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy. Contacted, Thakurgaon police station officer-in-charge (OC) said, the woman might have been strangled. A murder case was filed with Thakurgaon police in this connection.

## Murder in Manikganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Police recovered a body of a middle-aged man from a jute field in Baraikora area of Sadar upazila on Monday morning. The victim, Siddikur Rahman, 55, hailed from Baraikora cluster village. Being informed, police recovered the body from the spot at around 11:00am. Police said, criminals severed his head with sharp weapon. Later they dumped the body in the jute field. The body was sent to Manikganj Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy. The victim's family members said criminals abducted and killed Siddikur when he was returning home from Baraikora Bazar at around 8:00 pm on Saturday.

## Chudanga Bar executives

BSS, Chudanga

Advocate Nurul Islam and Munshi Md Shahjahan were elected president and general secretary of Chudanga Bar Association on Friday. Other elected office-bearers are vice-presidents-- Munshi Abdur Rashid and Md Ashaduzzaman Gani (Salam), joint secretaries--Md Moinuddin and Md Nazmul Hasan Lablu and executive committee members-- Md Shamsu, SM Sharifuddin Hasu, Md Shafiqul Islam Shafi, Md Anwar Hossain, Md Aslam Uddin, Md Amjad Hossain, Md Aktar, Md Eklasar Rahman Kajar and Asaduzzaman Asad. A total of 142 voters out of 153 cast their votes.