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Brick fields flout rules

Logs used illegally; top soil of local farmland destroyed

M ABUL KALAM AZAD, back from Cox's Bazar

A truck with a pile of logs stopped at BK Azam brick field in Purulia village shortly after 10:00am. Some workers started unloading the logs from the vehicle. As they emptied the truck, it left the place sharp. The workers then measured the logs and put those into a kiln. Although use of wood in brick kilns is prohibited and a punishable offence by the law, the brick-field owner had no problem in bringing in logs and using them. Md Shahnewaz, manager of the brick-field in Cox's Bazar, admitted that they use logs for the kilns. But those are used only for lighting kilns, not for baking bricks, he claimed. "Now, we use coal for baking bricks," said Shahnewaz, pointing to a heap of coal in the corner of the brick-field. Locals, however, refuted his claim, and said the administration has been lax in monitoring the brick-fields. "Most brick kilns in this area use as much wood as they can," said Mohammad Mostafa, a local.

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A large number of brick kilns ignoring laws continue to use wood to fire their furnaces and, *inset*, top soil of arable land to make the bricks. The photos were taken from Purulia of Cox's Bazar.

PHOTO: STAR



Websites marring state's image should be banned

Says HT Imam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Websites containing information that threatens to tarnish the image of the state should be banned, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's adviser HT Imam said yesterday. "If information released on the internet or social networking sites is vulgar

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Student abducted, killed for ransom

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A first year student of Jhenidah Technical School and College was found dead yesterday night, nine days after he was abducted for ransom.

The dead, Hamidur Rahman Shahed, 18, was the son of former municipality secretary Sheikh Abdul Kader in the town. Family sources said Shahed had been missing since December 13 when he went



Hamidur Rahman

out to recharge his mobile. Later, the abductors phoned his family members and demanded Tk 30 lakh as ransom.

The body was found around 8:30pm yesterday in an under-construction house at Chaklapara village near the town after children while playing got bad smell and informed local people.

Police came in and recovered the body digging the ground floor's muddy surface.

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4 to die for imam murder

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced four people to death and one to life imprisonment for the murder of an imam in Ramna last year. Maulana Hafez Mohammad Ishaque, 50, the pesh imam of police officers' quarters Jame Mosque, went missing on December 20 last year. His

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

3 Dhaka rivers to get boundary pillars

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan yesterday formally launched the raising of boundary pillars along the Buriganga at Jinjira Ferry Ghat in Keraniganj to demarcate the river and parts of the Turag and the Balu. The High Court in 2009 asked the deputy commissioners concerned to demarcate four Dhaka rivers with pillars as per cadastral survey (CS) and revisional survey (RS) records. Zanendra Nath Sarker, additional dep-

uty commissioner (revenue) of Dhaka, said they followed the RS records to demarcate the rivers, as it is impossible to reclaim the river as per CS records. However, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) and Dhaka district administration in a joint survey identified 4,029 structures illegally erected encroaching into the river. But the district administration has placed a report to the HC to exclude 3160 illegal structures.

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It is hard to believe that this stretch of road belongs to the highway that connects the capital with the entire northern part of the country. The photo was taken from Elenga of Tangail.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

WAR CRIMES TRIAL Witness brings rape charge against Sayedee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delawar Hossain Sayedee and collaborator Moslem Mawlana raped a Hindu girl (we are not disclosing her name on ethical grounds) over and over again at Parerhaat of Pirojpur during the Liberation War, a prosecution witness said. Forth prosecution witness Sultan Ahmmed Hawlader yesterday said this in his deposition at the International Crimes Tribunal in the case filed against Sayedee in connection with crimes against humanity during the war in 1971. Sultan, who was 20 years old during the Liberation War, told the court that the Jamaat leader and Moslem also forced the victim's family members including her father and brother to convert to Islam. They were later forced to pray in the mosque.

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HC STAYS EVICTION Mirpur slum dwellers get a month to move

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday stayed until January 31 a government decision to evict residents of Mirpur slums in the capital. In response to petitions filed by two people living near Mirpur Police Lines, it also asked slum dwellers of the area to find other houses and leave the area by the date. The National Housing Authority have recently issued notices to Mirpur slum dwellers asking them to leave the area by December 24 to make room for a government-funded residential project

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Quader turns in wealth statement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communications Minister Obaidul Quader has submitted his wealth statements to the prime minister, official sources said. The minister has net asset of about Tk 1.90 crore including the land inherited from his family. Quader, who joined the

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PRAYER TIMING December 22	
Azan	Jamaat
Fajr 5-25	6-00
Zohr 12-45	1-15
Asr 3-45	4-00
Maghrib 5-24	5-27
Esha 7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Cold batters life Dense fog continues to disrupt communications

STAR REPORT

Weather continues to get chillier while fog is getting thicker everyday disrupting life and claiming more lives across the country. Hundreds, mostly children and elderly people, have been suffering from cold-related complications due to the more than week-long spell when the dense fog disrupting communications by roads, rivers and air. In the last three days till yesterday afternoon, at least eight people died of cold-related diseases in Pabna, Gopalganj and Madaripur, report our district correspondents. Because of the foggy weather, the sun is often invisible these days in most parts of

the country. Sources at Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) told The Daily Star that ferry services on Mawa-Kaorakandi and Paturia-Daulatdia routes were severely disrupted due to the dense fog. Seven ferries had to anchor in the middle of the river while five others remained stranded at Mawa and Kaorakandi piers for 11 hours from 10:00pm Tuesday, forcing thousands of people into indescribable sufferings. Our Manikganj correspondent reported that ferry services on Paturia-Daulatdia route remained suspended for 12 hours from Tuesday night as five ferries

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2 arrested for smuggling foreign currencies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two Bangladeshis were arrested at Shahjalal International Airport on Tuesday night allegedly for carrying foreign currencies worth around Tk 4.70 crore. They were about to board a Dubai-bound flight. Sajal Chandra Gupta, 40, of Sonargaon in Narayanganj and Kamal Hossain, 36, of Comilla dodged mysteriously the entry checking and scanning of boarding bridge

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think the government decision to extend the retirement age of civil servants by 2 years is justified?

Yes

No

No Comments

(45.3%)

(50.6%)

(4.1%)

TOTAL VOTES: 536

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think BNP should join the dialogue with president on appointing a new chief election commissioner and election commissioners unconditionally?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT facebook.com/dailystarnews

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A Weekly Publication of The Daily Star

This week's The Star focuses on the art of *pitha*-making and how it has survived the onslaught of urbanisation, how researchers count endangered dolphins, the latest political stalemate, how to ward off winter diseases and much more...

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