

# Stranded cats rescued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Firefighters rescued two cats stuck on two high rises in the city's New Eskaton and Mohakhali DOHS area in the last two days.

The Eskaton cat was stuck on a ledge between the 8th and 9th floors on the outer surface of the 16-storied building, Queen's Garden Homes, informed the feline's owner Kashfia Tabassum.

It might have slipped out through a ventilator on the 9th floor around 10:00pm on Friday, she said, adding that they called firefighters after failing in every possible way to reach it.

Two firefighters slid down ropes stuck to a ladder set horizontally on the roof between two units of the building to get to the cat, said Officer-in-Charge of Fire Service Directorate's central control room, Kazi Nazmuzzaman. They then threw a sack over the cat to grab hold of it and brought it down around 2:30pm yesterday, he added.

The DOHS cat, thought to be a stray, was stuck on a 4th floor sun-shade of former Navy chief (ret'd) Rear Admiral Abu Taher's flat on a six-storied building since Wednesday, said adjoining flat residents.

Firefighters used a fire engine ladder to reach the cat and grabbed hold of it using heavy duty gloves on Friday morning, said Nazmuzzaman.

The cat was fed and handed over to a local man who was asked to search for its owner, he added.



PHOTO: COURTESY

The cat rescued from a high-rise in the city's New Eskaton yesterday.



Artistes of Shompreeti's Nikkon perform during the 21st anniversary celebrations of The Daily Star at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: STAR

## Debate contest for poor school children

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A national debate competition was launched in the city yesterday aiming to facilitate the underprivileged school children to enable their inbuilt talents and skills to flourish.

The Brac, ATN Bangla and Debate for Democracy have jointly organised the debate completion styled Bitarko Bikash.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed at Basundhara city in the capital among the three organisations to arrange the programme, said a press release.

Around 40,000 underprivileged students of different non-government secondary level schools across the country will participate in the competition.

Education Secretary Dr Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury, Brac General Manager Dr Joya Sengupta, ATN Bangla Chairman Dr Mahfuzur Rahman and Debate for Democracy Director Hasan Ahmed Chowdhury Kiron, among others, attended the MoU signing ceremony.

## SEMINAR ON CLIMATE CHANGE Adaptation, mitigation measures emphasised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh as one of the countries most vulnerable to climate change, should go for climate change adaptation and mitigation measures, speakers said at a seminar in the city yesterday.

University of Liberal Arts and Bangladesh (ULAB) along with environmental consulting company First Climate of Switzerland and UNDP organised the seminar on Climate Change Mitigation and Carbon Trading at a city hotel.

Carbon trading is a system to help reduce carbon emission through buying and selling of carbon. If a nation bought carbon, it would be buying the rights to burn it, and a nation selling carbon would be giving up its rights to burn it. The value of the carbon would be

based on the ability of the country owning the carbon to store it or to prevent it from being released into the atmosphere.

Prof Imran Ahmad, acting vice-chancellor of ULAB, said carbon trading is an option for Bangladesh to cope with the climate change impacts.

Alexander Luchinger, managing director of First Climate, said Bangladeshi entrepreneurs should offer projects to the European buyers in line with carbon trading and clean development mechanism as provided under the UN climate process.

Khondker Neaz Rahman, project director manager of UNDP-sponsored project called Green Brick, made a presentation on modern brick kilns to produce bricks without carbon emission with modern technology.

## BSMMU doctor assaulted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) doctor had to be admitted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) yesterday after being severely beaten by a pickup van driver of the hospital.

The driver, Alamgir Majhi, 27, bumped into the victim, Dr Sadik Enam, 34, medical officer of the ICU, while reversing the vehicle near BSMMU's Block C entrance, said an anonymity seeking security guard posted there.

A heated debate followed, at one point of which the doctor slapped Alamgir. The driver instantly brought out a stick and started hitting Dr Sadik. BSMMU staff and some visitors rescued and admitted the

unconscious doctor to the ICU, added the guard.

Dr Md Selim Moral Rabby, a consultant at the ICU, said Dr Sadik is now conscious but not out of danger.

"We expect fair judgment as assured by the BSMMU authority," he said.

BSMMU Director Brig Gen Abdul Majid Bhuiyan said Alamgir was suspended after BSMMU authorities found him guilty in preliminary investigation and handed him over to the police.

"A three member probe committee formed to investigate the matter will submit a report within three working days," he said.

Officer-in-Charge of Shahbag Police Station, Sirajul Islam, said no case had been filed in this regard till 5:00pm.



## EU team arrives today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A seven-member European Parliamentary delegation will arrive in Dhaka today on a six-day visit to discuss political, social and economic issues with the key decision-makers and stakeholders in Bangladesh.

Ms Jean Lambert (Greens, European Free Alliance) will lead the delegation.

During the visit, the delegation will meet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Speaker of Parliament Advocate Abdul Hamid, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, Leader of the Opposition Khaleida Zia, Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmed, Chairman of the National Human Rights Commission Prof Mizanur Rahman, Nobel Laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus, and representatives of civil society, according to a press release of European Union (EU).

They will also meet the All-Party Group on Climate Change and Environment in Dhaka for the fifth Inter-parliamentary Meeting between the Jatiya Sangsad and the European Parliament.

They will visit Jessore, Khulna and the Sundarbans to see various EU-funded development projects which help provide primary education to local communities, promote Bangladesh's exports and protect the region's environment.

The other members of the team are: Thomas Mann (European People's Party), Niccolò Rinaldi (Alliance of Democrats and Liberals), Salvador Sedo i Alabart (European People's Party), Juan Fernando Lopez Aguilar (Socialist and Democrats), Nirj Deva (Conservatives and Reformists) and Slavi Binev (Non-attached).

## Power deficit to end within this year: PM

UNB, Sandwip, Chittagong

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government will be able to meet the country's demand of electricity within this year.

The premier expressed the hope when she inaugurated 10 lakh solar home systems and 20,000 biogas plants here, installed under the auspices of state-owned Infrastructure Development Company Ltd (IDCOL).

Sheikh Hasina said, "We've already added 3,000MW of electricity to the national grid. I hope it would be possible to meet the demand of electricity within this year".

The country currently produces close to 5,000 megawatts (MW) of electricity everyday with almost no deficit. During the peak of summer, daily deficit may rise as high as 800MW.

Hasina said the Awami League government in its previous term (1996-2001) formulated the national energy policy with emphasis on renewable energy alongside the traditional energy-based power generation.

About different steps to increase power generation, she said the government has set targets to produce 7,000MW of power by 2013, 8,000MW by 2015, and 20,000MW by 2021.

She said the present government has taken steps for coal-based and nuclear power generation alongside putting emphasis on renewable energies like solar and wind power.

Besides, steps have also been taken to import power from neighboring India, Myanmar, Bhutan, and Nepal, she added. On renewable energy, Hasina said the government had exempted duty on import of solar power equipment, providing soft-term loans through IDCOL and subsidies.

The IDCOL has financed to set up 10 lakh solar home systems since 2009, and the government has taken a programme to finance

another 10 lakh solar home systems, she said.

The premier directed the authorities concerned to make sure that the 10 lakh rural families connected to solar home systems get electricity facilities in due time.

Hasina said the present government has also taken steps to reach clean energy to the doorsteps of common people through setting up biogas plants by the IDCOL.

She said the IDCOL has so far set up 12,000 biogas plants since 2009 and has a target to install another 20,000 in the next one year. "The government is providing soft-term loans and subsidies to this end".

Through solar power and biogas programmes of the IDCOL, some 20,000 direct and 30,000 indirect employment opportunities have been created, she said. "Jobs for another 10,000 people would be created in the next one year".

The prime minister said that apart from these projects, the government has undertaken projects for solar-power based irrigation pumps and establishment of mini-grids. A mini-grid with a capacity of 100 kilowatts has been set up for the first time in Sandwip.

Besides, work is underway to install solar power-based irrigation pumps in Naogaon, Panchagarh, Thakurgaon, Chittagong, Kushtia, Jhenidah, and Bogra, she said.

The premier said the diesel-run mini-grids and irrigation pumps would be replaced gradually with solar powered irrigation pumps and mini-grids.

Primary and Mass Education Minister Dr Afsarul Ameen, State Minister for Home Shamsul Haque Tuku, Energy Adviser to the Prime Minister Dr Tawfiq-e-Elahi, and ERD Secretary Iqbal Mahmood were also present on the occasion.

Earlier, the prime minister had a meeting with the officials of the local administration.



Dwellers of different slums around the city form a human chain before Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday demanding implementation of the prime minister's assurance over their rehabilitation.

PHOTO: STAR



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visits a stall at an exhibition on solar home systems and biogas plants at Sandwip of Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

## Slum boy found dead in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of a teenage boy from the landfill of the city's Jatrabari yesterday.

The deceased, Mohammad Yasin, 14, was the son of Aleya Begum, dweller of Korail slum in Banani.

Street urchins noticed the body when collecting waste at the landfill, said Inspector Mazharul Islam of Jatrabari Police Station.

On information, police recovered the body and sent it to Sir Salimullah Medical College morgue, he said.

A mobile phone number found in one of his pockets helped contact his relatives. Police suspect the boy was killed and later dumped in the landfill.

Hafizur Rahman, an uncle of the victim, said Yasin had been missing for a month. He used to take drugs now and then, he added.

The morgue sources said the victim was injured in the head.

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