

# No traditional brick kiln after September

Hasan Mahmud tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

No traditional brick kiln will be allowed to operate after September this year as they cause a huge environment pollution by emitting carbon, Environment and Forests Minister Hasan Mahmud told parliament yesterday.

"All traditional brick kilns will have to use environment-friendly technology like "Zigzag" or "Hoffman system" which emits less carbon," the minister said replying to lawmakers' queries.

Information available shows there are over 6,000 brick kilns in the country and most of them use old technology emitting 8.75 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide annually.

Hasan Mahmud said considering the alarming situation, the government has planned to reduce annual emission of carbon from brick kilns by 50 per cent through replacing all traditional brick kilns with environmental-friendly ones.

"We will take stern action if owners of traditional brick kilns fail to transform their brick kilns into modern ones," he said.

He said existing brick kilns with century-old technology now use coal with high level of sulphur and firewood causing serious air pollution.

"But a kiln with modern technology can help reduce the pollution level," he went on.

About the protection of the Sundarbans, he said, encouraging social forestation has significantly reduced felling of trees by thieves.

"Not a single tree was felled by thieves in the last one or two years in the Sundarbans," he added.

## UN Peacekeepers Day observed

BSS, Dhaka

The International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers was observed in the country as elsewhere across the globe yesterday to honour the 120,000 peacekeepers, including 10,293 Bangladeshis, the highest number among the blue helmets.

Now 8,199 personnel from the country's armed forces and 2,094 from police are deployed in 13 UN peacekeeping missions, out of 17 existing missions.

This year, the United Nations is marking the day by highlighting the global partnerships that help sustain UN peace-keeping and make it the success that it is. The day was introduced by the General Assembly in 2002.

President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gave separate messages on the occasion conveying their best wishes to the peacekeepers.

They reaffirmed the commitment of Bangladesh to the activities of the United Nations to maintain global peace and stability.

The day's programme began through "peacekeepers run" in the morning from Tejgaon Old Airport to South Plaza of Jatiya Sangsads. Foreign Minister Dipu Moni inaugurated the event organised by Bangladesh Air Force under the coordination of Armed Forces Division.

A reception for the family members of peace martyrs and injured peacekeepers was held at the Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC) in the afternoon.

President Zillur Rahman spoke as the chief guest at the function.

Chief of Army Staff General M Abdul Mubeen and UN Resident Coordinator Neal Walker also spoke at the event.

Commandant of Bangladesh Institute of Peace Support Operation Training (BIPSOT) Brigadier General M Anisuzzaman Bhuiyan and Director General of UN desk of Foreign Ministry Sadia Muna Tasneem made a joint presentation on various features of Bangladesh peacekeepers.

Cabinet members, chiefs of Navy and Air Force, inspector general of police, diplomats and high civil and military officials were present.

During the function, the president handed over rewards to family members of five martyrs and 15 wounded peacekeepers who sustained injury for peace in foreign soil.

Later, Zillur Rahman inaugurated an exhibition on various activities of the Bangladeshi personnel in the UN peace-keeping missions. The exhibition remained open to all from 6:00pm to 9:00pm.

## WEATHER TODAY

### Heat wave may continue

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at many places over Dhaka, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions in 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Mild to moderate heat wave is sweeping over Rajshahi and Khulna divisions and the regions of Tangail, Faridpur, Dinajpur, Feni, Maizidcot, Patuakhali and it may continue, Met Office said.

Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The highest maximum temperature is likely to be 37-38 degree Celsius and lowest minimum temperature may be 24-25 degree Celsius.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:41pm and rises tomorrow at 5:11am.

Country's highest temperature 38.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 25.5 degrees at Dinajpur.

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	35.6	28.0	65	56
Chittagong	33.0	27.0	75	77
Rajshahi	38.5	28.0	80	62
Rangpur	35.6	26.0	87	65
Khulna	36.8	28.0	78	66
Barisal	36.4	26.5	78	62



Six trees were cut off on Road 8 beside the Dhanmondi Club playground in the capital. The club authorities carried out the act in the name of widening the club's entrance gate. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Make best use of climate funds

UK minister Alistair Burt urges Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Visiting British Foreign Office Minister for South Asia Alistair Burt yesterday urged Bangladesh to make the best use of available funds to fight climate change.

"We are very conscious about tracking the money wherever it goes. We have greater transparency. It's good for society," he said during an interaction with teachers and students of Brac University in the capital.

The private university organised a dialogue on UK-Bangladesh relations and challenges.

The British minister said climate change was one of the biggest threats to the wellbeing of people, and Bangladesh's geographical location made it particularly vulnerable to flooding on one hand and water shortage on the other.

The UK is a close partner of Bangladesh in international forums in funding and helping the country on climate change, he added.

At present, the UK is supporting the construction of 56 multi-purpose cyclone shelters in Bangladesh and helping over 15 million Bangladeshis get better prepared for floods.

Burt said his country had been working tirelessly to cut carbon emissions worldwide and pressing for a legally binding agreement in 2015. "We want to help all the countries to do their bit to make growth green."

Asked if the climate-induced migrants should be provided with compensation by high carbon emitters through relocating them to those countries, the minister said the situation should not lead to mass migration of climate refugees.

It is not only governments, but also individuals and communities which have important roles to play in tackling climate change, which is an idea central to the notion of a "big society," he observed.

Referring to a survey by the British Council in Bangladesh, he said youths believed they should be involved in social work, but only 30 percent of them actually got involved in it.

So, the challenge was not to get young people engaged in social issues, but to empower them to get involved in them, pointed out Burt.

It is vital the citizens had confidence in the democratic processes; confidence that they can vote freely, their votes would be counted fairly, and could make a difference, he maintained.

"Providing citizens with the means of expressing their views and shaping their futures is at the heart of democracy," he said, adding that governments must pay heed to the warnings sounded by civil society.

When a teacher asked Burt about his country's stance on the activities of Hizb ut-Tahrir in the UK when Bangladesh had banned it, he said the UK believed in freedom of ideas and thoughts, and that it could not prosecute anyone unless there was evidence of violence or terrorist activities.

Brac University Vice-Chancellor Dr Ainur Nishat and British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Robert Gibson spoke at the programme.

The UK minister arrived in Dhaka on Monday on a three-day visit.

## Non-party govt must for polls

Say BNP leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP leaders yesterday said the government is now trying for an interim administration under the incumbent government for holding the next general election, but it will not be acceptable to the opposition and people.

They also said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina must compromise with the demand of a non-party neutral government to oversee the next election and that a constitution amendment bill must be placed before parliament for it.

The opposition leaders were speaking at a discussion meeting at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh in the capital on the occasion of 31st death anniversary of the party's founder late president Ziaur Rahman.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia attended the programme as chief guest.

Moudud Ahmed, a member of BNP Standing Committee, said the PM has said that election will be held under the incumbent government while her party's general secretary has talked of an interim government, thus making the people confused with such comments.

"The way for a consensus will open if the PM makes a formal announcement of a neutral government for holding the next election. Then only, BNP will participate in the talks under the leadership of Khaleda Zia," said the opposition policymaker.

MK Anwar, another member of BNP Standing Committee, said the government has to place a bill before parliament to restore the neutral government system to oversee the election.

BNP Vice Chairman TH Khan, who chaired the meeting, said a free and fair election has to be ensured to protect the country.

BNP leaders Rafiqul Islam Mia, Lt Gen (retd) Mahbubur Rahman, Abdul Moyeen Khan, Prof Moniruzzaman Mian and Prof Emajuddin Ahmed, among others, also attended the programme.

## HC halts DU pond filling for 6 months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC), on Monday, imposed an injunction for six months on the filling up of a century-old pond at Shivbari Staff Quarter on the Dhaka University campus in the capital.

The court also issued a rule upon the government and the DU authorities to explain in two weeks why the decision of filling up the pond should not be declared illegal.

The HC bench of Justice A H M Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik and Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim gave the order and the rule following a writ petition filed by Manzill Murshid on behalf of Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh.

Manzill filed the petition on Monday as public interest litigation on the basis of a report published on The Daily Star on May 21 under the headline "DU plans filling up of century-old pond."

According to the report, the university authorities were planning to fill up a major portion of the pond to construct a multi-storyed residential building for DU fourth class employees, defying the environmental law.

The petition prayed to the court to direct the authorities to cancel its decision to fill up the pond to protect the environment.

They made their demands at a view-exchange programme held at the Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

Bangladesh Harijan Oikya Parishad



Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia sits with the audience while attending as chief guest a party discussion at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh auditorium in the capital yesterday

PHOTO: BNP

UPCOMING BUDGET Allocation for Harijans, Dalits urged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dalit and Harijan communities yesterday demanded budgetary allocations in different sectors to be set aside in this year's budget for the down-trodden communities.

The communities urged the government to ensure special quotas and budgetary allocation in education and job sectors, as the communities are lagging behind due to lack of proper education system.

They made their demands at a view-exchange programme held at the Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

Bangladesh Harijan Oikya Parishad

(BHOP) organised the event in association with human rights bodies Manusher Jonno Foundation and Friends Association for Integrated Revolution (Fair).

Budgetary allocation for accommodation was also demanded as speakers said children are lacking an optimal environment for studying.

"Although we are unacceptable in mainstream society, it cannot function without us" said Nirmal Chandra Das, secretary general of BHOP.

Dalit and Harijan communities make up around one crore of the entire population, she added.

Among speakers, Goutam Das,

hailing from Satkhira, claimed a Dalit child was beaten up and hospitalised in April for not cleaning the dishes at school for her headmistress.

At this, Secretary to the Social Welfare Ministry Ranjit Kumar Biswas requested Goutam to file the complaint to him in writing. The secretary vowed to take stern actions by writing to his counterpart at the education ministry.

Sultana Kamal, executive director of Ain O Salish Kendro, Mohon Robi Das, the first ever Dalit youth to study at Dhaka University, spoke among others.

AMINBAZAR KILLING Arrested two youths on 4-day remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed two more youths on a four-day remand for their alleged involvement in the killing of six students by a mob in Aminbazar on the outskirts of the capital in July last year.

Mohammad Rana and Mohammad Rashed were arrested on Monday at Baradeshi village, the scene of the occurrence, for their alleged involvement in the killing.

Senior Judicial Magistrate Wasim Sheikh placed Rana and Rashed on remand after Sirajul Haque, CID SP and investigation officer of the case, produced them before a magistrate admitting them to the killings.

In the yesterday's forwarding report, the IO said they were present at the place of occurrence during the incident and also took part in the killing.

Abdul Hamid and Abdul Malek, two other accused of the killing case, had earlier given confession statement before a magistrate admitting their link to the killings, the report said.

Police so far have arrested eight others in the case.

Tipu Sultan of Tejgaon College, Towhidur Rahman Palash, Kamruzzaman Kanto and Ibrahim Khalil of Mirpur Bangla College, Shams Rahim Shamam of Maple Leaf International School and Sifat Jabi Munif of Bangladesh University of Business and Technology were beaten to death on July 18 last year, on the night of Shab-e-Barat, when they went to Bardeshi village.

Their friend Al Amin, who was with them at that time, is the lone survivor of the incident.

On the next day, Abdul Malek, a sand trader of Aminbazar, filed a robbery case against 500 to 600 unnamed people of Bardeshi village.

On the same day, Savar police filed a murder case against 500 to 600 unnamed people of Bardeshi village.

RIVER POLLUTION Taiwanese factory fined Tk 39 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday fined a Taiwanese-owned dyeing factory Tk 39 lakh in Bhaluka of Mym