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WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY TODAY

# Forests for bricks

Brick kilns puff away 2.4 crore trees a year

PINAKI ROY

Unregulated brick kilns are burning every year a great quantity of fuel-woods equivalent to 2.4 crore standing trees, which could cover around 96,000 acres of forest land.

The number of brick kilns in the country varies from 6,000 to 8,000, which produce around 1,200 crore of bricks annually by burning mostly coals. But many of the unregulated brick kilns use firewood partially or solely as most of these kilns are either poorly monitored or not monitored at all.



There has so far been no systematic study on the issue in Bangladesh. But the people concerned say on average, a traditional brick kiln burns 70 percent coal and 30 percent firewood.

Asit Ranjan Paul, divisional forest officer of Tangail, conducted a study on firewood consumption by the brick kilns and published it in an annual publication of the Department of Forest on the occasion of Tree Fair 2011.

According to his observation, a wide range of tree coverage equivalent to

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A slum dweller is using highly polluted water of Askar Dighi in Chittagong to wash her utensils yesterday. Like her, many depend on pond water for their domestic purposes, including bathing and cooking. Today is World Environment Day, one that will be observed through a series of government and non-government programmes. Despite all the fanfare, slum dwellers will remain vulnerable as long as supply of clean water eludes them.

PHOTO:  
ANURUP KANTI DAS

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited  
**ONLINE POLL**

Do you agree with Suranjit Sengupta that Khaleda Zia should quit as lawmaker for her absence in parliament sessions?

Yes (21.5%)  
No (74.3%)  
No Comments (4.2%)

TOTAL VOTES: 599

**TODAY'S POLL**  
Do you think criticism of Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed in parliament by a section of MPs shows their disrespectful attitude towards eminent personalities?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT  
www.thedailystar.net  
YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT  
facebook.com/dailystarnews

## Telecoms project under question

Prices of equipment, fibre optic cable fall, yet projected cost doubles

ABDULLAH MAMUN

The estimate for a project of Bangladesh Telecommunication Company Ltd (BTCL) to lay 1,514 kilometres of optical network across Bangladesh has shot up from the original quotation for no concrete reasons.

The Telecommunication Network

Development Project to be funded by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) was conceived two years ago with an estimate of \$13.6 million.

However, on December 20, a Japanese consultant, Y Kawabata, hired by the BTCL at a fee of Tk 20 crore, revised the estimate

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## Private investment dips after 2 years

Tight credit, energy shortages, policy uncertainties stunt growth

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

After two years, private investment again slowed down against GDP (gross domestic product) in the current fiscal year compared to that in the last fiscal year.

The downslide was mainly due to

**BUDGET**  
2012-2013

volatilities in the global economic environment and a number of local factors -- poor infrastructure, variability in inflation, tight credit, energy shortages and policy uncertainties.

According to the provisional estimate

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## BNP unveils its budget proposal today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ahead of the finance minister's national budget speech in parliament on Thursday, the main

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PRAYER TIMING			June 5
	Azan	Jamaat	
Fajr	4-05	4-40	
Zohr	12-45	1-15	
Asr	5-00	5-15	
Maghrib	6-45	6-50	
Esha	8-15	8-45	
Source: Islamic Foundation			

# Environmental Leader in Sustaining Low Carbon Emission



**Akij Group**, feels proud to take the first step in Bangladesh in carbon trading through major initiatives. It is not only a corporate obligation but as an organization we feel the responsibility of taking care of the environment we live in. Akij Group have been working hard on minimal emission of carbon footprint and we believe if we collectively try this, then together and only together can a greener place be built for the future. Akij Group is already working on carbon trading, so that in future we can control pollution by providing economic incentives to achieve reductions in the emissions of pollutants.

**Akij Food & Beverage Ltd.** installed the first ever CO<sub>2</sub> sequestrating plant of one ton CO<sub>2</sub> per hour capacity from the exhaust of the waste flue gas of the boilers which would have otherwise been exposed to the atmosphere and have caused pollution. We have been able to reduce the total emission from our CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration plant by 7800 tons CO<sub>2</sub> per year and the exhaust heat recovery plant by 6600 tons CO<sub>2</sub> per year which when combined is a emission reductions of

14400 tons per year.

**Akij Particle Board Mills Ltd.** - The only company in the country who have the largest Bio Mass plant (renewable source of energy) generating 15 MW of heat energy by using the process residue, which is certainly unique in the industry and the country. It helps save more than 29 million cubic meter of natural gas and 48000 tons (certified emission reduction) of CO<sub>2</sub> gas per year and is now in global market for trading.

**Akij Textiles Mills Ltd.** - Operates one of the largest combined heat and power generation plant and one of the largest biological Effluent Treatment Plant. All the process water gets discharged after maintaining the appropriate BOD and COD. With the flue gas it operates in more than 2000 tons of chilling plant for process and plant cooling resulting in substantial quantity of natural gas and reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> from the environment.

**Akij Cement Company Ltd.** - Cement is one of the largest sources of CO<sub>2</sub> in the World. Where Akij Cement produces nearly a million tons of

cement with approx. 40% less of CO<sub>2</sub> emission and saves 30% energy compared to other traditional industries in the country by its unique VRM technology. By installing very large VFD (Vertical Roller Mill) we have reduced power consumption by 10% to become the most environmental friendly cement produced in Bangladesh.

**Akij Ceramics Ltd.** - Uses technologies that produce ceramic and porcelain tiles with the lowest heat value and also uses flue gas in an unique way for the production process. This singles out our plant as one of most environment friendly plants in the region.

The carbon emission reductions are made possible by technical assistance from a famous German/Danish company. We take pride in exhibiting that obligation, love of mother nature and business can co-exist in our country. We thank our respected customers and stakeholders who have helped us in building a green earth today and for tomorrow.

**Sk. Bashir Uddin**  
Managing Director, Akij Group