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Save topsoil

Experts urge govt; say alternatives of conventional bricks must be used



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To protect topsoil and the environment, the government must immediately spearhead a campaign for using alternatives of conventional bricks, said experts at a seminar in the capital yesterday.

"... Switching to alternatives like compressed, hollow, and thermal blocks is critical for ensuring food security and conservation of the environment," said Mohammad Shamim Akhtar, director of Housing and Building Research Institute (HBRI), at a seminar on how to popularise alternative bricks.

Instead of destroying the fertile topsoil, abundantly available river-dredged soil could be a primary raw material for manufacturing alternative building blocks, he said.

These are not only environment-friendly but a structure

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Dignitaries, including US Ambassador Marcia Bernicat, from left front row, National Professor Anisuzzaman and Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, observe a minute's silence to commemorate the victims of the militant attack at the Holey Artisan Bakery. Inset, Ruba Ahmed, mother of victim Abinta Kabir, breaks down in tears as she reads out excerpts from her daughter's notebook. The pictures were taken at a commemorative event at Abinta Kabir Foundation School in the capital's Bhatara yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



In memory of a loved one lost too early

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The walls of the school were adorned with pictures of the victims of the militant attack at Holey Artisan Bakery.

Ordinary objects that belonged to them were also placed in the corners yesterday.

The walls and floors were painted in rich colour to commensurate with the occasion of the school's first anniversary.

The Abinta Kabir Foundation School for underprivileged girls is well-equipped to provide primary education to the students.

The school in the capital's Bhatara area was a

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10 hurt in clash over madrasa

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sherpur

At least 10 people, including three policemen, were injured in a clash between two rival groups over formation of an internal committee at Terabazar Jamia Siddiquia Madrasa in the town yesterday.

The clash occurred on the madrasa premises and adjoining areas in Munshi Bazar area yesterday afternoon.

Police intervened and fired 62 rubber bullets and lobbed five teargas canisters to bring the situation under control.

Earlier, the two rival groups resorted to chase and counter-chase and throwing bricks at each other.

District Awami League vice-president Md Minhaz Uddin was also assaulted

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National polls will be harder than ever

Hasina warns party grassroots

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Warning that the next national elections would be tough, Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked her party's grassroots leaders to resolve their internal conflicts ahead of the polls slated for December.

AL leaders and workers have no scope for negligence in any constituency. It could lead to defeats and hurt government formation, UNB and BSS reported her as saying.

Hasina made the call at AL's special extended meeting attended by union-level AL presidents and general secretaries, and union parishad chairmen from Rangpur, Khulna, Dhaka, and Mymensingh divisions at the Gono Bhaban.

"Still, there're conflicts in our party in some places ... these conflicts will have to be resolved. You'll have to keep in mind that the next election will be



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Six die in Moulvibazar road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

At least six people were killed and three others injured when a CNG-run autorickshaw and a car collided head on in Moulvibazar yesterday evening.

Moulvibazar Superintendent of Police Mohammad Shah Jalal said the accident happened around 6:30pm at Nadampur in Manumukh union.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

New literature prize launched in protest

AFP, Stockholm

What do you do when this year's Nobel Literature Prize, the world's most prestigious accolade of its kind, is postponed because of a sexual assault scandal?

You create your own award.

More than 100 Swedish intellectuals have joined

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



This undated but recent photo released by the Royal Thai Navy yesterday shows Thai Navy soldiers in the flooded Tham Luang cave during rescue operations for the 12 boys and their football team coach trapped in the cave at Khun Nam Nang Non Forest Park in the Mae Sai district of Chiang Rai province.

PHOTO: AFP

Window opens for evacuation

Rescuers say condition 'perfect' for bringing out Thai boys trapped in cave

AFP, Mae Sai

Conditions are "perfect" to evacuate a young football team from a flooded Thai cave in the coming days before fresh rains and a possible rise in carbon dioxide further imperil the group, the rescue mission chief said yesterday.

The plight of 12 Thai boys and their coach from the "Wild Boar" football team has transfixed Thailand since they became trapped in a cramped chamber of the Tham Luang cave complex on June 23.

Rescuers have conceded that evacuating the boys is a race against time with monsoon rains expected to undo days of round-the-clock drainage of the deluged cave.

More than 100 exploratory holes have been bored -- some shallow, but the longest 400 metres deep -- into the mountainside in an attempt to open a second evacuation route and avoid forcing the boys into a dangerous dive

through submerged tunnels.

"Now and in the next three or four days, the conditions are perfect (for evacuation) in terms of the water, the weather and the boys' health," Narongsak Osottanakorn the chief of the rescue operation told reporters.

"We have to make a clear decision on what we can do."

Rescuers have fed a kilometres-long air pipe into the cave to restore oxygen levels in the chamber where the team are sheltering, accompanied by medics and expert divers.

"When we're in a confined space if the oxygen drops to 12 percent the human body starts to slow down and people can fall unconscious," Narongsak said.

"There's also carbon dioxide. If the oxygen levels are down and the carbon dioxide levels are up, then you can get too much carbon dioxide in your blood."

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DHAKA-DELHI TIES

Teesta deal no longer an irritant

Says HT Imam

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Political Adviser HT Imam yesterday expressed hope that Bangladesh and India would sign the Teesta water-sharing agreement soon.

The matter was no longer an irritant in the relations of the two countries or the two governments, he said at a programme in New Delhi yesterday.

Imam, however, warned that the BNP would try to make

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উল্লিখিত লক্ষ্য অর্জনে ২০১৬-১৭ এবং ২০১৭-১৮ শিক্ষাবর্ষে যথাক্রমে দ্বাদশ ও একাদশ শ্রেণিতে অধ্যয়নরত নির্বাচিত শিক্ষার্থীদের উপবৃত্তি, বইক্রয় এবং পরীক্ষার ফিস বাবদ অর্থ শিক্ষার্থীদের স্ব-স্ব মোবাইল একাউন্টে (ডাচ-বাংলা ব্যাংক-রকেট) এবং টিউশন ফিস বাবদ শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্রাপ্য অর্থ অগ্রণী ব্যাংকের মাধ্যমে সর্বশ্রিষ্ট উপজেলায় প্রেরণ করা হয়েছে। উক্ত অর্থ আগামী ৩০.০৭.২০১৮খ্রি. তারিখের মধ্যে উত্তোলন করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

এছাড়া উপবৃত্তির জন্য নির্বাচিত যে সকল শিক্ষার্থীর একাউন্টে টাকা প্রেরণ করা যায়নি সে সকল শিক্ষার্থীর হালনাগাদ তথ্য আগামী ১০.০৭.২০১৮ তারিখের মধ্যে প্রকল্পের সফটওয়্যারে অন্তর্ভুক্ত করার জন্য সর্বশ্রিষ্ট শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান প্রধানবৃন্দকে অনুরোধ করা হলো।

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