



TOXIC GREED

Smoke billows from chimneys of a brick kiln built near the Surma river in Sylhet. If that were not enough, unscrupulous traders continue to dig up soil from the river banks and sell those to brick kiln owners. This entire operation is taking place under the nose of the authorities concerned, allege locals. They say many land owners also sell topsoil out of greed. According to DoE, brick kilns are the top air polluter in seven major cities in the country. The photos were taken recently from Khadimpura and Tultikor unions, where this practice is rampant.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR



ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF KARNAPHULI

Uncertainty halts eviction drive

MOSTAFA YOUSUF, Ctg

The second phase of the eviction drive launched to rid the Karnaphuli of illegal occupation has become uncertain as authorities do not have a plan for the reclaimed land.

Just five days after the first-phase eviction drive began in early February, it was called off.

Officials concerned gave three reasons for not continuing with the drive -- indecision about the structures built on the Karnaphuli land leased out by Chattogram Port Authority (CPA), not having a plan on what to do after reclaiming the land, and rehabilitation of slum dwellers.

Explaining the delay, Elias Hossen, deputy secretary of Chattogram district administration, told The Daily Star that a massive master plan was under-

way for the river.

Reclaimed land had been grabbed again by encroachers before as there was no well-thought-out plan, he said. "The government formed a high-powered committee led by two ministers to make a suitable plan that would make sure the river is not encroached anymore," Elias added.

About the structures built on the Karnaphuli land leased out by CPA, Elias said they would act as per court directives. "There will be no unplanned structures along the Karnaphuli. Structures that are planned and necessary for the river will be allowed," he said.

Elias could not say when the second phase of the drive would begin, let alone the third and final phase.

The first phase began on February 4 during which 10 acres of land were

reclaimed and at least 300 structures built illegally on west bank of the river were knocked down. It began from the Jetty Ghat of Sadarghat and ended at Barik building intersection on February 7.

Visiting the river, LGRD Minister Md Tazul Islam told reporters on March 2 that the letup in eviction drive was strategic. He said the drive did not stop, it is just a pause. There would be no compromise with encroachers.

In a survey report submitted to the High Court in 2016, Chattogram district administration said at least 2,012 illegal structures were on the banks of the Karnaphuli.

Asked about the structures built on the land leased by CPA, Zillur Rahman, deputy manager (land) of CPA, told The Daily Star that the HC in its

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Hold Cucus polls soon

Info minister urges CU authorities

CU CORRESPONDENT

Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud yesterday at a programme urged the authorities of Chittagong University to organise Cucus polls soon for building future leadership.

"There is no other way to flourish leadership than student union election. I could not have come to this stage in my life had I not been involved with student politics," he said.

The minister was addressing the golden jubilee celebration programme of CU chemistry department as the chief guest.

Regarding Cucus election, he said those who boycotted it have been elected to several posts, including the vice president. "If the election was not fair, how were they elected?" he asked.

Terming the polls fair and peaceful, the minister said Dhaka University authorities had admitted that there were some ambiguities reported during the election. They are looking into it, he added.

The information minister also said Bangladesh has made remarkable progress in every sector in the last 10 years and has become a role model for others.

Vice Chancellor Prof Iftekhar Uddin Chowdhury and teachers of the department also addressed the programme.

BCL leader injured in 'Shibir attack'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leader was critically injured in an attack carried out allegedly by Shibir men at Madan Mohan College in Sylhet city yesterday afternoon at around 1pm.

The injured, Rocky Deb, is former general secretary of ward-13 unit of BCL in Sylhet city and a student of the college.

Mahmudul Hasan Sunny, president of BCL's college unit, said, "A group of Shibir activists attempted to run their organisational activities on the campus that morning, but BCL tried to stop them. Hours after that, Shibir men attacked Rocky with sharp weapons and critically injured him."


He was hacked

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



Date-expired, used gas cylinders have been kept on the roadside for resale. The photo was taken yesterday at Dhaka's Gabtoli area.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সর্বকালের সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ বাঙালি জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের ৯৯তম জন্মদিবস উপলক্ষে ১৭ই মার্চ ২০১৯ তারিখে আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা ইনস্টিটিউটের ভাষা জাদুঘর ও লিখন-বিধি আর্কাইভ সকাল ১০টা থেকে বিকাল ৪টা পর্যন্ত দর্শনার্থীদের জন্য উন্মুক্ত থাকবে। উল্লেখ্য, ভাষা জাদুঘর ও লিখন-বিধি আর্কাইভে মহান ভাষা-আন্দোলন ও মুক্তিযুদ্ধের দুর্লভ আলোকচিত্র, বিশ্বের বিভিন্ন দেশের ভাষা-পরিস্থিতি ও সাংস্কৃতিক বৈচিত্র্য এবং বিশ্বের বিভিন্ন ভাষার লিখন-বিধির পরিচয়সহ গুরুত্বপূর্ণ তথ্য ও নিদর্শন রয়েছে।

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Frame nat'l guideline to ensure kidney treatment

Rally urges authorities on World Kidney Day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a rally yesterday urged the authorities concerned to frame a national guideline for raising awareness as well as running preventive measures and ensure treatment facilities for the kidney patients, irrespective of their social background.

Kidney Awareness Monitoring and Prevention Society (KAMPS), a non-profit organisation, arranged the rally to mark World Kidney Day 2019, according to a press release.

Founder and President of KAMPS, also Chief Consultant and Head of Department of Nephrology, BRB Hospitals Limited, Prof Dr MA Samad led the rally that started from Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) and paraded adjoining areas including Dhaka University, Katabon and Jatiya Press Club.

Speakers suggested framing law so that kidneys from accidental and untimely deaths can be taken for transplants. They said currently 200 to 250 transplants take place every year but it is possible to raise that number up to 1,500 to 2,000 through recovering kidneys from the dead.

In his keynote speech, Prof Dr MA Samad said globally 850 million people are affected by kidney disease. As per the WHO line-up, Bangladesh ranks 11th in terms of kidney disease, he added.

He said kidney diseases are spreading rapidly across the country. In Bangladesh more than 2 crore people are somehow affected by kidney disease. The treatment is so expensive that even 10 percent of the population cannot afford it, and as a result most of them lose their lives without treatment. At least 50 to 60 percent of kidney failures can be prevented through awareness, and regular screening is necessary, he said.

Dr Samad suggested regular physical exercise, keeping weight under control, giving up smoking and intake

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক

বৈদেশিক মুদ্রায় বহিঃবিনিয়োগ এবং অননুমোদিত প্রতিষ্ঠান/ব্যক্তির সাথে বৈদেশিক মুদ্রায় লেনদেন হতে বিরত থাকার বিষয়ে সতর্কীকরণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সম্প্রতি বড় অঙ্কের বৈদেশিক মুদ্রা বিনিয়োগে সামর্থ্য রয়েছে এমন ব্যক্তিদের ইমিগ্রেশন সেবা প্রদানের প্রস্তাব সম্বলিত বিজ্ঞপ্তি দৈনিক পত্রিকায় প্রচার করা হচ্ছে যা বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক কর্তৃপক্ষের গোচরীভূত হয়েছে।

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