

Let's make the cities green

Developed countries in the world are placing emphasis on greenery because it is a must. For instance, in 1997, Japan made it mandatory by law for buildings to have a wide garden on its rooftop and cornice. This was done in accordance with the declaration of Kyoto Protocol to tackle the effect of greenhouse gases. Planting trees and the cultivation of greenery on rooftops have been made mandatory by law. Because a city has to be habitable with an increased supply of oxygen.

We barely see that environment in Dhaka. When we build houses or buildings, we do not consider the rooftops to be green.

A handful of people, however, are taking rooftop farming into consideration. Many of them

roofs, are doing agriculture on one or two levels of the roof. And those who don't have their own homes, are taking permission from their landlords to do rooftop farming in a corner of the roof.

Some are even farming in their balconies. Doing so, they are meeting food and nutrition needs of their families, while at the same time, they are enjoying mental peace and performing their national duty. They are helping make the city green again. They are contributing in the increase of oxygen in the city.

Many of them, though, are not sure how to do agriculture on rooftops and front or back yards of their houses. For such enthusiasts, Agricultural Botany department at Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural

agriculture.

All around the world, the focus has shifted on climate-smart agriculture. Global warming and climate change have been posing threat to our food security. As such, agriculture is facing the impact of climate change the most. To survive in this hostile environment, those involved with agriculture has to adapt to the impacts of climate change. They have to produce anticipated yield amid soil and water scarcity.

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations is calling this approach 'climate agriculture' since people who do this are involving agriculture in sustainable development to fight climate change. It is more like an integrated effort to make agri-

less of the usual room temperature. As a result, the flat remains cooler naturally.

Many say that rooftop agriculture harms the roof. Contradicting the perception, Dr Mahub said rooftop agriculture protects the roof. He said that rooftop agriculture increases durability of the roof. Because without any rooftop garden, the temperature of the roof increases to up to 50 degrees Celsius during summer. The excessive heat harms the bricks, sand and stones of the roof.

During my conversation with SAU Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Kamal Uddin Ahamed, he urged all to be involved in farming. Praising Dr Mahub's research, he said it will bring benefits for all.

Dr Mahub involved many

organisations with the research and made training arrangements for them. By providing proper training, they are improving skills of many rooftop farm entrepreneurs.

We must focus on rooftop or urban agriculture -- not only for food security, but also for adapting to climate change. Such institutional research on rooftop farming by SAU is highly stimulating. If a convenient model of rooftop agriculture can be designed through research, every rooftop in the city can be covered with greenery. The environment of the entire city will be cooler. There will be more oxygen. Hence, the city will be even more habitable. The world will become safer too.



Rooftop farming like this can turn city skylines green.

PHOTO: HRIDOYE MATI O MANUSH

adorned their rooftops with agriculture to serve multiple purposes. Some already became successful doing rooftop farming. I came across many who are meeting needs of their families by producing various vegetables and fruits including mango, guava, malta, sugarcane, beans, cabbage and carrots in their rooftop gardens.

On Channel i, we aired 125 rooftop farming episodes, titled Chhad Krishi. I have seen retired employees of public or private organisations, businesspersons and industrialists getting involved with rooftop agriculture for a more productive leisure time.

Some claim that it has brought spiritual peace for them. Those who have their own homes and

University (SAU) is conducting research on rooftop agriculture and its scientific aspects. Led by Prof Dr Mahub Islam, a group of students developed a rooftop agriculture model. Channel i aired an episode of Chhad Krishi on their research findings last year.

Dr Mahub in the programme said Chhad Krishi on Channel i are motivating people to try out rooftop agriculture. He also stressed the need for a research on it. Last year, he presented a comparative production demonstration on how to do rooftop agriculture in tubs, wooden boxes, cement structures and many other types of containers. The students are also working on to introduce modern irrigation systems for rooftop

culture survive. Dr Mahub said this model of rooftop agriculture is a practice of climate-smart agriculture.

Dear readers, you probably remember Dr Sheikh Ahmad Al Nahid, a faculty member of Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (CVASU). He is doing a research on aquaponics in rooftop agriculture.

The rooftop of SAU can also be called such a research centre. Dr Mahub is conducting many experiments on rooftop agriculture with his team.

Dr Mahub told me that a garden lowers temperature of a rooftop by up to eight degrees Celsius. The immediate floor below the roof enjoys two degrees

of the usual room temperature. As a result, the flat remains cooler naturally.

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Remove doctors, staff of Biral UZ Health Complex

Villagers demand as hospital authorities sue patient's attendant who had complained for 'wrong treatment'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Nearly 200 villagers in Biral upazila yesterday demanded removal of the doctors and staff of Biral Upazila Health Complex for filing false case against a patient's attendant, who earlier lodged a complaint with the hospital authorities, bringing allegation of wrong treatment when he admitted his wife there on January 21.

They submitted a memorandum to the prime minister through Biral Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) ABN Rawshan Kabir, seeking her intervention in this regard.

According to the memorandum, Ismat Ara, 35, wife of Wakul Islam, 42, of Biral Bazar area, took poison, following a family feud on January 21.

Victim's family members rescued her and admitted her to Biral Upazila Health Complex.

Around 11.00pm, doctors at the health complex hurriedly referred her to Dinajpur M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital, where the doctors opined that she was given wrong treatment at the upazila health complex.

On January 31, Wakul submitted a written complaint, with relevant papers of the alleged wrong treatment attached, to the health complex authority.

Surprisingly, without taking any action in this regard, Health Inspector of Biral Health Complex Nazrul Islam filed an extortion case against six people, including Wakul, by name and six others unnamed on February 5.

"If such doctors and staff stay there, I am sure people will no longer get proper treatment," said Wakul, who is currently on bail.

Jail cop injured in polls violence dies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A jail police, injured on March 28 when two rivaling groups of Awami League (AL) clashed over upazila elections, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday morning.

Shakhawat Hossain, 40 -- from Mohisharan village of Gouripur upazila in Mymensingh -- was stationed at Sylhet Jail.

Shakhawat was on his way home from Sylhet when he was caught in the middle of the clash in Atharbari of Ishwarganj, said Ahmed Kabir Hossain, officer-in-charge (OC) of Ishwarganj Police Station.

Shakhawat was first taken to Ishwarganj Upazila Health Complex and later to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital. As his condition deteriorated, he was transferred to DMCH where he died around 6:00am, said the OC.

Badrul Alam Prodip, an AL dissident who ran for chairman post in Ishwarganj upazila, said on March 28 evening, he and his supporters went to Rayer Bazar in Atharbari for campaigning.

While taking preparations, supporters of AL candidate Mahmudul Hasan Sumon attempted to thwart their campaign, leading to an altercation, alleged Badrul, also member of district and upazila AL.

At one stage, AL candidate Sumon's supporters attacked them with sticks and sharp weapons, injuring some people including Shakhawat, who was passing by the area during the incident, Badrul claimed.

Police arrested two supporters of Sumon soon after the incident. A Mymensingh court the following day sent them to jail after they were produced before it, said OC Ahmed, adding that they were conducting raids to arrest other perpetrators.

Shykh Seraj is Bangladesh's pioneer development journalist. He received country's two highest civilian honours, Swadhinata Purashkar and Ekushey Padak, respectively. He is an Ashoka and Bangla Academy Fellow. He also received highest award for agricultural journalism from the United Nations, FAO A.H. Boerma Award, Gusi Peace Prize (Philippines) and many other prestigious accolades at home and abroad. At Channel i, he's the Founder Director and Head of News. He's also Director and Host of Channel i's popular agro-documentary, Hridoye Mati O Manush.



A mobile court seizes unauthorized medicines, low quality food supplements, cosmetics, shampoo, sex stimulant pills and fake foreign soaps worth Tk 10 lakh from Reximpo Skincare Store at Khan Market in Bogura town yesterday afternoon. The mobile court led by Magistrate ATM Kamrul Islam awarded six months jail and fine of Tk 2 lakh to two of its employees each, said Bogura District Drug Superintendent Ahsan Habib, who was present during the drive.

PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUJ

Abducted schoolgirl traceless for 12 days

The victim's family gets threat from accused

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A Hindu schoolgirl kidnapped from Chailabunia village under Galachipa upazila of Patuakhali 12 days ago, is yet to be rescued while the accused is allegedly threatening the victim's family to withdraw the case.

The victim, hailing from Gazipur Bazar of Barguna's Amtali upazila, and a Class VII student of Badurahat High School in Galachipa, lived with her aunt near the school.

Police and family members said, on the evening of March 22, the girl was going to her aunt's house from the house of a school teacher at Badura Bazar when a local youth named Wahidul aided by his friends kidnapped the girl and left with her on a motorbike.

On the next day, the victim's aunt filed a case with Galachipa Police Station, accusing six people including Wahidul over the matter.

"The accused and their relatives are continuously threatening us to withdraw the case," said the plaintiff of the case.

Akhter Morshed, OC of Galachipa Police Station, said they conducted raids at different places to rescue the victim but failed.

Girl's body exhumed for fresh autopsy

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The body of a college girl in Dhanbari upazila was exhumed yesterday for fresh autopsy after four months and three days of her death.

Following a court order, a police team, led by Sanwar Hossain, investigation officer of the case, exhumed the body from a graveyard at Bagua village in presence of Dhanbari Upazila Nirbahi Officer Arifa Siddika.

The deceased was Kamrunnahar Ity, 22, an honours student of management department at Gopalpur Government College, and daughter of Abdul Quddus of Bagua village in Dhanbari.

Shafiqul Islam, officer-in-charge of Madhupur Police Station, said Ity married Abdul Jalil, son of Meser Ali of Bhattabari village in Madhupur in May last year.

After passing six months of the marriage, pregnant Ity's hanging body was recovered from her husband's house on November 30.

Autopsy of Ity's body was held at Tangail General Hospital the following day.

Following a case filed by the victim's father, police then arrested Ity's husband, father-in-law, mother-in-law and brother-in-law, said the OC, adding that the arrestees were later sent to jail by a court.

Later, it was mentioned in the autopsy report that Ity took her life by hanging herself.

Ity's father then prayed to the court for fresh autopsy of the body.



Brother among 3 held for murder

Bid to implicate rivals in false case led to the killing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) in Bagerhat on Tuesday night detained three people, including the younger brother of the deceased, for their alleged involvement in murdering mill worker Kabul Mollah in Morrelganj upazila on January 20.

The arrestees are slain Kabul's younger brother Babul Mollah, son of Abdul Gaffar, Bachu Hawladar, son of Abdul Majid, and Munna Khan, son of Montu Khan, of Altiburujbariya village.

During primary interrogation, the detainees confessed their involvement in Kabul's murder, Bagerhat PBI Inspector (Administration) Mohammad Mohsin Uddin said.

Later, according to their information, police recovered an iron rod and a knife used in the murder, he said, adding that they might have committed the murder in a bid

to implicate their rivals in false case.

On January 20, criminals hacked Kabul to death in a planned way and dumped the body inside a shrimp enclosure at Altiburujbariya village, Inspector Mohsin said.

Being informed by locals, police recovered Kabul's body the following day and sent it to the hospital for autopsy.

On January 22, slain Kabul's father Abdul Gaffar filed a murder case with Morrelganj Police Station accusing four neighbours -- Abdur Rob, 57, his son Yamin Shikder and son-in-law Nurul Islam and Khabir Mollah, 47, son of Sultan Mollah.

The case was handed over to PBI, Bagerhat branch, on 28 January.

After a long investigation, a team of PBI led by Sub-Inspector Shahidur Rahman raided Kalijira Bridge area in Barishal and detained the three, said the PBI inspector.



People of Hindu community receive blessings from a priest during their traditional Baruni Snan (a holy dip), on the Jamuna river at Aricha in Manikganj yesterday. Right, people throng beside a merry-go-round as a seven-day fair has also been arranged on the occasion.



PHOTO: ZAHANGIR SHAH