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Your Right to Know

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BRICK KILNS IN KHULNA'S DUMURIA United they kill rivers

PINAKI ROY and DIPANKAR ROY

The Bhadra, once a free-flowing river in Khulna's Dumuria upazila, has been turned into a narrow canal over the years, thanks to encroachment by brick kilns run by local influentials, including elected representatives.

A report prepared by Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) Khulna last December listed nine brick kilns, including those operated by a lawmaker and chairmen of a upazila and a union parishad, on a four-kilometre stretch on one bank of the Bhadra in Khamia union.

A total of 18 brick kilns along the Bhadra and Hori rivers were named in the BWDB Khulna list.

BWDB officials say the list will include more names gradually as brick kilns have been set up on both banks of Bhadra and the lowland adjacent to the Upper Shailmari and Hori rivers.



Due to their encroachment, the flow of the Salta, a branch of the Bhadra river, and at least three connecting canals has stopped completely. The Daily Star found during a recent visit.

Standing on the Khamia bridge last week, our correspondent observed that the Bhadra river, once around 500m wide, has now narrowed to 16-30m.

On the river banks, the grabbers are using excavators to dig out soft soil and mud, deposited in large amounts in the

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Rows of unbaked bricks and large holes dug for brick processing in a grabbed part of the Bhadra river near Khamia bridge in Dumuria upazila of Khulna. Several local influential people, including elected public representatives, run brick kilns that have occupied the land of the river. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

The Daily Star
 CELEBRATES
 GLORIOUS
 50 YEARS OF
 INDEPENDENCE
 COURAGEOUS
 30 YEARS OF
 JOURNALISM

For almost a decade, Bangladesh has been on a rather slow pathway to a revolutionary digital transformation. Then the pandemic shocked the system to a fast adoption of the digital life. Private and govt sectors adapted at record pace. This anniversary supplement is an ode to that learning curve. For all we have lost, we have achieved much more.

Get your copy tomorrow for glimpse of tomorrow's Bangladesh.

VACCINE REGISTRATION NID requirement troubling many

MOUDDUD AHMED SUJAN

Saleha Khatun is 55 and suffers from some health issues. She could not register on surokha.gov.bd to get Covid-19 vaccine as she had lost her National Identity card a long time ago.

Her journalist son Shamiul Hossain Shimul is worried since an infection of coronavirus could be fatal for his mother.

He tried using her birth registration number to register for the vaccine but it did not work.

Finding no alternative, he contacted officials at the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

"The officials said there is no alternative to the NID number. I am a bit

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ASSAULT ON NAVY OFFICER Police press charges against Erfan Salim

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Detectives yesterday pressed charges against lawmaker Haji Salim's son Mohammad Erfan Salim and four others in a case filed over the assault and attempted murder of a Navy officer in October last year.

Sub-inspector Mominul Haque of the Detective Branch of police submitted the charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court of Dhaka.

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DSA CASE AGAINST JOURNALIST KAJOL Charged with 'defaming ministers, MPs, leaders'

Investigation is flawed, says his lawyer

CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER and
EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

Investigators have charged photojournalist Shafiqul Islam Kajol with circulating indecent, defamatory, objectionable and fake information about some ministers, lawmakers and top Jubo Mahila League leaders on Facebook.

After an almost 10-month long probe, Sub-inspector Mohammad Russell Mollah of Detective Branch of police, the investigation

officer, filed the charge sheet with Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka on February 4 in a case under the Digital Security Act (DSA).

Usmin Ara Bally, a member of the central committee of Bangladesh Jubo Mahila League, a wing of the ruling Awami League, filed the case with Hazaribagh Police Station on March 10 last year.

According to the charge sheet, Kajol published fake news on his Facebook page

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PK HALDER Explain officials' failure to stop graft, swindling

HC asks BB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday released the full text of its order in a suo moto rule seeking explanations from Bangladesh Bank why its officials concerned failed to detect and prevent irregularities, corruption, and money laundering and about steps taken against them.

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CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF
 The Daily Star

Shashi Tharoor in conversation with Mahfuz Anam on Press Freedom In South Asia



Shashi Tharoor

World famous novelist, writer, speaker, Congress Party leader, Member of Parliament and Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee for External Affairs



Mahfuz Anam

Editor & Publisher
 The Daily Star

Tomorrow at 7:00 pm

The programme will be broadcast live on The Daily Star Facebook page

facebook.com/dailystarnews

আমরা শোকাহত



“ন্যাশনাল ব্যাংক লিমিটেড এর সম্মানিত চেয়ারম্যান, সিকদার গ্রুপের প্রাণপুরুষ, বিশিষ্ট শিক্ষানুরাগী, স্বনামধন্য শিল্পপতি, দানবীর, জনহিতৈষী, বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধা জনাব জয়নুল হক সিকদার এর মৃত্যুতে আলেসা গ্রুপ পরিবার গভীরভাবে শোকাহত। তাঁর বিদেহী আত্মার মাগফিরাত কামনা করছি।”

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