



This brickfield, set-up on croplands and only a few metres from Begum Jebunnesa Government Primary School at Jalalia village in Moulvibazar's Kamalganj upazila, has been continuing operation for long.

PHOTO: STAR

Illegal brick kilns a nuisance for educational institutions

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Several brick kilns, built near different educational institutions, have been running their operations in Kamalganj upazila, defying law and ignoring protest from local residents. Most of the brick kilns do have clearance from the Department of Environment (DoE). As a result, omission of the toxic black smoke, generated from burning bricks, has been directly affecting the students of those institutions situated close to the brick kilns. Local residents and civil society members have been continuously complaining about the environmental disaster they are facing, but the authorities concerned seem reluctant to take step against the illegal brick kilns due to unknown reasons. While visiting the area this correspondent saw huge bricks are being burnt at Mohsin Brick, set up close to Begum Jebunnesa Government Primary School in Jalalia area of the upazila. Locals said the brick kiln, which surrounds three corners of the school boundary wall, has been causing serious physical and mental health hazards for them, especially the school kids. Moreover, the agricultural land close to the

brick kiln losing its fertility due to the heat generated from brick burning, locals alleged. The brick kiln has become a serious threat to the school children, one of the guardians Saddam Mia said. According to DoE, another brick kiln MM Bricks is located only 30 to 40 metres from Kaliprasad High School in Munshibazar area. In September 2019, DoE cancelled their clearance certificate and asked to remove the brickfield from there. But surprisingly, the brick kiln is still running its operation there. Local resident Emon Mia said not only Kaliprasad High School two more schools--Munshibazar Government Primary School and Sajeda Bari Kindergarten School—are located next to the brickfield. Nurul Muhaimin Milton, general secretary of Bangladesh Paribesh Sangbadik Samity, Moulvibazar unit, said bricks are also being burnt at Palash Bricks and MMB Bricks, built within 200 metres from two more educational institutions. Lecturer Jamshed Ali of the area said presence of brick kilns near educational institutions and homes posing serious health hazards for the

students and locals. According to the Brick Manufacturing and Brick Kilns Establishment (Control) Act 2019 no brickfield can be set-up within one kilometre of any educational institution, farmland and residential area. It also mandates clearance certificates from local administration and DoE. Moulvibazar DoE Assistant Director Badrul Huda said Ibrahim Bricks, Sabari Bricks, MMB Bricks and Mohsin Bricks have no environment clearance certificate. Refuting the allegation, Ibrahim Mia, owner of Ibrahim Bricks, said he was running his brickfield, complying with the law. Nahid Ahmed, director of MMB Bricks, said they have time to shift their brickfield as the DoE has given them clearance till June 30, 2022. Kamalganj Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer Dr Mahbubul Alam Bhuiyan said due to the establishment of brickfields near educational institutions and localities there is a possibility of various fungal diseases like shortness of breath, cough, allergies and pneumonia among local people, especially children.

Star to honour IT pioneers today

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hospitality partner for the event. The Daily Star has been recognising the unsung and silent ICT heroes since 2016 and putting the spot light on excellent works in the ICT sector for bringing positive changes in

society. Prime Minister's International Affairs Adviser Gowher Rizvi is expected to attend the award giving ceremony as a chief guest. The event will take place at the Radisson Blu Dhaka Water Garden.

Nine in 10 Covid

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percent, except 2.02 percent on Friday and 2.01 percent on Saturday. After the new Omicron variant was detected last month, only two Omicron cases have been reported so far in the country and the transmission rate has remained

stable. The government, however, has taken precautionary measures including issuing travel alerts in all entry points. Health officials, meanwhile, have urged people to maintain health safety rules.

Memorial meeting on Reazuddin

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Council. President of the organisation, also the Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam will be presiding over the programme. Noab President AK Azad, Vice-president ASM Shahidullah Khan Badal, Prothom Alo Editor Matiur Rahman, Ittefaq Editor Tasmima Hossain, Bhorer Kagoj Editor Shyamal Dutta, New Age Editor Nurul Kabir, former president of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul, Jatiya Press Club President Farida Yasmin, and other

colleagues and well-wishers of Reazuddin will join the programme. Ekushey Padak winning journalist Reazuddin Ahmed breathed his last at a city hospital while undergoing treatment on Saturday. He was 77. He was the founding editor of English daily Financial Express and News Today. Reazuddin earlier served as the deputy editor of The Daily Star. He was a four-time elected president of the Jatiya Press Club.

Travel chaos worsens

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and Saturday -- and Air China grounding about 20 percent of its scheduled departures over the period. The coronavirus has killed at least 5,392,347 people since the outbreak emerged in China in

December 2019, according to a tally Saturday from official sources compiled by AFP. Overall, the United States has recorded the most Covid deaths, with 816,436, followed by Brazil on 618,392, India on 479,520 and Russia 303,250.

Over half return with shattered dreams

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Also, 17 percent of the returnees reported no family member was present at the airport to receive them during their return home. For sustainable reintegration, 90 percent of the returnees sought the introduction of social security protection scheme while 30 percent sought a skill training programme. Bangladesh should come out of a "state of denial" towards female migrant workers' exploitation abroad, said Rahnuma Salam Khan, national programme officer of ILO Bangladesh, at the event organised by BILS. Alongside the sending-country and workers, the recipient countries have responsibility for the successful reintegration of returnee migrants. About a dozen ministries are involved in providing services to migrant workers but there is a lack of coordination among them, said Shamsun Nahar, member of the parliamentary committee on labour and employment ministry. Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed, a specialist on workers' activities of ILO South Asia's Decent Work Technical Team, stressed for inclusion of female local government representatives in discussions aiming at female migrant workers' wellbeing. Zahid Anwar, deputy director of Wage Earners' Welfare Board, said they will provide cash support to about two lakh migrant workers as part of reintegration support

under a World Bank-funded project. Besides, 30 welfare desks for migrant workers will be created across the country, he said. Chaired by BILS Advisory Council Member Shah Mohammad Abu Zafar, the event was addressed, among others, by Zohora Monsor, deputy director of Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training; and Sheikh Rumana, general secretary of Bangladeshi Ovivashi Mohila Sramik Association. Heavy rains displace thousands in northeast Brazil AFP, Salvador More than 11,000 people have been displaced in the Brazilian state of Bahia due to flooding, with authorities scrambling Saturday to provide relief to residents without alternate housing. The heavy rains have killed 17 people since November, including the latest death on Thursday, the state's civil protection agency said.

Luxury boats with ludicrous

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Mostafa Miah, master of the Sundarban-11, who was with the probe committee that visited the MV Abhijan-10 after Friday's devastating fire, said, "I saw a fault in the engine [of MV Abhijan-10] that might have caused the fire. On most launches, the crew doesn't have a mechanic." Contacted, Nurul Karim, marine inspector of the Department of Shipping, admitted that the issue of fire safety is often overlooked. Rafiqul Alam, coordinator of Bangladesh

Poribesh Andolon in Barishal, said the government and launch owners must take steps to ensure fire safety. Saidur Rahman Rintu, vice-president of launch owners' association, said, "We have fire safety equipment as per the directives of the Department of Shipping. We cannot go beyond government rules." The recent fire on the MV Abhijan-10 has created fear in many passengers. The number of passengers has drastically fallen, said an employee of Sundarban Navigation.

Former BCL GS Rabbani injured

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However, SI Iftekhar Ahmed of Rajoir Police Station said, "Locals chased Golam Rabbani away as he tried to enter a polling centre." Police rushed to spot on information and brought the situation under control, said Rajoir Police Station's OC Sheikh Sadiq. The injured, including Rabbani, took treatment at local health complex and private clinics, he said. Rabbani suffered cuts in three fingers

of his right hand in the attack while seven other people from both the groups were injured at the time, the OC told this correspondent. "Police will take legal actions after receiving a written complaint," said OC Sheikh Sadiq. Rabbani told this correspondent over the phone that he is currently undergoing treatment and will file a case against the attackers upon recovery. Mosharaf Mollah could not be contacted for comments.

Prime accused arrested

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rape during investigation, reported our Cox's Bazar correspondent. Two other prime accused -- Israfil Huda Joy and Mehedi Hasan Babu -- were still on the run, Muslim Uddin said. Several teams of police remained on alert to arrest them, he said. "Hopefully, we will arrest them soon." Riaz Uddin Choton, another arrested accused, is being interrogated, said

Inspector Md Ruhul Amin, who is investigating the case. On Wednesday, three young men raped a woman, while their cohorts kept her husband and their eight-month-old child hostage, according to the case documents. The family had arrived in the tourist town earlier that day from Dhaka for a vacation. The case was filed the next day against seven people.

Three die as train rams bus

FROM PAGE 1
Shah Jamal, officer-in-charge of Sadar Police Station, said two people died on the spot and 10 others were injured. One of the injured, who was around 10 years old, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital at 8:45pm while undergoing treatment. He had lost his left leg, doctors said. Sabina Yasmin, a doctor of the emergency unit of Narayanganj General Hospital, said seven injured were brought to the hospital. Of them, six were sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) in critical condition. Most of the passengers came in with broken limbs, said Sabina, adding that two passengers arrived with head injuries. Quoting witnesses, Abdullah Arefin, deputy assistant director of Narayanganj Fire Service and Civil Defence, said the bus got stuck as the bus driver could not manage to clear the lines due to traffic congestion ahead and the closed gate behind. CM Akhater Haider, station master, Narayanganj Central Rail Station, told The Daily Star, that the train left Dhaka at 5:20pm. It hit the bus at 6:05pm at the Number 1 level crossing. The gateman could not close the gate due to traffic jam. He said the train seemed to have had more speed than usual. "But everything will be revealed after investigation," he said. Locals said the gateman did not show any red flag to the train even though he knew the bus was on the lines.

This correspondent could not reach Md Hanif, the gateman, despite repeated attempts. The bus driver and other staffers of the vehicle fled the scene. Shakil who was injured in the incident said he saw the bus driver jump off as the train came near. Mostain Billah, deputy commissioner of Narayanganj, formed a five-member probe committee last night led by Rahima Akhter, additional deputy commissioner. Representatives from police, fire service, Bangladesh Road Transport Authorities, and Bangladesh Railway will also be members of the committee. "The committee has been asked to submit the report within 15 working days," the DC said. He also announced Tk 25,000 for the families of each deceased and Tk 10,000 for each injured.

Berlin and Kremlin envoys to meet over Ukraine, says source

REUTERS, BERLIN

Senior German and Russian government officials have agreed to a rare in-person meeting next month in an effort to ease political tensions over Ukraine, a German government source said yesterday.



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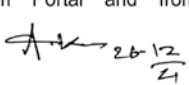
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e-Tender Notice: 03/2021-2022

E-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following packages:

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of works	Last date and time of tender security submission	Tender closing date & time
1.	641727	Procurement of Furniture & Fixture for ICT Lab and Interior Work of Library, Classrooms and False ceiling work of Teachers Conference room of Govt. Barisal College, Barishal.	12.01.2022 13 PM	12.01.2022 14 PM
2.	641825	Procurement of Air Conditioner for digital classrooms of Govt. Barisal College, Barishal.	13.01.2022 13 PM	13.01.2022 14 PM

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and of offline/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks' Branches up to 12.01.2022 at 14 PM. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).


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