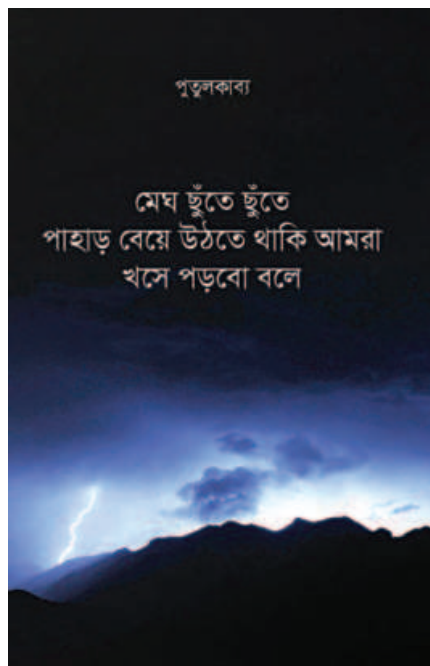




Nargis Fakhri appears in her first Bengali song, 'MONER KHOBOR'

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Bollywood diva Nargis Fakhri has made a stunning appearance TM Records' Valentine Special song, "Moner Khobor". This is the first time that the actress has worked in any Bengali song. Internationally acclaimed Bangladeshi model Asif Azim will be seen with Nargis in the music video.

The track has been written, composed and arranged by Kaushik Hossain Taposh. Talented singers Luipa and Shamim Hasan have lent their voices to the track.

Adil Sheikh from Bollywood is the director of the music video, which was styled and produced by TM Records co-founder, Farzana Munni.

The song has already garnered critical acclaim for the mellifluous song and spot-on direction.



Submit your play to 'Aly Zaker Shorone Notuner Utshab 2022'

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Celebrating an illustrious journey of 49 years, Nagorik Natya Sampradaya is hosting the second instalment of their "Notuner Utshab". The festival had commenced in 2019, showcasing 5 news plays from rising theatre troupes around the country.

From this year onwards, the initiative is set to commemorate the legacy of the legendary actor and one of the founding pillars of Nagorik Natya Sampradaya, Aly Zaker.

Aided by Mangaldweep Foundation, "Aly Zaker Shorone Notuner Utshab 2022" will showcase 5 new plays by 5 different theatre troupes.

The organisers have opened the process of submission from all theatre troupes across the nation. The groups have to turn in a copy of their production proposal and a summary of their proposed play by March 31, 2022, to the following address: Asiatic Centre, House# 63, Road # 7/b, Block- H, Banani, Dhaka-1213, or email it to nagoriknatya.50@gmail.com.



EKUSHEY BOI MELA where stars appear on pages

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Alongside renowned authors, noted celebrities publish books during the Ekushey Boi Mela. Due to their obvious popularity, these books also tend to perform well at the fair.

Ekushey Padak winning actor

Abul Hayat will be releasing his short story collection, "Ashare" this year. The book contains three short stories, and it is to be published by Priyo Bangla Prokashon.

"I first took up writing during the 90s, and since then, I have been hooked to writing," shares the eminent actor, who is also adept at scriptwriting and direction.

Close-up one famed singer Putul has also been exploring her talent in writing for the past few years. Her poetry collection "Megh Chute Chute Pahar Beye Uthte Thaki Amra Khoshe Porbo Bole", will be released this year.

"I really love to write, and hope to publish at least one new book every year," shares Putul, who has previously been appreciated for her series, "Putul Kabbo".

Celebrated singer Kumar Bishwajit's autobiography is also set to hit the stalls. The book, titled "Abong Bishwajit", being the singer's first one, will be published by Ajob

Publications.

"I have been unable to share my experiences candidly with my fans," he says. "This book is an account of the untold episodes of my life, and shows a new side of me."

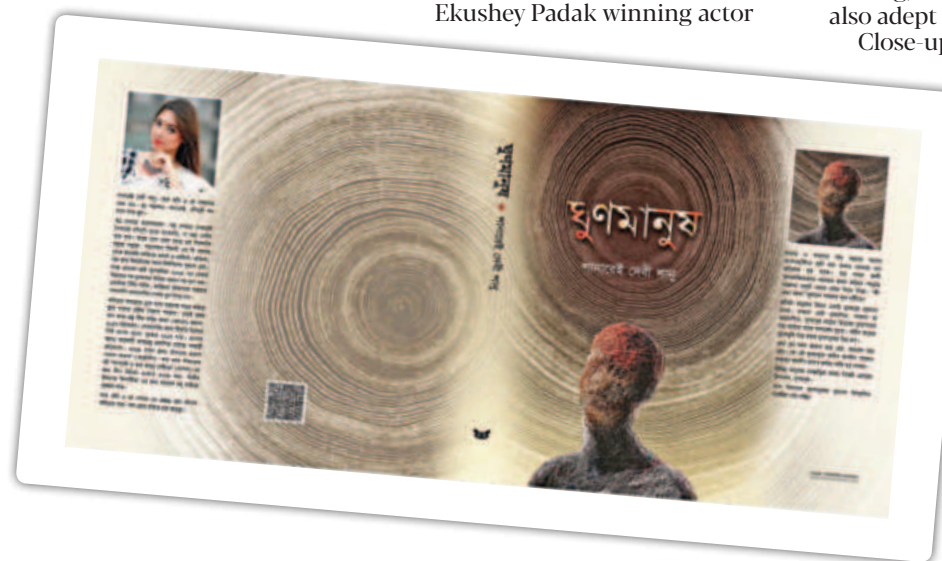
Prominent actress and model Shanarei Devi Shanu has several novels to her credit. This year, she is looking forward to her novel "Ghunmanush", which will be published by Anannya Prokashoni.

"The book will be available to readers from the first day of Ekushey Boi Mela," she informs.

Renowned lyricist and actor Marzuk Russell's "Hawa Dekhi, Batash Khai" will be available at the fair from the first day. The book has been published by Upokotha Prokashon.

Alongside new ones, formerly released books by Bidya Sinha Mim, Azizul Hakim, Tauquir Ahmed, Brindabon Das, Naznin Hasan Chumki, Lopa Hossain, Muhin Khan, Animesh Aich, and, Ashna Habib Bhabna will be available at the fair.

A few interview collections of various stars is to be published by the end of the Ekushey Boi Mela as well.



COUNTRYWIDE

99 illegal brick kilns run operations in B'baria

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Brahmanbaria

Defying law and posing serious threats to the environment and public health, over 99 brick factories continue to operate in Brahmanbaria.

The local administration and the Department of Environment (DoE) have yet to take any visible measures against them although it is stipulated that no brickfield can be set up without clearance from the DoE.

The brick kilns have been set up beside bazars, croplands, educational institutions, fruit gardens and other establishments, said locals.

Seasonal fruits and crops including paddy are being damaged due to the emission from the brick kilns.

According to the DoE's Brahmanbaria office, there are 181 brick kilns in nine upazilas of the district. Of them, 82 have clearance but the rest are operating illegally without a license. Of which, 30 brickfields are now remaining closed or abandoned for various reasons.

However, the actual number of brick kilns is higher than the list of district administration shows.

According to section-4 of the Brick Making and Kiln Installation (Control) Act, no brick kiln can be operated without clearance from the DoE. If the rule is violated, a provision of two years imprisonment is there.

While visiting different brickfields in Sadar, Sarail and Bijoynagar upazilas, it was found that most of the brickfields are in the middle of croplands. Of them, many are near to the localities and within 500 metres of educational institutions.

Local environmentalists alleged that most of the brick kilns have been operating in Brahmanbaria flouting laws. The brickfield owners 'manage' the administration before the peak season.

Syed Nazrul Islam, president of Brahmanbaria Paribesh Ujjibi Mancho, a group working for the protection of the environment, officials who are in the racket be brought to

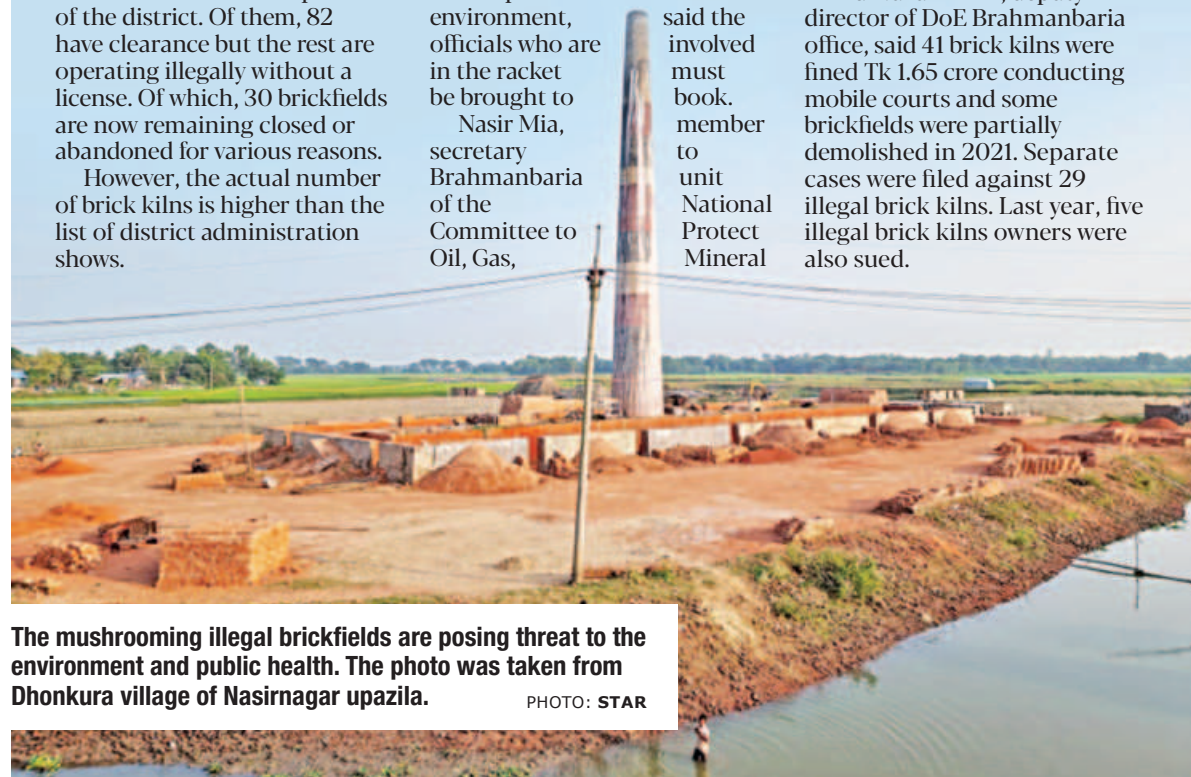
Nasir Mia, secretary Brahmanbaria of the Committee to Oil, Gas,

Resources, Power and Ports, said fertility of the land is completely lost following the sale of topsoil. If this unplanned removal of topsoil from agricultural land continues, it will bring a permanent disaster in future crop production.

Azizul Haque, general secretary of Brahmanbaria District Brick Manufacturers and Owners Association, said manufacturing bricks with soil is permitted till 2025. After that, bricks can no longer be made with soil. If the brick kilns are suddenly closed, people will suffer and development will be hampered.

As a result, the administration should exercise the laws with caution in case of less harmful brick kilns but stern action should be taken against those which are causing more harm to the environment, he said.

Md Nurul Amin, deputy director of DoE Brahmanbaria office, said 41 brick kilns were fined Tk 1.65 crore conducting mobile courts and some brickfields were partially demolished in 2021. Separate cases were filed against 29 illegal brick kilns. Last year, five illegal brick kilns owners were also sued.



The mushrooming illegal brickfields are posing threat to the environment and public health. The photo was taken from Dhonkura village of Nasirnagar upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

Communist

FROM PAGE 12

party decided that it would not allow any rift in the all-party action committee. No extreme action would be encouraged as such incidents would be easily exploited by the government. The party, then, gave clear instructions to Toaha, Oli Ahad, Samad and Dewan Mahbub Ali, who were members of the all-party committee, not to pressurise the Committee for violating section 144. They were also asked to explain to the committee that the general election could be postponed due to any emergency situation. At that time there was a talk of holding a general election and its postponement was considered as a great setback in the democratic life of East Bengal.

Shamsul Haque, Toaha and Oli Ahad went to the students in the morning (February 21) to explain the decision of the all-party committee to them and to calm them down. However, it was decided in the end that the students would break section 144 by dividing themselves into 10 groups of 10 each.

The all-party committee ceased to exist following the violation of section 144. After that the students belonging to the [Communist] party were in control of the movement.

Shahidullah Kaiser was a member of the central committee of the Communist Party of East Pakistan during the Language Movement.

Source: This is an abridged version of Shahidullah Kaiser's interview published in Bhasha Andolon Prasanga: Katipay Dalil (Ed. Badruddin Umar, Bangla Academy, 1995)

Translated by Shamsuddoza Sajeen

Pneumonia in kids

FROM PAGE 12

mentions that almost half of these deaths can be averted by significantly scaling up immunisation and taking various other steps, according to Unicef.

PREVENTION

Immunisation against Hib, pneumococcus, measles and whooping cough is the most effective way to prevent pneumonia.

Pneumonia can also be prevented in the first place

by increasing protective measures and by reducing risk factors like both indoor and outdoor air pollution, which make the lungs more vulnerable to infection.

Adequate nutrition boosts natural defence in children making them less vulnerable to the infection. For newborns, exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life is crucial.

The names proposed

FROM PAGE 7

Chowdhury; Mushfika Iklat, former secretary; Md Abdul Mannan, former secretary; Md Gazi Rahman, senior district and sessions judge; Md Jahangir Molla, former additional secretary; Md Fakhruddin, former district and sessions judge; Md Faizur Rahman, retired secretary; Md Badrul Islam, lawyer of Supreme Court; Md Rafiqul Islam, former joint secretary general of FBCCI; Md Shamsul Haque, former district and sessions judge; Md Shah Alam Mia, lawyer; Md Shahiduzzaman, former senior secretary; Md Shafiqul Islam, retired district and sessions judge; Md Habibur Rahman, retired IGP; Rasheda K Chowdhury, former advisor to caretaker government; Rokeya Kabir, woman leader; Rokun ud-Dowla, retired additional secretary; Lt Gen Md Shafiqur Rahman, former military officer; Lt Col (retd) Kazi Sazzad Ali Jahir, Bir Pratik; Lt Gen Jafarullah Siddique, former DGMS of Bangladesh Army; Shaikhul Hadidith Allama Kazi Moinuddin Ashrafi, principal of Sobhania Kamil Madrasa, Chattogram; Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik, former judge; Sheikh Wahiduzzaman,

chairman of Janata Bank; Selina Hosen, Bangla Academy president; Syed Mizanur Rahman, lawyer; Hazi Md Shah Alam Mia, lawyer; Hedayetullah Al Mamun, former senior secretary; Humayun Kabir, former ambassador; Abdul Wahab Mia, former judge; Abdul Majid, former judge; Farid Ahmed, former judge; Maolana Mahmudul Hasan, principal of Jatrabari Madrasa; Abdul Latif Masum, former vice chancellor, Patuakhali Science and Technology University; former district judge Agor Ali; former cabinet secretary Mohammad Shafiqul Alam; former IGP Shahidul Islam; former bureaucrats Shamsuddoha; former tax commissioner Dabed-Al-Sad; teacher Lindsey Ribeiro; former Air Chief Air Marshal (retd.) Fakhrul Azam; Saiful Islam Siddique, journalist; former IGP Hasan Mahmud Khandaker; former bureaucrat Md Mohibul Haque; former additional IGP Meer Shahidul Islam; former bureaucrat Nazim Uddin Chowdhury; and former bureaucrat Faizur Rahman Chowdhury.

The Daily Star could not verify all the posts and correct spellings of the names of individuals mentioned above.

Boi mela

FROM PAGE 12

from February 15 instead of February 1, adding that in the last 20 years, the fair has never started so randomly with the grounds still not prepared.

Osman Gani, proprietor of Agami Prokashani, also expressed sadness about the fairground not being ready even 24 hours before the fair. "If such a situation continues, people will not be willing to attend the book fair anymore."

KM Khalid, state minister for culture, said, "We are late in preparing for the fair because we were still unsure when the fair would begin. However, we hope the grounds would be completely ready before the inauguration."

Jalal Ahmed, member-secretary of the fair management committee, at a press conference yesterday said everyone will have to wear mask in order to enter the fair and visitors will be sprayed with sanitizer at the entrance. Stall owners, staffers, management officials and visitors will have to carry vaccine certificates.

He also said the fair this year will celebrate Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's birth centenary; the golden jubilee of independence; 70 years of the Language Movement; and 50 years of drafting of the constitution of Bangladesh.

From tomorrow till February 28, the Amar Ekushey Boi Mela, during which the Bangla Academy Awards 2021 will be held, will be open from 2:00pm till 9:00pm.

No one will be allowed in after 8:30pm.

Bangla Academy, which organises the fair, however, hoped the fair can be extended if Covid-19 transmission rates drop further.