

An excavator digs out soil, for using in brick kilns, from a cropland at Bandra village in Barguna's Amtali upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

Topsoil removal for brick making wreaks havoc on agri land

Crop production to suffer in Barguna's Amtali upazila

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Massive use of topsoil for brick manufacturing badly affects fertility of agricultural lands in Amtali upazila of Barguna district.

There is huge demand of earth as millions of bricks are produced in 20 brick kilns in Sadar, Haldia, Chaowra, Kukua, Gulishakhali and Atharogachia unions of the upazila every year.

Of the kilns, 11 are of zigzag type ones while 9 others use traditional drum chimneys

The owners of these kilns often collect earth from croplands for making bricks.

Hardly aware of the harmful effects, many people sell earth from their land to brick kiln owners, locals said, adding that a thousand cubic feet of soil is selling for Tk 1000.

Brick kiln owners take the soil after digging deep with excavators.

Besides, many farmers dig ponds in the name of fish enclosure in their agricultural land while their main purpose is to sell earth to brick kiln owners.

Consequently, vast agricultural lands are losing fertility.

Brick Manufacturing and Brick Kilns Establishment (Control) Act 2013 prohibits earth collection from agricultural lands, hills and tila (hillocks) for using in brick kilns.

In case of violation, there is provision for imprisonment up to two years and fine up to Tk 2 lakh.

During a recent visit to different areas including Raibala, Fakirbari, Bandra, Chhota Nilganj, Khalian, Ghatkhali,

Kalibari, Haldia, Talukdar Bazar, Chawla, Sonakhali and Badura, this correspondent saw topsoil collection from croplands with the help of excavators.

Land is being dug for collecting earth as raw material for making bricks, causing serious damage to the croplands, said Nazrul Islam, a farmer of Kaunia village in Chawra union.

Several others, including elderly farmer Abdul Aziz Gazi of Arpangasia village and Sohel Rana of Paschim Sonakhali village of Atharogasia union expressed similar concerns due to the mindless act.

They demanded that the administration take immediate steps to stop taking of soil from the croplands.

Bidhan Chandra, an agriculturist of

Amtali Agriculture Office, said, "The upper level of soil contains the most fertility elements. If it is removed, crop production will be under threat."

Echoing the same, Rezaul Karim, upazila agriculture officer of Amtali, expressed concern about the future of agriculture in the area.

Amtila Upazila Nirbahi Officer Monira Parveen said, "The landowners are selling the topsoil without realising that the callous act causes problem for crop cultivation. Necessary action will be taken to protect croplands."

"We will conduct drives against the brick kiln owners who tempt the land owners to sell topsoil. We will also identify the illegal brick kilns in different areas of the upazila and take action against them," she added.

Barbarity inexplicable!

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Twelve-year-old Lazim Molla had a fascination for Arabic and just this year, he joined a residential madrasa.

But the young boy landed in a hospital with severe injuries yesterday after the acting principal of the madrasa, in Manikganj Sadar upazila, allegedly beat him up.

With bruises all over his back and buttocks, the sixth grader, from Sarbonandapur village and son of an expatriate in the Middle East, was admitted to Manikganj District Hospital around 3:00pm.

Sitting on the hospital bed, Lazim said the incident took place at Burundi Tajbidul Quran Hafizia Madrasa on Saturday night after Esha prayers when Motiur Rahman, the teacher, repeatedly hit him with an iron ruler.

Although he passed Primary Education Completion (PEC) examinations from Borundi Government Primary School last year, his fascination with Arabic drew him to the madrasa and he was supposed to start Quran studies last Sunday.

The teacher was infuriated after Lazim made

wrong answers to several questions from his lessons, the child said, adding that when he started crying out of pain, Motiur pressed his hand over Lazim's mouth and continued beating.

Early Sunday morning, when the teacher and other students were offering Fazr prayers, Lazim snuck out of the madrasa and went home at nearby village.

After his mother, Lipi Akhter, took him to the hospital's emergency, the doctor's on duty got him admitted due to the severity of his injuries, said Dr Badrul Alam of the hospital.

Lazim was responding well to the medication and they hope that he would be out of the woods in a few days, he added.

The boy's mother, Lipi Akhter, said the entire family is shocked to witness the barbarity of a teacher and her son is traumatised from the brutality inflicted on him by a teacher.

For the past one year, Lazim performed as a substitute Imam at their village mosque. Noticing his fascination with Arabic, after he passed PEC examinations from Borundi Government Primary School last year, they got him admitted to the madrasa this year.

Demanding exemplary punishment for the teacher, she said people with no humane quality like Motiur should not be allowed in a noble profession such as teaching.

Contacted, Manikganj Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer Mohammad Iqbal Hossain said necessary legal action would be taken against the teacher and he already instructed the department concerned in this regard.

Motiur Rahman, the madrasa teacher, could not be reached for comments till filing of this report yesterday evening.

Son's brutality on mother

Our Correspondent, Jhalakathi

A woman was tortured brutally allegedly by her son and his wife and wife's sister in Jahilkhana Road area of Rajapur on Sunday.

The victim is Setara Begum, 60, wife of late Sobahan Hawlader of the area, said Abul Kalam Azad, officer-incharge (OC) of Rajapur Police Station.

Setara is now undergoing treatment at Rajapur Upazila Health Complex, said the OC.

A complaint was filed with the police station against accused Shahidul Islam, his wife Sukhi Aktar and Sukhi's sister Lakhi Aktar, said the police official.

Shahidul, a private service holder, is second of Setara's three sons. The three sons live with Setara in the area. Setara is owner of the house.

On Saturday, Shahidul beat her mother over contribution to the fund for house construction.

Setara said Shahidul, his wife and Lakhi Aktar on Sunday tortured her with bricks following an altercation over the issue.

Shahidul and his wife often tortured her, she said, adding that her eldest son Nannu, a construction worker, now cannot enter the house as Shahidul gave him death threat.

Setara's two or three fingers might have got fractured, said Abaul Khayer Mohammod Rasel, uapzila health and family planning officer.

Despite repeated calls, this correspondent could

not reach Shahidul for his comment on the issue as his

cellphone remained switched off.





Railings on both sides of Khulum Baria bridge, *left*, in Jhenidah's Shailakupa upazila town broke down about two years ago. But thanks to indifference of Shailakupa municipality, the townspeople are compelled to use the bridge risking untoward situation. Another damaged bridge, known as Katlagari bridge, in the town has also remained unrepaired for about six months. Similarly, a huge pothole, *right*, in the road in front of the office of secondary and higher education directorate in the town, continues to pose hazards to road users for about a month.

PHOTO: STAR

Three-day Anukul Chandra festival ends today



PHOTO: STAR

A three-day festival marking the 132th birth anniversary of Hindu saint Thakur Anukul Chandra began at his birthplace in Pabna's Hemavetpur Satsangha Ashram on Sunday.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A three-day festival marking the 132th birth anniversary of spiritual leader Thakur Anukul Chandra began at his birthplace in Pabna's Hemayetpur Satsangha Ashram on Sunday.

The traditional festival is arranged to highlight the great man's lessons to establish fraternity among all, leaving aside narrow communal attitude for the sake of humanity, organisers said.

Lawmaker from Pabna-5 Golam Faruk Khandaker Prince inaugurated the three-day festival on Sunday evening. Speaking as the chief guest, lawmaker Faruk stressed the

need of communal harmony for the sake of sustainable development.

"We can go for huge development, but if there

is no communal harmony, we won't be able to sustain it," said the lawmaker. Pabna Deputy Commissioner Kabir Mahamud, Additional Superintendent of Police Goutam Kumar

Biswas and Amolendu Chattapadhhya, a researcher of Thakur Anukul Chandra, among others, spoke.

President of Shatshangha Ashram Dr Rabindranath Sarkar presided over the programme.

A large number of devotees from across the country and aboard joined the holy festival, said Dr Naresh Chandra Modhu, convener of the festival committee

committee.

The devotees offer special prayer, listen to the Hindu saint's messages and render spiritual songs during the festival.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District: Thakurgaon
www.lged.gov.bd



Memo No-46.02.0094.000.14-001-19/646

Date: 08/03/2020

e-Tender Notice-26/2019-20 Corrigendum # 1 are hereby informed that following information has been added in e-

All concerned are hereby informed that following information has been added in e-Tender Notice: Memo No- Memo No-46.02.0094.000.14-001-19/438 Date: 03/02/2020 due to for uploaded Form.

l ender ID No.	Field name	Existing date & time	Amendment date & time
415247	Document last selling date & time	10/03/2020 Time: 17:00	23/03/2020 Time: 17:00
	Closing date & time	11/03/2020 Time: 10:00	24/03/2020 Time: 10:00
	Opening date & time	11/03/2020 Time: 10:00	24/03/2020 Time: 10:00
	Last date & time for tender/proposal security submission	10/03/2020 Time: 17:00	23/03/2020 Time: 17:00

All other terms & conditions as laid down in that invitation of e-Tender & tender document will be unchanged. This corrigendum notice with above amendment shall be part of the tender document

Interested persons can communicate with the undersigned during office hours.

Kanteswar Barman
Executive Engineer
LGED, Thakurgaon

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