



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 Atharogachia 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.

Amtali 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.

## 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-in-charge (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 Abul Khayer Mohammod Rasel, upazila 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 Hemayetpur 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 Chattapadhya, 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 abroad joined the holy festival, said Dr Naresh Chandra Modhu, convener of the festival 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



উন্নয়নের গণতন্ত্র  
শেখ হাসিনার মূলমন্ত্র

Memo No-46.02.0094.000.14-001-19/646

Date: 08/03/2020

### e-Tender Notice-26/2019-20 Corrigendum # 1

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.

Tender 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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GD-464