



Soil cut from a hill, in Moulvibazar's Barlekha upazila, being loaded onto a truck for a project titled 'Rehabilitation of Kulaura-Shahbazpur Section of Bangladesh Railway', inset.

PHOTO: STAR

DESTRUCTION OF HILLS

Railway at it too in Barlekha

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

Defying laws intended to conserve the nature and forests in the country, different organisations affiliated with the government continue to destroy natural topography in the name of various development projects across the country. Bangladesh Railway (BR) is no different. Under a project titled 'Rehabilitation of Kulaura-Shahbazpur Section of Bangladesh Railway', the BR has been razing two large hills on about 4,500 square feet area in Barlekha upazila of Moulvibazar.

The dirt gathered from the hills, located in Burargul area of Shahbazpur union, are being used to level the sunken sections of the base where new rail tracks would be built under the Kulaura-Shahbazpur project, said locals.

After this correspondent drew attention of Nusrat Laila Nira, assistant commissioner (land) in Barlekha upazila, on the illegal hill cutting by the BR in the upazila, she said she also received reports that the BR was cutting hills in the area to use the soil for making foundation for rail tracks.

She however confirmed that no approval was issued to the BR for cutting hills for the purpose of filling up the foundation of rail tracks under the Kulaura-Shahbazpur project as the BR was already allocated funds for procurement of soil from outside sources.

"I visited the hilly area, but couldn't find anyone... legal action will be taken against them [the violators] soon," she said.

Contacted, Badrul Huda, assistant director

of Department of Environment (DoE) in Moulvibazar, said they found evidence of unlawful cutting of hills in Barlekha and the use of soil from the hills in the railway project.

He said after he reached the site of the hills early this month, the workers engaged in the hill cutting fled the scene, leaving behind an excavator. "This is absolutely illegal" as the DoE did not issue any clearance to any organisation for razing hills in the area, he said.

"Cutting hills without obtaining permission from the government is a punishable offence. I sent detailed report to our high-ups. They [the offenders] will face legal action including lawsuits."

During a recent visit to Burargul area, north of Shahbazpur union, this correspondent saw almost half of the two hills were almost levelled

to the ground and assisted by nearly seven to eight workers, mechanised diggers were loading the soil onto tipper trucks, four to six in total.

The workers said the hills were owned by Faisal Ahmed, Rafiz Ali, Shawab Ali, Abdul Latif and Cherag Ali.

Sharif Uddin and Zulhas Mia, two of the drivers of the vehicles, said the soil was being taken for the railway development work.

One of the workers, requesting not to be named, said they were working at the instruction of Firoz Mia, a railway staffer, and Faisal Ahmed, an expatriate in Saudi Arabia.

The workers were being paid on daily basis, he also said.

Locals said the hill cutting has been going on for about a month, mostly at nights.

Amina Begum, wife of Rafiz Ali, one of the owners of the hills, said, "The railway people are cutting the hills" and the excavator and trucks belonged to the railway.

Another hill owner, Faisal Ahmed, said, he agreed to cut the hills at the request of BR staffer Firoz Mia so the soil could be used to fill up low-lying areas for the new rail tracks.

He also claimed that Firoz Mia has all necessary "documents including the clearance from the DoE". Firoz Mia could not be reached for his comments as his cell phone was found switched off.

The cell phone of Tanvirul Islam, additional chief engineer of Bangladesh Railway and director of the Kulaura-Shahbazpur project of the BR, was also unreachable.

Chemical-free vegetable brings bright prospect

Growers enthusiastic as DAE's experiment at Tilai Joychondi village in Nilphamari Sadar sees success

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

Tilai Joychondi village in Sadar upazila has already earned the reputation of 'safe vegetable producing area' as a good number of farmers are cultivating in environment-friendly way for producing poison-free vegetables.

In early January this year, the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) provided training to 20 farmers of the village on organic farming of vegetables.

The farmers adopted the method and later many others followed.

Visiting the village on Sunday, this correspondent found several farmers busy in taking care of organically grown summer vegetables like bitter melon, pumpkin, pointed gourd, brinjal and snake gourd.

The growers said they got handsome profit from winter vegetables, which were produced in organic way in an experimental basis under the supervision of agricultural officials.

At the village's entrance, a big ditch covered with a thatched shed was seen where farmers put cow dung, rotten water hyacinth etc to prepare compost manure.

Noorjahan, 48, was preparing vermin compost using earthworm in large concrete rings.

"We were used to farming with chemical fertilizers and pesticides. After learning from agricultural officials that it is a harmful practice, we switched to organic farming. Besides, we became aware that conscious people are ready to pay higher for poison-free vegetables," farmer Ohidul Islam said.

Agricultural officials arranged training on preparing organic fertilizers, pesticides and pheromone traps, said another farmer Hemanta Roy.

During the visit, farmer Fahima Begum, 45, was seen making organic pesticide by mixing



crushed leaves of neem, tobacco and papaya with water to keep at a shady place for days. She learnt the process from DAE's trainers.

Sirajul Islam, 50, was spraying in his pumpkin field liquid fertilizer, which he prepared by mixing cow dung, oil bran, bone dust, molasses etc with water and allowing fermentation for seven to ten days.

"Organic farming is cost effective as we prepare fertiliser and pesticide at home from available natural materials while chemical ones are costly," said Sirajul.

Solaiman Ali, 55, said he cultivated bitter gourd on 30 decimals of land and expect to get 750 kg of yield.

"Hopefully I will get Tk 34.5 thousand by selling it while my expenditure is Tk 13.5

thousand only as use of organic farming saved the expenditure for buying chemical fertilizer and pesticide," he said.

Sonarai Union agriculture officer Nazmul Huda Mithusaid, "Farmers also use environment-friendly sex pheromone traps, net houses, yellow sticky traps etc to prevent insects."

However, farmers in one voice reported that they badly need at least an organic vegetable shop in every market so that buyers can easily identify healthy products.

Contacted, Nilphamari DAE's Deputy Director Nikhil Chandra Biswas said, "We provide all out support to farmers of Tilai Joychondi village in producing safe vegetables. We have a plan to spread the practice in the entire district in phases."



Above, a 'net house' meant for protecting vegetables from insects, flies and mites, and below, a farmer checks organic pesticides while another prepares vermicompost fertiliser at Tila Joychondi village in Nilphamari Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation
BSC Bhaban, 1st Floor, Saltgola Road
Chattogram, Bangladesh

Ref No. 28.03.0000.041.01.004.20(CRSS-29) Date: 19th March, 2020

Invitation for International/Local Tender Notice for Supply of 2000 (two thousand) Metric Ton Cold Rolled Steel Coil in Two Sizes

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) hereby invites offers from reputed suppliers for supply of CRS Coil in accordance with the terms & conditions set out hereinafter:

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resource/Energy and Mineral Resources Division.
2	Agency	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC).
3	Procuring entity name	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC).
4	Procuring entity district	Chattogram, Bangladesh.
5	Invitation for	Supply of 2000 Metric Tons of Cold Rolled Steel Coil.
6	Invitation Ref. No. and date	Ref No. 28.03.0000.041.01.004.20(CRSS-29), Date: 19 th March, 2020.
7	Delivery schedule and place	Delivery: Within 60 days from the date of signing contract. Place: ERL Warehouse, North Potenga, Chattogram for local supply and C & F Chattogram basis for foreign supply.
8	Price	Price to be quoted in local currency/foreign currency (in US Dollar C & F Chattogram basis) as mentioned in the tender document.
9	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method.
10	Budget and source of funds	BPC Revenue Budget.
11	Tender package name	International/Local tender for supply of 2000 M. Ton of Cold Rolled Steel Coil in two sizes.
12	Tender last selling date	29-04-2020
13	Tender closing date and time	30-04-2020, Time: 1200 hours (BST).
14	Tender opening date and time	30-04-2020, Time: 1205 hours (BST).
15	Offer validity time	31-07-2020, Time: 1700 hours (BST).
16	Pre-tender meeting	Place: BPC Head Office, BSC Bhaban, 1 st Floor, Saltgola Road, Chattogram, Bangladesh. Date: 12/04/2020; Time: 1130 Hrs.
Name and address of the office(s)		
17	Selling place of tender documents	(i) Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BSC Bhaban, 1 st Floor, Saltgola Road, Chattogram, Bangladesh. (ii) Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BTMC Bhaban, Level-10, 7-9, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh.
18	Name and address of the office receiving tender	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BSC Bhaban, 1 st Floor, Saltgola Road, Chattogram, Bangladesh.
19	Name and address of the office opening tender	-Do- (in presence of the bidders or their authorized agents who would wish to be present).
20	Qualification of the suppliers	Necessary papers to be submitted complying the conditions mentioned in the tender document.
21	Brief description of goods/items	2000 M. Ton of Cold Rolled Steel Coil in Coil/Package(CRSS) in two sizes as per JISG 3141 SPCC- SD or N.F.A 36-401-83
22	Tender documents price	Tk. 3,000/- or US\$ 40.00 per set.
23	Bid Bond/Bank Guarantee	All offers must be accompanied by a Bid Bond amounting to Taka 14.00 lac or US Dollar 17,000.00 and must have validity of 60 (sixty) days from the date of tender opening.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
24	Official inviting tender	Md. Abu Hanif.
25	Designation of official inviting tender	Sr. General Manager (Com. & Ops).
26	Address of official inviting tender	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BSC Bhaban, 1 st Floor, Saltgola Road, Chattogram, Bangladesh.
27	Contact details of official inviting tender	Phone: +88031-716121, Mobile: 01755587625 Fax: +880031-720147/724910
28	Bidder(s) must submit along with their offer the original money receipt for tender document purchased in Bangladesh.	
29	Other terms and conditions will be as per BPC's tender document for supply of 2000 M. Tons of Cold Rolled Steel Coil (Ref No. 28.03.0000.041.01.004.20(CRSS-29), Dated 19 th March, 2020). All bidders must specify the source of supply mentioning the name of country/countries. Any conditional offer will not be valid. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers in part or in full without assigning any reason.	

GD-540