

Mushrooming illegal brick fields in Khagrachhari

All 49 illegal, burn 3cr maunds of firewood a year

JASIM MAJUMDER, Khagrachhari

Mushrooming illegal brickfields in Khagrachhari are posing a threat to the environment and agriculture in the hill district. All the brickfields use firewood as fuel.

Besides harming the environment and agriculture by emitting poisonous carbon dioxide, they are eating up scarce cultivable lands in the hill district, sources said.

Environmentalists said the vast natural forests in Khagrachhari are reduced as use of firewood continues unabated.

None of the 49 brickfields has any licence. Their owners even do not bother to acquire licence, said a magistrate in the district administration seeking anonymity.

Chimneys of most of the brickfields are 20 to 30 feet in height. This defies rule of the Department of Environment (DoE) which mandates erecting 120 feet high chimney, said Mohammad Khalilur Rahman of Parivesh Andolon Forum, a local environmental organisation.

Prodip Chowdhury, programme supervisor of the Centre for Sustainable Development (CSD), said the diminishing forest in Khagrachhari is going to have a negative impact on the environment in the entire region as most of the brickfields use firewood.

Deputy Director (DD) of Khagrachhari Agriculture Extension T Department (AED) M Monjurul Islam blamed brickfields for trees without fruits -- which is a common phenomenon in many villages.

Most of the brickfields are near human habitations, urban areas



Firewood piled up for use at a brickfield in Matiranga upazila in Khagrachhari.

reserve forests, natural forests, violating Article 5 of Bricks Burning (Controls) Act, 1989, which specifies that brickfields should be set up at least three kilometers from localities and forests, Islam said.

Talking to this correspondent, AED official Babatosh Chakrabarti pointed out the disastrous impact of brickfields on agriculture. "Yield of paddy and other crops is declining day by day as more and more fertile cultivable land is ending up as brickfields", he said.

A brickfield uses over 10 acres of land, which was earlier used for producing crops or vegetables, he said.

He also alleged that brickfield owners maintain good links with a section of officials.

This correspondent visited

least 2.8 lakh maunds of firewood are required in each brickfield in a year, during which most of the brickfields produce bricks more than 8 times, the sources said.

The brickfields Asked, an owner in Khagrachhari confessed that he has no licence for his brickfield as the DoE does not allow its operation as he does.

Another owner in Dighinala said he maintains good links with a section of officials. He however said he would not use firewood if the government provides easy availability of coal.

Magistrate Abul Amin said he realised Tk 26,000 as fine from three brickfields for using firewood.

Divisional Forest Officer Shah-e-Alam denied 'misuse' of forest resources by brickfields. "We do not support use of firewood as fuel in brickfields", he said.

"Matiranga Ranger Sayed Hasmat Ali seized two truckloads of firewood and I also seized two others while those were going to brickfields", he said.

He could not give any clarification when asked why he did not file any case against the illegal brickfields.

Khagrachhari co-ordinator of Bela (Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association) Muhammad Abu Daud said his organisation will go for legal action against use of firewood in brickfields.

Additional District Magistrate (ADM) Monindra Kishor Tripura said the administration will form a joint taskforce to investigate the alleged illegal operation of brickfields and use of firewood.

According to an estimate, at

Ex-MP sues husband for theft

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Former lawmaker Rehana Aktar Hira of Jhenidah constituency has filed two theft cases with Jhenidah court against her husband Moshir Rahman Joarder and two others.

Khairul Islam of Narayanpur village in Sadar upazila and Shohag Sheikh of Potahati village in Sadar upazila are two other accused in the case filed on December 30, 07.

During her illness her husband Moshir Rahman Joarder, Khairul Islam and Shohag Sheikh stole three supplying machines worth around Tk 10 lakh from Messers Lalon Filling Station owned by Rehana Aktar Hira, goes the case statement. Rehana was a lawmaker from a reserved seat for women during 1996-2001.

The filling station is situated at Sadhuhati on Chuadanga-Jhenidah road under Sadar upazila.

Moshir stole Hira's private car worth around Tk 5 lakh on November 1 last year. When Hira asked her husband to return the car he kicked her on the abdomen and tried to kill her by strangling, she mentioned in the other case. Hearing her screams neighbours rushed to the spot and rescued her, she added.

Despite several attempts over mobile phone, former lawmaker Hira could not be contacted.

'Strengthen local govts'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Speakers at a seminar held here yesterday underscored the need for strengthening the local government institutions.

Pabna district administration organised the seminar, 'Orientation for Local Government Support Project (LGSP)'. Held at Pabna Zila Parishad Rashid Hall, Pabna Deputy Commissioner Md Golam Mowla presided as chief guest.

Terming Union Parishad (UP) as the oldest local government body, speakers stressed on activating the Ups.

Speakers disclosed that the World Bank gave Tk 1,421 crore as loan to the LGSP project to strengthen the local government bodies.

A total of 49 unions in 24 upazilas of Pabna, Natore and Sirajganj are under the LGSP project.

Among others, director of Local Government Department Md Akmal Hossain, chief executive officer of Pabna Zila Parishad Md Sadar Ali Biswas, additional deputy commissioner (ADC, General) Md Mahbubul Alam and World Bank consultant Abdullah Sadik addressed.

Twenty-four Upazila Nirbahi Officers, 49 UP chairmen and 49 secretaries of Pabna, Natore and Sirajganj districts took part.

RETALIATORY ATTACK BY JMB Ward commissioner, 5 others charge-sheeted in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Investigation authorities yesterday pressed charges against seven accused including Satkhira Poursava ward commissioner Shahidul Islam in the case filed by Rawshan Ali, a pick pocket who helped law enforcers nab the Jama'atul Mujahidin Bangladesh (JMB) cadres involved in the August 17 serial bombing in 2005 in the district.

Rawshal filed an 'attempted murder case' against the JMB cadres.

The investigation officer (IO) of the case, Sub-inspector (SI) Rafiqul Islam of Satkhira Sadar police station, submitted the charge sheet to the Chief Judicial Magistrate's court here.

The other charge-sheeted accused are Golam Hossain, son of Md Musa Gazi; Abdul Alim, son of Abu Taher Mistri; Abdul Aziz and Abdul Jalil, sons of Yusuf Ali Gazi and Golam Mostafa alias Don, son of Abdul Mazid Hawladar of Islampur village in the Sadar upazila and Abdul Bari of Kushlia village in Kaliganj upazila.

Five of the accused including ward commissioner Shahidul Islam are now in Satkhira jail while the

other JMBs absconding since filing of the case.

Police and court sources said a gang of miscreants belonging to JMB hacked Rawshan Ali of Bakal Islampur village in Sadar upazila at Daulatpur village in the same upazila allegedly to retaliate the arrest of JMB operatives on the night of May 25 last year. He was seriously injured in the attack.

Pick pocket Rawshan Ali was the only eyewitness in the August 17 serial blasts cases.

Rawshan Ali's son Nur Islam filed the case with Satkhira Sadar police station against the accused.

On August 17, 2005, Rawshan Ali, went to pick pocket on the premises of Women and Children Repression Preventive Court. He saw his neighbor Nasir Uddin Dafadar standing there with a bag in his hand. Five minutes after the bag was kept there, a bomb inside it went off.

Five other bombs also went off simultaneously at five spots in the town.

Pick pocket Rawshan Ali informed police, who arrested Nasir Uddin Dafadar of Bakal Islampur village and other JMB operatives and detected JMB involvement in the serial blasts in Satkhira town along with other district headquarters across the country.

BSF kills 30 on Satkhira border last year

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Despite 'good understanding and assurance' during several talks between the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) and Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), a staggering number of 30 Bangladeshi cattle traders were shot dead by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) in different border areas in the district in 2007.

BSF also gunned down three Indian smugglers in their border areas during the period, sources said.

At least 21 Bangladeshi nationals were also injured as BSF men opened fire on them or physically tortured them during the period.

The killings and torture of Bangladeshi citizens by BSF took place in Bhomra, Bhatsala, Padmashakhra, Basantapur, Ghona, Baikari, Taluigachhi, Kuskhali, Kakkanga, Madra, Hijaldi, Rudrapur, Chanduria, Kuskhali, Sreepur, Padmashakhra, Nimtala, Bhatsala and Shushilgati bordering areas in the district during the period.

Hang project details at offices Rangpur area GOC urges officials

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Maj. Gen. Syed Fatemi Ahmed Rume, GOC and Rangpur area commander of Bangladesh Army, has requested officials to hang details of development project at offices so that journalists and people can easily know about those.

The GOC said this while addressing a view exchange meeting with the executives of all government departments, NGOs, representatives of local bodies, leaders of different professional groups and journalists at the conference room of Nilphamari Circuit House on Thursday.

The general said the government will enact law promoting access to information for everyone to ensure transparency. The government has launched a drive against corruption under the banner of 'Operation Alor Sandhani' and the corrupts got a message that they would not go unpunished, he said.

9 rescued from traffickers

RU CORRESPONDENT

Police rescued six women and three children while they were being trafficked to India through Rajshahi border at Shiroil bus terminal in Rajshahi city.

Following a tip, a team of Boalia police asked the identity of a group of women and children waiting at the bus terminal when they said a man named Zakir brought them there from village Kankul under Narail district, promising jobs in India.

The trafficker, Zakir managed to escape sensing presence of the law enforcers.

The rescued are -- Sofia Khatun, Salina Begum, Khozoda, her son Rubel, Rekha Khatun, Bilkis Khatun, her son Shakil, Kobori Khatun and Bipul.

Prospect of good jobs in India allured them as they were starving in the village, Bilkis told newsmen.



Joint forces inquire about prices and supply at wholesale rice markets at Kumarpara in Rajshahi yesterday.

Woes created by manmade flood

Over 2000 acres uncultivated since 2001 in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Persistent water-logging even in dry season has become a curse for over 3000 people in five villages in Kulia union in Debhata upazila, caused by unplanned shrimp cultivation.

The stagnant water since 2001 is greatly affecting their livelihood as they can not grow any crop, locals told this correspondent during a recent visit.

The affected villages are Gobrakhali, Shyamnagar, Bhennapota, Kashimari and Char Gobindapur.

The villagers alleged that they are virtually marooned as flood water remains stagnant because the outlet to Darar canal is obstructed at several points by unplanned dams for shrimp cultivation.

They said they cannot grow any crop on about 2000 acres of land covering the five villages as those remain under water round the year.

Some influential shrimp cultivators have taken lease of the canal

from government at nominal prices and they are cultivating shrimps by constructing dams at several points.

Local people demanded demolition of the dams and re-excavation of the canal to restore normal water flow to solve the problem.


Last week, Kulia Union Parishad (UP) acting chairman Abdul Hannan, local land records official Mokhesur Rahman and representatives of the local elite faced a demonstration when went to the area on a visit.

They calmed down the demonstrators by assuring them to demolish the dams and take steps to drain out the stagnant water.

On contact, Abdul Hannan said the problem is manmade as the local land office leased the canal to some influential shrimp cultivators who obstructed the normal water flow by building dams. He also urged the authorities concerned to take immediate steps to solve the problem.



Persistent water-logging leaves croplands in Kulia union in Debhata upazila uncultivated for years.




AGRANI BANK LIMITED
PRINTING & STATIONERY DIVISION
HEAD OFFICE, DHAKA

INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE FOR SUPPLY OF 4000 (FOUR THOUSAND) REAMS SECURITY CHEQUE PAPERS.

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the bonafide manufacturers of security cheque papers or through local agents/representatives on behalf of the foreign principals/manufactures for Supply of 4000(Four thousand) reams security cheque papers as per specification and under the terms & conditions stated in the schedule:

01. Name of the Organization	Agrani Bank Limited
02. Tender schedule Number & Date	ITN/P&S/SP/01/08 Dated 03-01-08
03. Procuring Method	CTM
04. Nature of Work/Tender	Supply of 4000 Ream security cheque paper, unlinetted white sensitized Security Cheque Paper with invisible fluorescent Hi-lites pigment particles (Security dots) all over the paper in 4(four) colour which is visible under Ultra-violet Lamp with the bank approved design of two-tone Dandy Roll water mark in Bengali script of 'স্বাধীন ব্যাংক লিমিটেড' together with bank's monogram. Size of Paper 18" x 23" (45.72cm x 58.42cm) of 85 GMS having 500 sheets in each ream.
05. Number of Package	1(One)
06. Name and Address of the Procuring Entity	Agrani Bank Limited, Printing & Stationery Division, Head Office, Bhawan-2, Motijheel, Dhaka
07. Source of Fund	Own Fund
08. Name and Address of the office, selling Tender documents	Agrani Bank Limited, Printing & Stationery Division, Head Office, 72 Motijheel, Dhaka and Agrani Bank Limited, Website www.Agrani Bank .org
09. Last date and time for selling tender document	During office hours up to 3 rd February, 2008
10. Price of Tender Document	Tk. 1500/- (Non-Refundable)
11. Last date and time for submission of Tender	4th February, 2008 up to 2.00 P.M
12. Amount of Tender Security	2.00 lac only (Refundable)
13. Place, Date & Time for Opening Tender	Agrani Bank Limited, Printing & Stationery Division, Head Office, Bhawan-2, Motijheel, Dhaka 04-02-2008 at 2.30 P.M by the Tender opening committee.
14. Eligibility of Tenderers	The Tenderer shall have minimum 3 years experience & bonafide supplier.
15. Papers to be submitted by The Tenderer	(a) Current Trade Licence (b) Indentors Registration Certificate (from CCI & E. and Bangladesh Bank.) (c) Income Tax paid Certificate(current) (d) Vat Registration Certificate of last two consecutive fiscal years
16. Special Instruction	The Bank is not bound to accept the lowest quotation. Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders/quotations without assigning any reason whatsoever.

(Shahidul Huq)
Deputy General Manager
Phone No-9560718



বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড
Bangladesh Power Development Board
ব্যবস্থাপক (সংরক্ষণ) ১-৪ ইউনিট
যোগাযোগ বিভাগ কেন্দ্র
বিটবো, পালাশ, নারসিংদি

Invitation for Tender

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Power Division.			
2. Agency	Bangladesh Power Development Board.			
3. Procuring entity name	Executive Engineer (Civil Maint), 1-4, GPS, PDB, Palash, Narsingdi.			
4. Procuring entity code	Not used at present.			
5. Procuring entity district	Narsingdi.			
6. Invitation for	Works.			
7. Invitation Ref. No.	Memo No-GPS/Civil-18/2007/363.			
8. Date	Date: 26-12-2007.			
KEY INFORMATION				
9. Procurement method	Open tendering method.			
FUNDING INFORMATION				
10. Budget and source of funds	Revenue (Maintenance).			
11. Development partner (if applicable)	Not applicable.			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
12. Project/programme code (if applicable)	Not applicable.			
13. Project/programme name (if applicable)	Not applicable.			
14. Tender package No.	Not applicable.			
15. Tender package name	১। যোগাযোগ বিভাগ কেন্দ্রের ১নং পাশ পাট ইনটেক চ্যানেল হইতে ফ্রিট এর মডি সংরক্ষণ কাজ। ২। যোগাযোগ বিভাগ কেন্দ্রের পলাশ-৬নং (৮০০ বাফু) কবনের বেরামত ও সংরক্ষণ কাজ।			
16. Tender publication date	Not applicable.			
17. Tender last selling date and time	28-01-2008 up to office time.			
18. Tender submission & closing date and time	29-01-2008, Time: 9am-11am & 11:00am.			
19. Tender opening date and time	29-01-2008, Time: 12noon.			
20. Name & address of the office(s)	Address(s) Manager, Janata Bank, Palash, Narsingdi. Chief Engineer (Generation), BPDB, WAPDA Bhawan, Dhaka. Executive Engineer (Civil Maint), GPS, PDB, Palash, Narsingdi. Office of the Executive Engineer (Civil Maint), GPS, PDB, Palash, Narsingdi. The tenderers or their authorise representatives are allowed to attend the opening of the tender.			
21. Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	Not applicable.			
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
22. Eligibility of tenderer	Contractor of BPDB or any govt./semi-govt./non-govt./autonomous organization.			
23. Brief description of goods or works	১। যোগাযোগ বিভাগ কেন্দ্রের ১নং পাশ পাট ইনটেক চ্যানেল হইতে ফ্রিট এর মডি সংরক্ষণ কাজ। ২। যোগাযোগ বিভাগ কেন্দ্রের পলাশ-৬নং (৮০০ বাফু) কবনের বেরামত ও সংরক্ষণ কাজ।			
24. Brief description of related services	Not applicable.			
25. Tender document price	1. Taka 1,000.00 (one thousand) only. 2. Taka 1,200.00 (one thousand two hundred) only.			
LOT INFORMATION				
Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount in Taka	Completion time in days
26.	১। যোগাযোগ বিভাগ কেন্দ্রের ১নং পাশ পাট ইনটেক চ্যানেল হইতে ফ্রিট এর মডি সংরক্ষণ কাজ। ২। যোগাযোগ বিভাগ কেন্দ্রের পলাশ-৬নং (৮০০ বাফু) কবনের বেরামত ও সংরক্ষণ কাজ।	GPS Compound	1. Tk. 6,000.00 (six thousand) only	1. 60 days
			2. Tk. 7,000.00 (seven thousand) only	2. 45 days
27.	Type of payment for security amount	Bank Draft/Pay-Order.		
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
28.	Name of official inviting tender	Engr. Md. Abdul Ghani		
29.	Designation of official inviting tender	Executive Engineer (Civil Maint.), GPS, PDB, Palash, Narsingdi.		
30.	Address of official inviting tender	GPS, PDB, Palash, Narsingdi.		
31.	Contact details of official inviting tender	N/A.		

Engr. MD Abdul Ghani
Executive Engineer (Civil Maintenance)
Ghorasal Power Station
BPDB, Palash, Narsingdi

Biddyt/Jana-681(4)/01-01-08
GD-48