

Unlicensed brick kiln in densely populated area

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Patuakhali

The chairman of Auliapur Union Parishad in Patuakhali Sadar upazila has set up a brick kiln occupying over 0.50 acres of khas land in a densely populated area at East Auliapur village under the upazila without permission from the authorities concerned.

Owner of the illegal brick kiln, Humayun Kabir is also joint general secretary of Patuakhali Sadar upazila unit of ruling Awami League.

The kiln area is located beside Sehakathi canal adjacent to Kabir's village house.

According to Section 4(1) of the Brick Burning (Control) Act, 1989, nobody can

set up brickfield or burn bricks without taking licence.

The same act prohibits setting up of brickfield in densely populated areas and using wood as fuel for baking bricks.

Ignoring the law, Humayun Kabir set up a brickfield on the khas land.

However, he submitted a prayer seeking licence to the deputy commissioner (DC) in Patuakhali in June last year.

"Humayun Kabir submitted his prayer for setting up a brickfield in his area without any 'No objection certificate' from the Department of Environment. So the DC office is yet to issue the licence," said Najir of DC office Ashraf Hossain, who

also maintains the file at the office.

During a visit to the brickfield, this correspondent saw pile of wood that was kept on the premises for use as fuel to bake bricks.

The brickfield started in December last year and at least 80,000 bricks have already been sold from it, said a worker of the field seeking anonymity.

Asked about the matter, Patuakhali Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md Zakir Hossain said he does not know about it.

When contacted, Patuakhali DC Mohammad Eusuf said, "We consider the prayer for setting up a brickfield only after receiving certificate from the Department of

Environment."

"We have not issued environmental certificate to Humayun Kabir till now. His prayer is pending and we will consider the matter after proper investigation," said Asadul Haque, deputy director of the Department of Environment in Barisal.

"Nobody can start brick production without permission. We will take step with the help of mobile court soon," he added.

When contacted, Humayun Kabir, owner of the brickfield, said, "I submitted necessary papers to the DC office seeking permission. I also submitted papers seeking 'no objection' certificate from the environment department in Barisal.



PHOTO: STAR
Firewood is piled up on the premises of this unlicensed brick kiln just beside a densely populated area of East Auliapur village in Patuakhali Sadar upazila.



PHOTO: STAR
RELIQS IN RUINS: This site of ancient relics of the Gupta period at Sarkarpara in Bogra Sadar upazila got damaged as the upazila parishad built a rural road in the 'protected area' under the Department of Archaeology.

Gupta era relic damaged for 'development work'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,
Bogra

Bogra Sadar Upazila Parishad recently implemented a rural road project in Sarkarpara area destroying brick built structures of ancient Gupta period.

Implemented under 'Karmo Srijoni programme', the road project started on October 16 and completed on December 18 last year, said Project Implementation Officer (PIO) in Bogra Sadar, Shamsunnahar Sheuly.

The whole process was done without the knowledge of the Department of Archaeology although it is a

protected site under the department.

After being informed, Naheed Sultana, custodian of Mahasthan Archaeological Museum, on 19 January lodged a general diary with Bogra Sadar police station enclosing a copy of the Archaeology Act for necessary action. She also sent a letter to Bogra Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Sultana Pervin in this regard.

Asked about the matter, the UNO said that local people made a rural road using ancient bricks and soil of the protected archaeological site but it was unknown to the project authority.

Regional Director of the Department of Archaeology Md Badrul Alam told this correspondent that the authority has taken initiative to protect the site according to the Antiquity Act.

Taleb Ali, 85, and a few other local people said that at least 700 metre new cut road cut through the site.

A few months earlier, Bogra Sadar upazila parishad started a similar project destroying another ancient archaeological site 'Boro Tagra' that also included structures of Gupta period. However, the project was suspended following protests from different quarters.

BID TO CAPTURE LAND

Criminals kill owner, injure 6 of his family

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Nilphamari

A man was killed by a gang over occupation of a land at Angar Para Baro Bari village in Nilphamari Sadar upazila yesterday.

The victim, Zahurul Islam, 50, was father of Atowar Rahman, Nilphamari correspondent of The New Nation.

Police and family sources said a gang of criminals illegally occupied a plot of land owned by the victim and his brothers at the vil-

lage. As the illegal occupants tried to transplant boro plants on the land on Saturday, Zahurul tried to prevent them. At this stage, the gang hit him on the head with Chinese axe, leaving him seriously injured.

They also beat up victim's wife Aktara Begum, 45, and five other members of his family.

A police team reached the spot and took the injured to Nilphamari Sadar Hospital. The hospital authorities sent Zahurul to RMCH where he died yesterday morning.

Couple arrested as maid brutally tortured

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Netrakona

A poultry development officer and his wife have been arrested on charge of causing serious burn injuries to their 12-year-old domestic help at their Netrakona municipality house.

Dr Shishir Chakma of village Udalbagan under Dighinala upazila in Khagrachhari district joined 'Netrakona District Duck Rearing Unit' at Rajur Bazar in Netrakona municipality three years ago.

In March last year, he took Laxmishita Chakma from Khamarbari, a village adjacent to Udalbagan, to work

as his domestic help.

Shishir's wife Jesika Chakma used to beat Laxmishita, sources said.

On Tuesday midnight, Jesika beat up Laxmishita over the issue of stealing some money. At one stage Jesika struck her with a heated iron bar on different parts of the body, causing serious burn injuries to her, said police and locals.

As the news spread in the area on Wednesday morning, hundreds of local people besieged the duck rearing unit and informed police. Police rushed to the spot and arrested Shishir Chakma and Jesika Chakma

and sent injured Laxmishita to Netrakona Sadar Hospital.

A case was filed with Netrakona Sadar Police Station under Children and Women Repression Prevention Act accusing Shishir Chakma and Jesika Chakma. Police on Thursday produced them before Netrakona Judicial Magistrate's Court and the court sent them to jail.

Resident Medical Officer of Netrakona Sadar Hospital Nil Uful Talukder told this correspondent yesterday that Laxmi Shita is undergoing treatment at the hospital and she is out of danger.

Verdict in Naogaon mutiny case today

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
C'nauwbaganj

The special court-12 will deliver judgement in BDR mutiny case against 25 jawans of 43 battalion in Naogaon today.

The court headed by Rajshahi Sector Commander Lt Col Ehia Azam Khan will pronounce the verdict in the case. Two other members of the special court are Lt Col Gazi Mohammad Khalid Hossain and Lt Commander (BN) Muhammad Touhidul Islam.

The accused are subedar

major Khalid Hossain, nayek subedar Shaikh Atiar Ali, lance nayeks Rezaul Karim, Aminuzzaman and Akram Hossain, nayeks Shaikh Farid and Hedayet Ali, sepoy Alim Al Fuad, Faye Ahmed, Munshi Nazmul Haque, Masum Billah, Motiar Rahman, Biplob Hossain, Ariful Islam, Nur Mohammad, Khondakar Mamun Hossain, Shahinur Alam, Moshtak Ali, Kohinur Islam. Javed Younus, Iqbal Hossain, Moshir Rahman, Mehdi Hasan and Shahidul Islam.

Of the accused, six confessed to their involvement in the mutiny at the battalion in Naogaon town on February 26 in 2009 and begged mercy while the rest claimed innocence.

The then officer-in-charge (OC) of Naogaon

Model Police Station Aminul Islam filed a mutiny case against 25 BDR jawans of 43 battalion with the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court on May 17, 2009.

The mutineers were later arrested and produced in the court that sent them to jail hajat.

In the case statement, the complainant alleged that jawans looted firearms from the battalion armoury and fired blank shots. They also revolted against their officers and took control of the battalion headquarters.

On December 21 last year, the court completed recording depositions of 21 prosecution witnesses in the mutiny case. Arguments between the prosecution witnesses and the accused completed on December 22 last year.



PHOTO: STAR
Students of Rainagar Primary School in Shibganj upazila under Bogra district bring out a mock bridal procession yesterday to create awareness about the bad effects of child marriage.

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