



A group of workers caught red-handed while they were cutting hills in Daulatpur area under Barlekha upazila of Moulvibazar on Thursday.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

Rampant hill cutting increases landslide risks

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

Despite a government ban, illegal hill cutting is rampant in the hilly areas of Moulvibazar.

Villagers under Barlekha, Kulaura, Sreemangal, Juri and Rajnagar upazilas, which are mostly hilly, are passing days in fear of landslides as the rainy season approaches.

"Incidents of landslide happen every year during the rainy seasons due to illegal hill cutting," said Abdul Mannan, a farmer of Dimai village under Barlekha.

"The entire road from Dimai Bazar to Barlekha was blocked due to a landslide last year. We continue to live in fear of landslides," said Tapan Das, a villager under Juri.

According to green activists, unabated hill cutting is posing a serious threat to the natural environment and biodiversity of the area.

Many powerful individuals cut hills in the name of development work, houses and business establishments, ignoring existing environmental laws and defying ban by the

Department of Environment (DoE), they added.

All these people have made the hills a death trap where landslide claims lives on a regular basis.

Though the district administration is conducting drives, strict measures are needed to stop this menace, said Abdul Karim Kim, general secretary of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolok, Sylhet chapter.

He said despite drives by the administration, influential locals continue to raze hills and extract stones in the area.

Contacted, SM Abdullah Al Mamun, UNO of Barlekha upazila, said they are conducting drives against hill cutting.

He said the administration on Thursday fined two persons a total of Tk 55,000 in Daulatpur area under Barlekha upazila for cutting hills. They were identified as Abdul Jalil, a resident of Daulatpur village, and Dinar Hosain, a resident of Banikuna village.

"Some unscrupulous people are cutting hills to dig out stone, while some are leveling it for housing plots," he said.

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Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Dr. Kazi Mohammad Fakhrul Islam, who graduated from Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University in 2016, is suffering from liver cancer.

Diagnosed with the disease in March 2017, he is now undergoing treatment at Gleneagles Global Hospitals in Chennai, India.

Doctors say a total of Tk 30 lakh is needed for his treatment, which his father, a farmer, alone cannot afford.

So, the family appealed to the well-off to extend their helping hands to save his life.

Assistance can be sent to A/C No: 0100008057886, Janata Bank Ltd, CVASU Branch; Express Money/Western Union: Md. Iqbal Hasan +88 01521224080, +88 01734171346; bKash 01857804018, 01734171346, 01816297178.



A cyclist showcases his skills at a programme organised by Bangladesh Cycle Lane Implement Council at the Central Shaheed Minar in the capital yesterday morning. Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique launched the programme participated by 41 socio-environmental organisations. At the event, the cyclists demanded a separate lane for them.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

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Important Dates

Availability of Application Form	Upto 10 May 2017 between 9 am to 4 pm on working days (Sunday to Thursday) and 4 pm to 8 pm on Friday and Saturday.
Written Test	Department of Geography and Environment, University of Dhaka on 12 May 2017, Friday at 3.30 pm
Viva	13 May 2017 (9 am)
Publication of Result	16 May 2017 on Department Notice Board
Admission Period	17-25 May 2017
Orientation and Class Start	26 May 2017, Friday

Contact Address

Office of the Department of Geography and Environment, Kazi Motaher Hossain Building (former Science Annex Building) near Central Shaheed Minar, Dhaka University, Dhaka 1000. Phone: 9661923-73 Extn. 7246, 7247, 7272 Mobile: 0167489085, 01716581694, 01717711024, 01911056447, 01865898535

Chairperson

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A group of workers caught red-handed while they were cutting hills in Daulatpur area under Barlekha upazila of Moulvibazar on Thursday.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

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ASTD/080417

Field Epidemiology Training Program – Frontline, Bangladesh

The Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), and US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) jointly invite application for next batch(es) of the Field Epidemiology Training Program – Frontline, Bangladesh.

To