

# Stop illegal extraction of white clay

## State asks govt

The High Court yesterday declared illegal extraction of white clay from three mouzas in Netrokona.

The area is plagued by indiscriminate destruction and unplanned cutting of hills and hillocks.

The court also upheld its previous order that had asked the authorities concerned of the government to stop unauthorised extraction of white clay from Arapara, Panchkhanhiya and Matpur mouzas in Durgapur upazila.

The bench of Justice Syedur Rahman (Bela) submitted the writ petition filed by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA) challenging the legality of such activities.

Bela chief Advocate Syeda Rizwana Hasan told The Daily Star that 10 companies have been extracting white clay from the mouzas cutting hills.

The companies do not have any lease of the area or environmental clearance certificates.

Environment and biodiversity of the areas were damaged. People of indigenous communities, including those of Hajong and Garo, have been the victims as their livelihood depends on the forests and agriculture.

Bela submitted the writ petition to the HC in November 2015 seeking necessary orders to protect the environment.

Following the petition, the HC on November 18 ordered the government to stop unauthorised extraction of white clay from three mouzas immediately.

**Migrants**

From PAGE 16

People from the two areas were found to have migrated to 37 countries.

The court also ordered the government to pay compensation for the financial losses due to their failure in migration attempts. The average loss per household is Tk 2.43 lakh.

Qatir, a legal degrading treatment in Bangladesh, is being used in Malaysia, Saudi Arabia and Singapore.

Disclosing the findings, the research team's founding Chair Prof Tasneem Akter said that the research was conducted in Bangladesh, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia and Singapore.

The government should bring sub-judice the research findings so that they can be made accountable for fraudulence, Tasneem said, adding that with low oil price and tightening of fiscal policy in the world and other Arab countries, the threat to the fraudulence was contributing to the lower flow of remittance.

Prof CR Abbar, executive director of the unit, said the organisation would attempt to bring a petition to the court to stop the government from allowing its policies and find a smooth way for sending workers abroad.

Benji Ahmed, president of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies, said it had its own process to take sending undocumented workers abroad.

The authority also said it would help the ministry and law enforcement agencies when anything goes beyond its capacity.

Abbar Ahmed, additional secretary of the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, said the country's migration governance system should be improved.

"For this, we need sufficient data and information about migrants. Findings of the survey will help us make policies."

Chairing the event, retired appellate division judge Justice Md Nizamul Haque said people involved in fraudulence should be brought to the book.

A number of migrants die each year overseas, he said, adding that their bodies return to the country but they are not allowed to find out whether their families get due compensation."



Hillocks in Netrokona are cut to extract white clay used in ceramic industry. The High Court yesterday declared such extraction illegal. The photo was taken recently.

# Whose rice is it anyway?

FROM PAGE 1

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# ALMP holds feast for locals on college premises

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Palma

Lawmaker MM Amzad Hossain Milton threw a feast for several thousand people on the premises of a college in Sirajganj's Tarash upazila yesterday.

The use of the field, also shared by a secondary and a primary school, was criticised by many for disrupting academic activities.

The doo mahfil followed by lunch was organised ahead of the lawmaker, his wife and son's Hajj next week, said his family members.

The lawmaker's wife, Daisy Milton, also the vice principal of Tarash Degree College, where the event was held, said "Due to the ongoing Degree examinations there were no classes. There was no examination on Wednesday either. So we organised the programme."

She added that the college authority was informed earlier and they gave their consent for the use of the field.

"Several thousand Awami League members of Sirajganj-3 constituency joined the lawmaker's programme," Farhad Ali, vice chairman of Tarash Upazila Parishad, said.

Almazilla, local alleged that classes in Islamiya Pilot High School and Tarash Model Government Primary School were hampered, Farhad said the marquee was in front of the college building and the grounds in front of the schools were only slightly used.

# AL, BNP

FROM PAGE 2

Fakhrul also alleged that the EC had failed to earn the confidence of BNP as well as the general public.

Referring to a comment of Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda that all four elections are possible under the current government, Fakhrul said the CEC by saying that frustrated the people.

"His [CEC's] comment is just a reflection of the remarks of the prime minister, ministers and ruling Awami League leaders," he noted.

How a party could keep confidence in the commission when the CEC said it is not their duty to level the field for all political parties before the polls, he asked.

# Bamboo

FROM PAGE 16

The work was a project of Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board (CHTDB).

Asked, Pradip Barua, principal of the school, said the project was a joint venture of the executive committee of CHTDB and Barua's unit of the institution.

# Thai general found guilty

FROM PAGE 16

The ruling is an extremely rare conviction for a senior army officer in junta-ridden Thailand.

Manas, the highest-ranking official on trial, was a top figure in the security apparatus covering Thailand's south - a key transit zone in a trafficking trail that stretched from Myanmar to Malaysia.

The court heard he received bank transfers from trafficking agents worth 14.8 million baht (\$440,000).

But the police investigation found he also used his position to guide trafficking gangs around checkpoints after their arrival on remote beaches as they headed to the jungle camps.

In 2013 he was promoted to head the Internal Security Command (ISOC) for the entire south. Current junta leader Prayut Chan-O-Cha was army chief at the time.

Before the crackdown rights groups had long accused officials of ignoring - and even conducting - the trade in humans through Thailand's southern provinces.

The trial has revealed a lattice of military, police, local political and mafia figures acting as traffickers, agents and logistics men, all sipping up cash from some of Asia's poorest and most vulnerable migrants.

Over the years the smuggling gangs are estimated to have netted tens of millions of dollars.

Some reporting restrictions were placed by judges citing national security and Manas was allowed to give evidence behind closed doors.

Another well-connected kinsman convicted yesterday is Pajubhan Aungkachotehan, better known as Ko Tong or 'Big Brother Tong'.

Police accused him of using private Andaman Sea islands, close to tourist spots such as Koh Lipe, to ship boatsloads of migrants to the mainland, where they were packed into lorries and taken to the fetid camps straddling the Malaysia border.

He was found guilty of human trafficking and links to organised crime. By evading over 50 people, including two police officers, had been convicted of various offences, ranging from guarding the squalid

migrant camps to trafficking and negligence.

At least ten were acquitted including an army captain and a ranking police officer.

Thailand's role as a key trafficking route spilled into full view after officials found dozens of shallow graves in the hidden camps dotting the steep, forested hills of the Thai-Malaysian border in May 2015.

They revealed the horrors endured by some of the migrants, who were starved and held in bamboo pens by traffickers who demanded over \$1,000 for their release.

The verdict is being closely watched inside and outside Thailand.

The kingdom's government is desperate to dispel the kingdom's notorious reputation for human trafficking.

Earlier yesterday junta chief Prayut angrily denied the case reflected systemic corruption within the security services.

Manas alone will not make the entire military collapse," he told reporters.

Critics say the case was prematurely concluded and describe a trial marred by witness intimidation, secret evidence hearings and restrictions on media reporting.

They expect there to be many more perpetrators out there," Amy Smith, from Fortify Rights, told AFP.

"This is a big business," he big money."

The senior policeman who initially headed the investigation, Major General Pawnee Pongsirin, fled Thailand under threats to his life.

Days before he left he told AFP the case had been pulled before it could delve further into the complicity of officials.

Statesmen Rohingya Muslims have fled neighbouring Myanmar in their tens of thousands since sectarian violence flared in 2012.

They were joined by Bangladeshi economic migrants on rickety boats southwards across the Andaman Sea, seeking work and sanctuary in Malaysia and Indonesia.

Thousands are believed to have died at sea, in a migrant flow that garnered few headlines until the trafficking crackdown in 2015.

# Death row convict

FROM PAGE 16

On July 3 through the office of the Senior Jail Super of Kashipur High Security Jail and the home ministry sent it to the maw ministry seeking its opinion there.

Mubhal Hussain, additional home secretary, told Prothom Alo that they sent letters to the law ministry several times. Although they got opinion on other issues, the decision on Shahidul has been delayed.

Sending opinion as soon as possible is the normal procedure, he said.

Another official of the ministry said as soon as they would get the opinion, they would send the letter to the president. It would not be possible to execute him unless they got the opinion.

Asked what his opinion would be, Law Minister Anisul Huq told Prothom Alo, "I won't give opinion in favour of the execution. However, it is for the president to decide whether he would give clemency or not."

In line with the jail code, May 24 was fixed for executing Shahidul, according to a letter sent to the home ministry from the jail. But he was not executed as the jail authorities did not get government's nod, sources told the Bangladesh daily.

Asked what minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal told the Prothom Alo that any convict could seek clemency

and they would send the petition to the president following due procedure.

Under the constitution, the president has the jurisdiction to give someone clemency or commute punishment and he will make a decision in this regard, the minister said.

Shahid pleaded guilty when the trial court asked him if he would plead guilty or not.

Shazneen, a class-IX student of Scholastica, was raped and murdered by her boyfriend on March 23, 1998. She was the daughter of Transcom Group Chairman Latifur Rahman.

On April 30, the Second Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression issued the death penalty for her husband, a writ after the Supreme Court relaxed its full verdict, rejecting his petition for reviewing its earlier judgment that upheld his death penalty.

Earlier on August 2 last year, Appellate Division upheld the death penalty of Shahidul, a domestic help at Shazneen's home.

But it acquitted four others - Syed Sajjad Mainuddin Hasan, a contractor for renovation of Shazneen's house, his assistant Badal, and housemaids Estema Khan Minu and Parvin.

**Khulna Shipyard Limited**  
Bangladesh Navy, Khulna  
BASEP/36/2017-2018 19 July 2017

**International Tender Notice**

01	Procuring entity name	Khulna Shipyard Limited
02	Invitation for	380 M. Ton M. S. Angle and 300 M. Ton Sub Profile
03	Invitation reference No.	BASEP/36/2017-2018 Dated 19 July 2017
04	Procurement method	Open Tender
05	Budget & source of funds	Own Finance
06	Tender last selling date	26 July 2017
07	Tender closing date and time	26 July 2017 Time 11:55am
08	Tender opening date and time	27 July 2017 Time 11:55am
09	Address of the procuring entity	(1) Cash Section, Accounts Department, Khulna Shipyard Ltd., Bangladesh Navy, Khulna
10	Address of tender documents	(1) Cash Section, Accounts Department, Khulna Shipyard Ltd., Bangladesh Navy, Khulna
11	Price of tender document	(1) Khulna Shipyard Ltd., Khulna
12	Special instructions	(1) Khulna Shipyard Ltd., Khulna (2) Tenderer's and their authorized representatives are allowed to bid. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any tender prior to award without giving any reason.

GD-1465

**Ground-breaking**

FROM PAGE 16

operation a success after 18 months.

The report in The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health provides the first scientific medical update on 10-year old Zion Harvey, who underwent surgery to replace both hands in July 2015.

"Eighteen months after the surgery, the child is more independent and able to complete daily life activities," said Sandra Amaral, a doctor at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, where the operation took place.

"He continues to improve as he undergoes daily therapy to increase his hand function, and psychosocial support to help deal with the ongoing demands of his surgery."

Harvey had his hands and feet amputated at the age of two, following a sepsis infection. He also had a kidney transplant.

Harvey was already receiving drugs to suppress any immune reaction to his kidney, which was a key factor in his selection for the 10-plus hour hand transplant surgery.

Immunosuppressive drugs must be taken continuously to prevent a patient's body

from rejecting the transplant. These drugs carry risks, including diabetes, cancer and infections.

Doctors reviewed both the successes and challenges Harvey and his family have faced, noting that a large team of specialists was hard at work supporting them through all the ups and downs.

The child has "undergone eight rejections of the hands, including serious episodes during the fourth and seventh months of his transplant," said the report.

Harvey continues to take four immunosuppression drugs and a steroid.

The donor hands became available in July 2015 from a deceased child. Within days the surgery, Harvey discovered he could move his fingers, using the ligaments from his residual limbs.

Scans have shown his brain is adapting to the new hands, developing new pathways to control movement and feel sensations.

Researchers cautioned that more study is needed before hand transplants in children become widespread.

**e-Tender Notice**

Memo no: 27.12.2637.136.07.104.17.56 Date: 17/07/2017

**e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for Procurement of Electrical Line Construction Materials under "Rural Electrification Expansion Khulna Division Program-II" Project. Tender submission deadlines are mentioned below:**

Tender Package No.	Sub-Package No.	Description	Re-Tender ID No.	Closing Date	Closing Time
KDP-II-G-59	Lot-1	Functioning Outlets (Sealing Cutout & Surge Arrestor)	111640	01/08/2017	12.00

This is an offline Re-Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no off-line hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

**বাংলাদেশ রুরাল ইলেকট্রিকেশন বোর্ড**  
BANGLADESH RURAL ELECTRIFICATION BOARD  
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ  
১৭/০৭/১৭

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