

Stop illegal extraction of white clay HC asks govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

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, Parabdhaniya and Malzupurhali in Durgapur upazila.

The bench of Justice Md. Muhammad Dastagir Huisan and Justice Md. Aftab Rahman Khan came up with the verdict following a writ petition filed by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA) challenging the legality of such activities there.

Bela chief Advocate Syeda Rizwana Hasan told The Daily Star that 10 companies had been extracting white clay from the areas 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 hills and forests, she added.

Bela submitted the writ petition to the HC in November 2015 seeking necessary directions to protect the environment. Following the petition, the HC on March 14, 2016 directed 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.

As many as 300 families suffered financial losses due to their failure in migration attempts. The average loss per household is Tk 12,43 lakh.

Migrants faced degrading treatment mainly in Libya, Maldives, Oman, Qatar, UAE, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia and Singapore.

Disclosing the findings, the research unit's Founding Chair Prof Tasneem Siddiqui said the unauthorised channel sub-agents or dalal had perished of the migration process of those who were cheated.

In only three percent cases, formal recruiting agencies were involved from the beginning. The rest of the families depended on close family members, friends and sub-agents.

The government should bring sub-agents under a legal framework so that they can be made accountable for fraudulence, Tasneem said, adding that about 300 families had suffered loss of fiscal power in the Gulf and other Arab countries or Brexit in the UK, fraudulence was contributing to the flow of remittance.

Prof CR Abir, executive director of the unit, said the organisation would arrange a series of consultations with policymakers to address the migration issues and find a smooth way for sending workers abroad.

Benjir Ahmed, president of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies, said it had its own process to tackle sending undocumented workers abroad. The authority also seeks help from related ministry and law enforcement agencies when anything goes beyond its capacity.

Jabed 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 Huq 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 we need 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.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Whose rice is it anyway?

FROM PAGE 1

in connection with the incident

In another development, Rapid Action Battalion 7 last evening seized another truck loaded with 13.5 tonnes of rice in 270 sacks from the city. The vehicle was left abandoned in Akbar Shah area.

The question remains: who owns the rice packed in sacks inscribed with the words "For the Directorate General of Food"?

Officials of the directorate yesterday inspected all 126 government food depots in Chittagong and found their rice stock intact.

Mabhubur Rahman, regional food comptroller of the directorate, said they found 2,104 tonnes of rice and 2,799 tonnes of wheat in the warehouses which were well stored. Their 3,096 sacks of rice was seized from the seven trucks on Monday evening and Tuesday from Halishar and City Gate areas. The truck picked up CSD Manager Pranayan Chakma and four trucks during the drive.

According to Rab-7 Assistant Comptroller Mamtuan Rahman, all the sacks bore the seal of the Directorate General of Food.

CASE FILED AGAINST EIGHT

The Rab filed a case with Halishar Police Station yesterday under the Special Powers Act, 1974, accusing eight people of food theft.

The accused are CSD Manager Pranayan, Assistant Manager Fakhrul Ahsan, rice traders Sababuddin Sawdagar, Nurul Sawdagar and four trucks.

Rob-7 Commanding Officer Lt Col Miftah Uddin Ahmed said they had information that 12 rice-laden trucks went out of the CSD on Monday evening, but they could seize only seven.

He said the CSD manager claimed during primary interrogation he was not aware of the incident. Deputy Manager Fakhrul dealt with the matter. Miftah quoted the arrestee as saying,

WHERE THE RICE CAME FROM?

The Daily Star correspondent yesterday visited the Halishar CSD

and talked to some officials there to know where the rice came from.

Seeking anonymity, a directorate official said 26 depots had a total capacity of 1,15 lakh tonnes, but only part of the sites were empty. So taking advantage of this, some black market men may have stocked their foodstuff in the government silos with the help of some depot officials.

According to the first information record (FIR) of the case, the CSD manager said black marketers stocked rice in the government depots in connivance with some depot officials. He said 180 tonnes of rice was dispatched from the Halishar CSD on Monday evening.

He gave Rab officials the names of traders Sababuddin Sawdagar, owner of Khwaza Bhandar Rice Dealer in the city's Pahartali, and Nurul Sawdagar, partner of the latter. Five Mills in Chakla. The two have been arrested.

Also the brewer's wife, Daisy Milon, also like the principal of Trishal 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 Awan League members of Sirajganj constituency joined the lawmaker's programme, Farah Ali, vice chairman of Trishal Upazila Parishad, said.

Although locals alleged that classes in Hamidullah Primary School and Trishal Model Government Primary School were hampered, Farah said the marquee was in front of the college building and the grounds in front of the schools were only slightly used.

The manager and the assistant manager of a CSD can sell rice if there is no availability in the market," he said.

Meanwhile, Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate of Chittagong Shahid Hossain Bhuiyan yesterday sent the five arrestees to jail when police produced them before him.

The court directed police to submit a report to it in this regard by August 8, said Nirmalendu Chakraborty, additional deputy commissioner (prosecution) of Chittagong Metropolitan Police.

It ordered the Halishar CSD director to keep the seized rice in his custody, the CSD official added.

AL MP holds feast for locals on college premises

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Palma

Lawmaker MM Amzad Hossain Milon 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 dawm malibow followed by lunch was organised ahead of the lawmaker, his wife and son Haji next week, said his family.

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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 Hullu Huda that fair elections are possible under the current government, Fakhrul said the CEC by saying that

"His [CEC's] comment is just a reflection of the pride 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 college, declined to comment, but he informed the executive engineer of CHITDH Bandarban unit of the incident.

Abul Aziz, the executive engineer, said, "I already stopped the work, and action will be taken against those involved in the incident."

DEATH OF AUSTRALIAN WOMAN

'Loud sound' before US police shooting

APP, Chicago

Police in Minnesota were startled by a loud sound prior to fatally shooting an unarmed Australian woman who had called them to report a possible assault, US investigators revealed Tuesday.

The state agency probing the killing of Justine Damond, also known by her maiden name Justine Ruszczyk, interviewed one of the two officers who responded to her emergency call on

Saturday night in Minneapolis.

It was the first time since the incident that authorities offered more information about the circumstances, as community leaders and Damond's family complained they had few details on a killing that reverberated in native Australia.

Damond had called Minneapolis Police Saturday around 11:30 pm to report a possible assault occurring near her home. Two officers responded with their police car's emergency lights off.

The child is more independent and able to complete day-to-day activities," said Sunita Khan, 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," said the report.

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 body, 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 has been taking a daily oral immunosuppression drugs and a steroid.

The donor hands became available in July 2015 from a deceased child. Within days of 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.

Thai general found guilty

FROM PAGE 16

The ruling is an extremely rare conviction for a senior army officer in junta-ruled 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 (ISC) 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 soaking 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 close evidence before the trial.

He was sentenced to 15 years in prison, with his wife, daughter and son freed.

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

He was found guilty of human trafficking and links to organised crime.

By evening over 50 people, including two police officers, had been convicted of various offences, ranging from guarding the squall

migrant camps to trafficking and negligence.

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

Thailand's role as a key trafficking route spilled into full view after officials found dozens of shallow graves in the hidden camps dotted the steep, forested hills of the Thailand-Malaysia 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 government is desperate to dispel the kingdom's notorious reputation for human trafficking.

Earlier yesterday junta chief Prayut 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.

"We expect there are many more perpetrators out there," Amy Smith, from FortyRight, told AFP.

"This is a big business with big money."

The senior policeman who initially headed the investigation, Major General Paween Pongsrir, fled Thailand after he was beaten to his death.

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

Stateless 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 has 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 Kashimpur High Security Jail and the home ministry sent it to the maw ministry seeking its opinion thrice.

Muhibul Haque, 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 high 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 Haq told Prothom Alo, "I won't give opinion in favour of the accused. 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 minister from the jail. But he was not executed as the jail authorities did not get government's nod, sources told the Bangla daily.

Home 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 at her Gulshan home on April 23, 1998. She was the daughter of Transcon Group Chairman Latifur Rahaman.

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

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

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

"শেখ আবিনেশ উদ্যোগ- ঘরে ঘরে বিনোদ"

BANGLADESH RURAL ELECTRIFICATION BOARD
POWER DIVISION, MINISTRY OF POWER, ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

Memo no: 27.12.2637.136.07.104.7.156

Date: 17/07/2017

e-Tender Notice

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 Pack No.	Sub-Package No.	Description	Re-Tender ID No.	Closing Date	Closing Time
KDP-II-G-59	Lot-1	Sectionalizing Devices (Fuse Cutout & Surge Arrester)	111640	01/08/2017	12.00

This is an online Re-Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the opening of 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@e-procure.gov.bd).

GD-1464

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মুসলিমেশ পাবলিক ইলেক্ট্রিফিকেশন বোর্ড

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