

Don't lease sand quarries without clearance: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday barred the government from leasing out any silica sand quarry without relevant environmental clearance.

The court also declared leases of 19 sand quarries in Moulavibazar illegal for not obtaining environmental clearance certificates and environmental impact assessment certificates.

The bench of Justice Salma Masud Chowdhury and Justice AKM Zahirul Hoque issued the directive following a writ petition by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA), challenging the legality of the leases issued to the sand quarries.

Advocate Syeda Rizwana Hasan and Advocate Sayeed Ahmed Kabir appeared for the petitioner.

A gazette notification was issued on June 2013 declaring 51 hill streams as silica sand quarry area.

Among those, 19 were leased out without ensuring any relevant clearance certificates.



THERE IS SMOKE WITHOUT FIRE: Despite it appearing to be so, this is neither a scene of a tragic fire accident, nor is it from an action movie set. A local train approaches the Karwan Bazar rail gate emitting a massive cloud of thick smoke, but people sitting atop and in the front of the engine compartment, and around the rail tracks do not seem to be too bothered by it, almost as if it is the norm. The photo was taken on late Monday afternoon.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

BGB installs modern surveillance system on 8.3km border

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Country's first integrated surveillance network has been installed by Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) on an 8.3-kilometre stretch of border with India at Putkhali of Benapole.

The new surveillance system, "Border Surveillance and Response System (BSRS)", has heralded a new era of border security that will help BGB curb smuggling and human trafficking, Maj Gen Mohammad Shafeenul Islam, director general of BGB, told journalists while visiting the Putkhali border on Monday.

Various modern surveillance equipment including thermal cameras, high-end CCTV cameras, radars and different types of sensory devices are incorporated in the BSRS.

After implementing BSRS in the remote areas along the Putkhali border, smuggling and human trafficking have been contained remarkably and the area has been declared as "Crime Free Zone", Maj Gen Shafeenul said.

Currently 399 kilometres along the border have been identified as high-risk and if the BSRS is proven effective, it will be installed in those areas eventually, said sources at BGB.

India's Border Security Force at Petrapole camp sent a bouquet to the BGB chief during his visit to Benapole post of BGB earlier in the day.

High officials of BGB including Col Touhidul Islam, commander of BGB's Khulna sector; and Ashrafal Alam Liton, mayor of Benapole municipality; accompanied the DG of BGB.

RAJSHAHI-DHAKA NATIONAL HIGHWAY 2km road rutted within 2 months of repair

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

Only two months after repair, the two-km stretch from Natore to Pabna has developed deep ruts in five points, testing the driving skills of motorists.

Natore Police Lines, Haybatpur, Ahmedpur, Bonpara Bazar and the one-km stretch from Rajapur to Muladul on the national highway, known as N-6, are increasingly becoming accident-prone.

The highway does not even have dividers near every rutted point which makes driving tough, especially during night time.

"Many people had accidents on those spots," said Abdul Awal, a cleric of a local mosque.

Pointing to a cut mark on his chin, he further said, "I suffered this cut when my motorcycle skidded off this rutted highway at Haybatpur in Natore a month ago."

"We have been enduring this battered road year after year. We were happy when the road was being repaired in April. But within just two months everything went back to the same state," said Jamal Uddin, a businessman.

The Roads and Highways Department (RHD) is aware of the situation but they did not even take a mere step to install some signboards warning the motorists against the upcoming road bumps and ruts which could have prevented some accidents, he added.

Poor or absence of base or sub-base layers have caused the ruts to appear so soon, said experts and contractors when contacted.

Moreover, frequent movement of heavy and overloaded vehicles, especially the stone-laden trucks from Chapainawabganj, on the route and heavy rainfall have added to the problem.

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PHOTO: STAR

SCC polls

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The EC also forwarded a letter, submitted by BNP, to Sylhet Metropolitan Police (SMP) to investigate a similar allegation against AL's Kamran.

On Monday, BNP Sylhet district unit General Secretary Ali Ahmed claimed that Kamran's wife and son were campaigning before distribution of the party symbols. Kamran denied the allegation.

Sylhet Metropolitan Police Commissioner Golam Kibria said, "We are yet to receive the letter. We will take necessary steps if the allegations are found to be true."

Meanwhile, Shafiqur Rahman Chowdhury, general secretary of AL's Sylhet dist unit, also filed a similar complaint to the EC, claiming that the BNP candidate is also busy campaigning, violating electoral rules.

Contacted, Ariful said he has not violated any electoral rules.

NEWS IN brief

US embassy to remain closed today

CITY DESK

The US embassy, including the consular section, the American Center, the Archer K Bowler American Center Library and the EducationUSA Student Advising Center will be closed today, in observance of Independence Day of the United States.

However, American citizens will be able to avail emergency services by calling on 880-2-5566-2000, says a press release.

Two held with forged documents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cg

Detectives arrested two persons with forged documents and materials used for making those in Chittagong city's GEC area early yesterday.

Two copies of GD of Patiya Police Station, an NID card, testimonials, a tax certificate and a trade licence of Chittagong City Corporation were seized from the possession of Azamnur alias Azam, 25, and Tofayel Ahmed, 35, said police.

Besides, a seal of a deputy tax commissioner, a printer, two computers and other materials were seized, they added.

Mohsena Reza new chairman of Inner Wheel District 345

CITY DESK



Mohsena Reza has been elected as new chairman of Inner Wheel District 345 for 2018-19, says a press release.

Social Welfare Minister Rashed Khan Menon was present as the chief guest on the occasion at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel on June 29.

Others elected persons are Tahia Khalil (vice chairman I), Atia Parveen (vice chairman II), Tahera Wahid (secretary), Parveen Zaman (treasurer), Mahbuba Helen (international service organiser), Ruzina Afzal (extension organiser) and Mallika Biswas

Incessant rain causes

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He also complained about having to pay double the fare to CNG-run auto-rickshaws on his way to workplace.

About raising fare, Jahangir Alam, a CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver, said they did not have any alternative. "We cannot make trips to all places. Some areas are really badly flooded, and we cannot risk having our vehicles stall. We too have to feed our families," he said.

CHITTAGONG-RANGAMATI ROAD CONNECTION INTERRUPTED

The downpour snapped the road communication between Chittagong and Rangamati districts, as the road at Raojan point was flooded, said Abdul Karim, officer-in-charge (OC) at Raojan Highway Police Station.

Pradip Kanti Roy, duty assistant officer at Meteorological Department in Chittagong, said the rainfall was recorded as 252 millimetre till 12:00pm in last 24 hours.

The officer also said that the department predicted moderate to heavy rainfall with thunder in the next few days.

No one has informed

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The following day, Chhatra League men reportedly launched an attack on protesters at Rajshahi University. Four protesters in Dhaka also came under attack at Shabbagh. On Monday, the quota protesters were once again attacked at the Central Shaheed Minar.

দরপত্র আহ্বান

একশনএইড বাংলাদেশ নিজে বর্ণিত পণ্য ক্রয়ের জন্য যোগ্যতা সম্পন্ন উৎপাদনকারী বা সরবরাহকারীদের কাছ থেকে দরপত্র আহ্বান করছে:

বিবরণ	পরিমাণ
সোলার স্ট্রিট লাইট (বিস্তারিত বিবরণ দরপত্র সিডিউল এ দেওয়া আছে)	১০০ পিস

আগ্রহী উৎপাদনকারী/সরবরাহকারী গণ আগামী ৪-১০ জুলাই ২০১৮ এর মধ্যে সিডিউল সংগ্রহ ও দরপত্র জমা দিতে পারবেন। দরপত্র একশনএইডের অফিস (ঠিকানা-রোড ১৩৬, বাসা- SE (C) ৫/ই, গুলশান -১, ঢাকা, ফোন: ৫৫০৪৪৮৫১-৭) অথবা ওয়েবসাইট <http://www.actionaid.org/bangladesh/job-vacancies> থেকে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।

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DATES | TIMES | PLACES

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Tel: +88 09666782782 or +88 04478667788 E: infobd@idp.com

July 6 11am-2pm at VIEC Bangladesh, Level 5, House 18, Blk K, Rd 24, Banani
Tel: +88 02 9883545 or +880 17 1401 9160 E: viec.bangladesh@vieceducation.com

3pm-6pm at Global Study Limited, 3rd Flr., BSL Office Complex, Ruposhi Bangla Hotel (old Hotel Sheraton) Tel: +88 02 49357909 or +88 01913300025
E: ac.globalstudy@gmail.com

July 7 3pm-6pm at Prominent Consultant, House No. 4, 3rd Floor, Sonargaon, Janapath Rd, Sector-11, Uttara Tel: +88 02 8991676 or +88 01971000848
E: prominentconsultant11@gmail.com

July 8 11am-5pm at NHP Education Consultants, 152/2A-2, Rowshan Tower, 2nd Floor, Panthapath Tel: +88 01 755707070 or +88 01 715322220
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University of New Brunswick	unb.ca	Golden Hills School Division	ghsd75.ca
Grenfell Campus, MUN	grenfell.mun.ca		

HC summons railway

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passed the order after hearing a contempt of court petition filed by rights organisation Children's Charity Bangladesh Foundation, against three government officials including Amzad Hossain.

The HC on February 18, 2016, had delivered its short judgment directing the respondents to pay compensation to Jihad's family, but did not specify the amount. It released the full verdict of the case on October 8 last year, asking the respondents -- Bangladesh Railway and Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defence -- to pay Tk 20 lakh as compensation to his parents within 90 days.

Jihad fell into an unprotected well in Shahjahanpur Railway Colony on December 26, 2014. His body was recovered by a group of volunteers the following day, shortly after government agencies called off the rescue operation, saying there was no sign of the boy inside the well.

1,000 DU students

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benefitted from the information in the newspaper. He called on students to not engage in any activities that disrupt regular academic function of the university. "Don't pay heed to rumours that create anarchy at the university. I hope you'll practice objectivity," he added.

Mutual Trust Bank Managing Director Anis A Khan said alongside Bangla, students should learn English to progress in life.

"Reading The Daily Star will help you learn the English language as well as enhance your knowledge," he said.

Addressing the students, Mahfuz Anam said, "You are passing the best time of your life... Be creative and utilise this time to build your future."

Among others, Prof Dr Shishir Bhattacharjee, director of Institute of Modern Languages (IML) at DU, addressed the programme.

গাড়ি নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ঢাকা টাউন কমিটির (হাইলিভ), বেঞ্জিং টাউন-মেট্রো-৩-১১-০১-৪৮, সিলিং ২৪৯০, ফং-কালো, মডেল ২০১২। কেতাগড়কে ২৬/০৭/২০১৮ তারিখের মধ্যে উল্লিখিত ঠিকানায় দরপত্র জমা দেয়ার অনুরোধ করা হল। খেসান সেট্টার (হেভ জমা) ১০৬ গুলশান এডিনিউ, ঢাকা। যোগাযোগ-১৫৫১৯, ০১৮১৬৪৪৯৫৩।

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