

Razed hillock to make room for road

Says LGED in Juri upazila

MINTU DESHWARA, *Moulvibazar*

While the administration is busy enforcing various directives of the government to contain the spread of Covid-19 pandemic, destruction of a hillock is going unnoticed in Juri upazila of Moulvibazar.

A contractor firm razed a large part of the hillock in Amtoil village in Pashchim Juri union to build a 960-metre-long road that runs in front of Union Health and Family Welfare Centre.

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) awarded the work, worth Tk 45 lakh, to Sharif Enterprise under 'Rural Infrastructure Development Project' of the LGED. The work is scheduled to be completed within the current fiscal year (2019-20).

Locals said the damaged side of the hillock has already subsided following rain a few weeks back and they feared the possibility of casualty if the rest of the hillock subsides during this ongoing monsoon season.

During a visit to the area two weeks back, workers were seen compacting the base of the road, on the foot of the hillock, with rollers.

Shahidul Islam, a local, said a 50 foot stretch of the road that was carved out of the hillock



has collapsed soon after the rain recently.

It was found that the barrier made of thick plastic sheets and bamboo -- erected by the contractor on the outer slope of the road in their attempt to avert collapse -- has given way to heavy rainfall.

Contacted, Zakir Hossain Khan, deputy assistant engineer of LGED in Juri upazila, said the LGED allowed the contractor to cut through the hillock as they needed to widen the road for smooth and safe movement of vehicles on its curves.

They needed to widen the road from seven

feet to ten feet for the purpose, but locals did not agree to donate their land for it. Finding no other option, the LGED decided to allow the contractor to cut the side of the hillock.

Asked whether the LGED obtained permission to cut the hillock from appropriate authorities, Zakir said they did not think it was necessary as "the hillock was too small" and they did not anticipate any possibility of subsidence of the hillock.

Zakir further said they did not notice any subsidence of the hillock or the road as the area is covered with bushes.

However, he assured of constructing stronger protection barrier on the outer edge of the road, running alongside the damaged hillock.

Nurul Muhaimin Milton, general secretary of Moulvibazar Environmental Journalists' Forum, said landslides are rising due to unabated destruction of hills and stringent enforcement of applicable laws is needed to save the environment.

A section of influential locals has been illegally extracting stones and destroying hills with the connivance of officials concerned, said Abdul Karim Kim, executive member of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon.



Pest attack worries Faridpur jute farmers. The photo was taken from a field in Shalta upazila of the district recently.

PHOTO:
STAR

Labour crisis, pest attack worry jute growers

Around 82, 976 hectares of land in Faridpur have been brought under jute cultivation this year

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Fairdpur*

Massive attack of leaf caterpillar and hairy caterpillar worries jute farmers in the district. In addition, shortage of labourers adds to the woe of the growers during the pandemic.

Kartik Chandra Chakraborty, deputy director of Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Faridpur, said 82, 976 hectares of land in nine upazilas have been brought under jute cultivation this year, compared to 82, 695 hectares last year.

"We are expecting bumper production this year. Faridpur is one of the main jute growing districts in Bangladesh," he said.

Growers in Sadar, Nagarkanda and Saltha upazilas said iute plants have grown

well due to timely rain but two kinds of pest --leaf caterpillar and hairy caterpillar--attacked the plants. The caterpillars eat the green leaves of the jute plants.

They further said it is the proper time to weed out the jute field but they cannot do it due to shortage of labourers. The labourers

cannot come to the district from other parts of the country due to the ongoing countrywide shutdown to curb spread of coronavirus.

Mafiqul Islam of Khoar village in Saltah upazila said he has cultivated jute on two acres of land, but pest attacked the field recently.

"Now it needs some labourers to spray pesticide on the field but I cannot do it due to shortage of labourers during the pandemic," he said.

Another farmer Md Nurnabi of Kachail village in Nagarkanda upazila said jute has grown well this year, but if they do not prevent pest attack, they may not get expected production.

The DAE official said they are giving all kind of advice to the farmers to prevent the pest attack. It is true that jute growers are suffering from crisis of farm labourers due to coronavirus outbreak.

They will take immediate steps to resolve the problem, said the official.




Above, a section of the road, in Juri upazila of Moulvibazar, which collapsed following rain recently. The part of the same road that is being constructed through a hillock.

PHOTO:
COLLECTED

[illegible]

Due to onrush of the water from the upstream the Jamuna river has been swelling rapidly over the last one week, submerging vast tract of croplands in low-laying areas of Sirajganj. The photo was taken from Simla area in Sirajganj Sadar upazila on Saturday.

PHOTO:
STAR



বানৌজা ঈসা খান

নিউ মুরিং
চট্টগ্রাম

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১। বানৌজা ঈসা খান ট্রেনিং স্কুলের জন্য ২০১৯-২০২০ অর্থ বছরের নিম্নলিখিত প্রশিক্ষণ সামগ্রী (স্টেশনারি আইটেম) এবং ডকেট/প্রেসি মুদ্রণ সামগ্রী ক্রয়ের নিমিত্তে প্রকৃত সরবরাহকারীগণের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরযুক্ত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছেঃ

ক্রঃ	পণ্যের বিবরণ ও পরিমাণ	বিজয়ের তারিখ		খোলার তারিখ	মুদ্রা	দরপত্র নং
		হতে	পর্যন্ত			
১।	প্রশিক্ষণ সামগ্রী (স্টেশনারি আইটেম) ও ডকেট/প্রেসি মুদ্রণ সামগ্রী (১০২ আইটেম)	০২ জুন ২০২০	০৭ জুন ২০২০	০৭ জুন ২০২০	দেশীয়	০১

২। প্রয়োজনীয় বিনির্দেশ/শর্তাবলীসহ টেন্ডার সিডিউল নগদ টাকা ১০০০.০০ (টাকা এক হাজার মাত্র) (অফেরতযোগ্য) এর বিনিময়ে অফিস চলাকালীন সকাল ০৮০০ হতে ১৪৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত বানৌজা ঈসা খান ট্রেনিং অফিস হতে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে (ছুটির দিনসহ)। টেন্ডার জমা দেওয়ার শেষ সময় ০৭ জুন ২০২০ তারিখ সকাল ১০.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত এবং একই দিন বেলা ১১.০০ ঘটিকায় দরদাতাদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র খোলা হবে।

অধিনায়ক
বানৌজা ঈসা খান

জিডি-৯০৫