



Site of a partially razed hillock in Juri Upazila's Sagornal village. Diggers fled the scene after The Daily Star correspondent reached the spot.

PHOTO: STAR

## Hill plunderers threaten habitations, ecology in Juri

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

When nature all around the world, including in Bangladesh, is showing signs of rejuvenation amid restricted movement of humans, hillocks in Moulvibazar's Juri upazila do not seem to catch a break.

One would think that the spread of coronavirus pandemic would deter criminals from committing crimes. But in Juri upazila, criminals seem to have found the prevailing situation more convenient. During the past few months they continued their destructive activities in full swing.

They have been removing earth from at least 12 hillocks, which may collapse anytime during downpours or earthquakes and cause fatalities to more than three hundred families living on or around those.

The hillocks are located in Mohamad Nagar, Montail, Champakalta, Kali Nagar, Government Khas Land High Hills, Bachirpur, Amtail, Kachurgul, Lathi Tila, Phultola, Sagornal and Dakkhin Baradahar villages, according to locals.

They alleged that they had made numerous complaints in this regard to the local administration, but the latter did not pay heed.

Aside from causing catastrophic damage to locals, the ongoing destruction of topography will result in serious imbalance to the ecology and biodiversity in the area, said green activists.

While visiting different parts of Juri upazila recently, this correspondent witnessed cutting of hillocks in Phultola village. As he made attempt to get closer to the workers, they hastily fled the scene.

In Sagornal village, workers cutting another hillock were not as afraid as the ones in Phultola. Some of them said they were being paid for the job by Ali Hosain, a resident of Jangalia village.

Ali Hosain's version on the matter could not be obtained as he did not answer despite a number calls made on his cell phone.

Many of the workers requesting anonymity said Abdul Malik, Aziz Mia, Harunur Rashid, Mostafa

Hossain, Selu Mia and several other people of Dakkhin Baradahar village have been openly selling earth from the hillocks, for Tk 1,200 to 1,500 each truckload.

Abdul Malik, however, denied the allegation, saying that some people might make the false accusation as they are out "to tarnish his reputation".

Abdul Karim Kim, executive member of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon, said the general public are no longer involved in the crime. Rather, the influential locals are still breaking the law against razing of hills or hillocks.

Some of the hillocks were razed for making roads and building houses. But only to make a quick buck, the influential people, with the connivance of government officials concerned, have been putting lives of around three hundred families in jeopardy by continuing to cut down the hillocks, he added.

Saheda Akther, coordinator of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA), Sylhet unit, said as per the Bangladesh Environment Conservation (Amendment) Act 2010, hill cutting is a cognizable offence and no government, semi-government or autonomous organisation can cut or raze any hill or hillock without prior permission from the authorities concerned.

Unsustainable use of land and rampant hill-cutting are two major reasons behind landslides in hilly areas, said Dr Narayan Saha, former head of forestry and environmental science department at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology.

Contacted, Badrul Huda, assistant director of Department of Environment (DoE) in Moulvibazar, said the DoE has a 'zero tolerance' policy against the crime of cutting hills and they would take action against perpetrators in Juri upazila upon carrying out due investigation.

Moulvibazar Deputy Commissioner Mir Nahid Ahsan also assured of action against the hill plunderers in Juri upazila.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A total of 1030 people in the district have tested positive for Covid-19 after 9709 samples have been tested as of Wednesday. Of the patients, 21 have been reported dead from Covid-19 while 555 have recovered and the rest are undergoing treatment at home and hospitals. People from different professions, including government officials, politicians, police, health workers and journalists, have been infected with coronavirus in 12 upazilas of the district in the last three and half months.

Of the total infected in the district, highest 333 Covid-19 patients have been detected in Mirzapur while lowest 20 in Basail upazila.

A total of 454 patients in Tangail are currently receiving treatment at home and hospitals. Of them, 438 are undergoing treatment at home, four at the Corona unit in Tangail General Hospital and one at a local upazila health complex and the rest at different hospitals outside the district.

According to the civil surgeon office in Tangail, the first Covid-19 patient—a private clinic employee of Narayanganj—was detected in Mirzapur upazila of the district on April 6. Since then samples of total 9709 people have been collected in the district till July 15. Of them, 8508

were negative while results of 184 samples were pending.

Meanwhile, the sample collection has declined from this month in the district. Earlier, samples were collected randomly for coronavirus testing. But currently only 10 samples are collected from each upazila every day.

Dr Ramapada Roy, upazila health and family planning officer in Tangail Sadar, said they are now only collecting samples of the patients with Covid-19 symptoms for avoiding unnecessary tests.

"We want to detect new patients. For second time, now we are not conducting tests for those Covid-19 patients who have no symptoms after they were put in home isolation for 14 days," he said.

The Covid-19 patients, who are undergoing treatment at hospital, will be tested only for second time upon the doctor's advice, he added.

SM Ruhul Amin of Sabalia area in the town said he has been suffering from fever and stomach pain for over a week. After coming to Tangail General Hospital, the on duty doctors gave him several pathology tests and asked him to visit after two days. When he again visited the hospital with the test reports, the doctors prescribed him and asked him to come seven days later.

He has Covid-19 symptoms but the hospital authority did not take his sample, Ruhul said.

Like Ruhul, several other people came to the hospital with such symptoms shared the same experience with this correspondent.

Shafiqul Islam Sajib, resident medical officer (RMO) of Tangail General Hospital, said they are taking samples of the people who have Covid-19 symptoms. But the number is not more than 20 a day.

Acute shortage of medical equipment is hampering treatment at the Corona unit of the hospital, said the RMO.

On the other hand, despite repeated pleas from all sections of people, a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing lab for detecting Covid-19 infection is yet to be set up in Tangail. As a result, the samples are sent to Dhaka for tests and it takes several days to get the results. In the meantime, people who gave samples move freely and spread infection. An Intensive Care Unit (ICU) is also yet to be set up in the district.

Contacted, Civil Surgeon Dr Mohammad Waheduzzaman said works to set up both a 10-bed ICU unit at Tangail General Hospital and a PCR lab at Sheikh Hasina Medical College in the district town are going on.



A discharged Covid-19 patient leaves Tangail General Hospital for home after recovery.

PHOTO: STAR

## Once unemployed Habibur now farming hero

AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenidah

Once unemployed Md Habibur Rahman in the district is now a successful farmer. He has earned a good profit by cultivating watermelon and onion.

After completing his masters in political science from Jashore MM College in 2007, Habibur, 35, son of Atiar Rahman of Nabogram village in Jhenidah's Shailakupa upazila tried his best to manage a job but failed. Later, he went to Dhaka and ran a small garments business there.

In 2018, Habibur returned home when his father got ill. Finding no other alternative, he made up his mind to do farming. He then convinced his father and started guava farming on one bigha of land. He got good profit from this farming. He then took lease of five bighas of land spending Tk 50,000. He cultivated watermelon, guava and onion on the lands.

On April 22 this year, he cultivated watermelon of Soheli hybrid on 15 decimals of land spending Tk 12,000, said Habibur, adding that he earned Tk 50,000 by selling 1,000 kg of watermelons on the land before the cyclone Amphan. If the storm did not



Md Habibur Rahman at his watermelon field at Nabogram village in Jhenidah's Shailakupa upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

destroy his plot, he could sell more 2500 kgs at Tk 1.25 lakh.

Apart from this, he earned a profit of Tk 5,000 by selling all-season onion, Bari-5 variety, on 10 decimals of land. He had to spend Tk 8000 for the onion farming. He took training

in farming the onion from Magura spice research centre.

Habibur further added that the authorities of local agriculture office in Shailakupa have helped him a lot to develop his farming. Local youths and farmers are now thronging his plot to collect saplings and seeds of watermelon and guava. He will expand his farming in the next year as it is a profitable venture.

He also urged the government to give loan to the jobless youths at low interest. If they get loan from the bank, they can contribute to the agricultural economy of the country.

Md Alauddin, a farmer of Nabogram village in the upazila, said he has already collected saplings and seeds of watermelon and guava from Habibur.

Another farmer Jahangir Hossain of the village said many people, especially unemployed youths in the area, are now following Habibur's footsteps after seeing his success.

Shailakupa upazila Agriculture Officer Sanjoy Kumar Kundo said Habibur is an ideal farmer in the locality. He is very sincere and hard working. They always help him whenever he needs.

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Tender Ref. No. RAKUB/HO/CSD-14(3)/2020-2021/32 Date: 14.07.2020

**e-Tender Notice**

e-Tender is invited in the e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for Printing and Supply of (Non MICR) Savings & Current cheque book and related services as stated below:

Sl. No.	e-Tender ID No.	Tender Reference No.	Description of work	Last selling date & time	Closing date & time
01.	464549	RAKUB/HO/CSD-14(3)/2020-2021/32	Design, printing, binding & supply of Non MICR cheque book.	30-July-2020, 16:00pm	03-Aug-2020, 12:30pm

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Fees for downloading the e-Tender documents of the following package/tender from the e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks' branches up to abovementioned date and time.

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

sd/-  
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**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges  
Bangladesh Bridge Authority  
Setu Bhaban, New Airport Road  
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Memo No. 50.00.0000.401.44.060.20-463 Date: 16 July 2020

**Fresh Request for Expression of Interest (EOI)**  
for  
**Engagement of Two Individual Consultants at Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA)**

Bangladesh Bridge Authority invites eligible applications for the positions of (i) Senior Procurement Specialist, and (ii) Senior Design Engineer as individual consultants for the Office of the Chief Engineer. The services, qualifications and experiences requirements for the assignment are:

Name of the post	Service	Qualification and experience
Senior Procurement Specialist	Prepare procurement documents including specifications/ToR for goods, services, and works in a professional, transparent, and standard practice, covering procurement regulations and guidelines. Assist in preparation and implementation of procurement processes, and contract administration. Manage the procurement process, facilitate evaluation panels, prepare evaluation reports and contracts, facilitate contract negotiations and provide contract management services. Working place/office: BBA, Dhaka	Education: MBA/Graduate in Engineering (Civil Engineering preferred). Experience: Preferably 10 years' as procurement professional in civil works/goods/services. Knowledge and understanding of GoB and other Development Partners Procurement Procedures and Guidelines is desirable. Affiliation with procurement professional body and good communication in English will get importance. Knowledge and use of Microsoft Office is desirable. Age limit: Not more than 62 years.
Senior Design Engineer	Perform civil infrastructure design analysis and calculations according to project requirements, prepare specifications and cost estimates for goods, works and services. Ensure compliance with ISO quality requirements. Assist design and construction teams in analyzing design issues and recommend for corrective measures, if any. Review project plan and assist in monitoring and management of ongoing projects considering health, safety and environmental requirements.	Education: Graduate in Civil Engineering. Experience: Preferably 10 years' experience in design and construction supervision of Civil/River Training Works. Experience with quality parameters of Civil/River Training Works is desirable. Strong analytical and problem-solving skills and knowledge and use of latest software in design is preferable. Affiliation with professional body and good communication in English is importance. Age limit: Not more than 62 years.

Application/Expression of Interest shall be submitted by 04 August 2020, in sealed envelope, addressed to Chief Engineer, Bangladesh Bridge Authority, Setu Bhaban, Banani, Dhaka and be clearly marked "Request for Expressions of Interest for Selection of Senior Procurement Specialist/Senior Design Engineer". The Request for Application (SRFA) document is available at [www.bba.gov.bd](http://www.bba.gov.bd) and also hardcopy at Chief Engineer's Office.

A consultant will be selected using the selection of individual consultant sub-method in accordance with the Public Procurement Regulations 2008. It is expected that the service will be commenced from early August 2020 at Chief Engineer Office, BBA and shall continue up till 31 September 2022.

The client reserves the right to reject all EOIs.

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