

Once home to around 500-feet-high hills, Rupaichhara government hill and rubber-garden area now stands barren. Locals alleged that people with political influence continue to cut hills and extract sand in the area, while the authorities turn a blind eye.

PHOTO: STA

# PUST VC confined for over 4 hours

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

The faculty members at Pabna University of Science and Technology (PUST) confined Vice Chancellor Md Rostom Ali to his office for four and half hours yesterday.

They did not allow the VC to come out of his office from 11:00am to 3:30pm when a meeting of PUST's highest decisionmaking forum -- Regent Board - was foiled, said registrar Bijon Kumar Brahma.

At the meeting, the faculty members were expected to discuss around 60 agendas including their promotions but the VC first placed his nephew's recruitment and other recruitment matters.

This made the teachers agitated, said the university's teacher Abdul Halim.

Later, Pabna-1 lawmaker Shamsul Haque Tuku went there and assured the teachers to discuss their issues at a meeting on February 24.

# Once there were hills

MINTU DESHWARA, back from Habiganj

Once, Rupaichhara government hills in Habiganj used to be around 500 feet high. Due to sand extraction and tree felling, they now stand on the verge of extinction.

This correspondent recently visited Rupaichhara Rubber Garden in Bahubal upazila and found two hills on the west and the north already cut, along with the trees. Around 19 acres of rubber plantation were gone as well.

Locals alleged that an influential quarter has been behind the illegal hill cutting and sand extraction -- backed up by a ruling party leader.

Meanwhile, the Department of Environment officials and local administration are silent observers when it comes to hill cutting, alleged locals.

According to Rupaichhara Rubber Garden authorities, the total area of the garden is 1,963 acres. There are 17 government-owned rubber plantations in the country, four of which are located in Sylhet division. One of them is Habiganj's Rupaichhara.

Talking to the rubber-garden authorities and locals, it was known that Putijuri Union Parishad's former chair and Habiganj District Tanti League's president Md Muddat Ali has occupied about 19 acres of the garden's lands, and claimed three more acres.

Besides, few other sand traders are continuing illegal sand extraction from the Soshanchhara stream flowing through the garden.

Saddam Hossain, a resident of the rubber-garden slum, said the garden and hills are unprotected as there's no boundary wall, and this situation makes them a target for those looking to extract sand and cut trees.

"The authorities never took any action," he alleged.

"Hills are being cut every night. An eight-bigha playground, a 10-acre rubber garden nursery on the east side of the

The penalty for cutting hills without approval is up to two years imprisonment, a fine of Tk 2 lakh, or both, for a first offence. For a subsequent offence, the penalty is up to ten years of rigorous imprisonment or a fine of Tk 10 lakh or both.

field, and a 12-foot wide road have been destroyed to cater to Muddat Ali's land business," alleged Sadek Mia, a resident of Kalyanpur village.

However, when this correspondent contacted Muddat Ali, he denied the allegations and said sand has been extracted from his privately-owned land. When asked whether privately-owned hills can be cut under the Sand and Land Management Act, he said, "I have the approval of the Ministry of Mineral

Resources to extract sand."

Shah Shaheda Akther, Sylhet divisional coordinator of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela), said as per the Environment Conservation (Amendment) Act 2010, hill cutting is a cognisable offence and no government, semigovernment, or autonomous organisation is allowed to cut or raze hills without prior permission from the authorities concerned.

The penalty for cutting hills without approval is up to two years imprisonment, a fine of Tk 2 lakh, or both, for a first offence. For a subsequent offence, the penalty is up to ten years of rigorous imprisonment or a fine of Tk 10 lakh or both.

"Astonishingly, the government proposes to increase forest land to 20 percent of the country's total land by 2030, while every year, government hills are being cut with the help of government officials," said Tofazzal Sohel, general secretary of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon's Habiganj chapter.

"We desperately need the hills to ensure the survival of our wildlife and conserve biodiversity," he added.

Abdul Baki, Rupaichhara Rubber Garden's manager, acknowledged that the garden is indeed unprotected without a boundary wall.

"Muddat Ali told us that he was extracting sand from his own lands. We will investigate and take necessary steps regarding the issue," said the garden manager.

## We desperately need the hills to ensure the survival of our wildlife and conserve biodiversity.

**Tofazzal Sohel**, GS of Bapa's Habiganj chapter

# Taking notes from a heist movie!

Police arrest four over 20 robberies, muggings in two nights in port city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

On Sunday, four youths stormed into a roadside medicine shop in the port city at midnight and held the staff hostage at gunpoint. They then took cash and mobile phones, and fled the scene in a car.

This was just one of at least 20 robberies and muggings they conducted in two consecutive nights, on February 6 and 7. The gang was inspired to embark on this crime spree after watching a movie, according to law enforcers.

After conducting separate drives for 96 hours, police arrested the four in connection with the incidents from different areas yesterday.

The arrestees are Md Belal Hossain Aslam (27),

Tanvir Islam Rukun (27), Sohel Uddin (28) and Mohiuddin Kamal (28). Aslam is a mason, and Sohel and Kamal are drivers. During investigation, Baizid Bostami police found that the gang robbed and mugged multiple

pedestrians and local shops across the port city during this period.

Investigators said the car they were using was spatched from Sitalanda upazila's Banchbaria.

snatched from Sitakunda upazila's Banshbaria area on Saturday night. OC Md Kamruzzaman of Baizid Bostami Police Station said. "So far we have found that the gang

Station said, "So far, we have found that the gang conducted at least 20 robberies and muggings with the stolen car." The criminals plotted everything after watching a movie recently.

According to investigators, the group.

According to investigators, the group, pretending to be passengers, boarded the private car in Alangkar area and held the driver hostage on Dhaka-Chattogram highway. They then snatched the car. The criminals later came to Baizid area, robbed the medicine shop, and took Tk 59,000 cash and electronic devices.

"The criminals robbed and mugged in Baizid, Nimtala-Customs, Halishahar, Muradpur, Sholoshahar, Bakalia and Kaptai Rastar Matha-Kazir Hat areas," said OC Kamruzzaman.

"Every night, they started their operation at 11:30pm and continued till 5:30am. They would then park the car in front of Chattogram Medical College Hospital," added the OC.

The car, 10 mobile phones, a makeshift gun, four cartridges, a knife and wrench were seized from their possession. They stand accused in different cases, including drugs and arms cases.

### Pradeep, Liaqat transferred to Kashimpur jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

The death row convicts in Maj (retd) Sinha murder case, Pradeep Kumar Das and Liaqat Ali have been transferred to Kashimpur Central Jail in Gazipur.

They were brought to the jail in a prison van under tight security around 8:30 on Wednesday night, said senior prison superintendent Gias Uddin. A Cox's Bazar court on January 31 sentenced Liaqat Ali, inspector of Baharchhara Investigation Centre; and Pradeep Kumar Das, suspended officer-in-charge of Teknaf Police Station, to death in the murder case.

After the verdict was announced, they were taken to Cox's Bazar Jail. They were transferred to Chattogram Central Jail on February 5.

### Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer

Office of the Executive Engineer
Education Engineering Department, Sylhet
www.eed.sylhet.gov.bd



Tender Notice No. 22/e-Tender/Repair-5974/Repair-TMED/EED/Syl/2021-2022

Invitation for e-Tender (LTM)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of works mentioned below

SI. No.	Tender/Proposal Package No.	Tender ID	Name of works/package description	Last date & time of selling documents	Last date & time of submission documents
1	e-Tender-1/Repair- 5974//XEN/EED/Syl/ 2021-2022	658570	Repair & Renovation work of Rasamoy Memorial High School, Sadar, Sylhet.	27/02/2022 Time: 17:00	28/02/2022 Time: 14:00
2	e-Tender-2/Repair- 5974//XEN/EED/Syl/ 2021-2022	658572	Repair & Renovation work of Lalabazar High School & College, Dakshin Surma, Sylhet	27/02/2022 Time: 17:00	28/02/2022 Time: 14:00
3	e-Tender-3/Repair- 5974//XEN/EED/Syl/ 2021-2022	658574	Repair & Renovation work of Eidgah Bazar High School, Zakigonj, Sylhet.	27/02/2022 Time: 17:00	28/02/2022 Time: 14:00
4	e-Tender-4/Repair- 5974//XEN/EED/Syl/ 2021-2022	658577	Repair & Renovation work of Ichamoti High School, Zakigonj, Sylhet.	27/02/2022 Time: 17:00	28/02/2022 Time: 14:00
5	e-Tender-5/Repair- 5974//XEN/EED/Syl/ 2021-2022	658579	Repair & Renovation work of Barhal Eahia High School, Zakigonj, Sylhet.	27/02/2022 Time: 17:00	28/02/2022 Time: 14:00
6	e-Tender-6/Repair- 5974//XEN/EED/Syl/ 2021-2022	658581	Repair & Renovation work of Sarker Bazar High School, Kanaighat, Sylhet.	27/02/2022 Time: 17:00	28/02/2022 Time: 14:00
7	e-Tender-7/Repair- 5974//XEN/EED/Syl/ 2021-2022	658582	Repair & Renovation work of Kanaighat College, Kanaighat, Sylhet.	27/02/2022 Time: 17:00	28/02/2022 Time: 14:00
8	e-Tender-8/Repair- 5974//XEN/EED/Syl/ 2021-2022	658584	Repair & Renovation work of Borochatul High School, Kanaighat, Sylhet.	27/02/2022 Time: 17:00	28/02/2022 Time: 14:00
9	e-Tender-1/Repair- TMED/XEN/EED/Syl/	658719	Repair & Renovation work of Rahimia Alim Madrasha, Kanaighat, Sylhet.	27/02/2022 Time: 17:00	28/02/2022 Time: 14:00

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 Portal (<a href="http://www.eprocure.gov.bd">http://www.eprocure.gov.bd</a>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents of said packages from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited

online through any registered banks' branches up to 27/02/2022 at Time: 17:00pm.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk

(helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

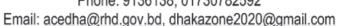
GD-269

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Email: <u>acedna@rnd.gov.bd</u>, <u>dnakazone2020@</u> Memo No. 35.01.2690.007.07.001.22-615

Date: 08-02-2022

Corrigendum No. 01 (One)

Ref: Eol Notice Memo No. 35.01.2690.007.07.001.22-378

Date: 25-01-2022

The following amendment (as shown in column-4) is hereby made to the EoI notice for the abovementioned work. The participants are advised to submit their EoI with due consideration to this amendments. This corrigendum is a part of the EoI notice. All other terms and conditions of EoI notice will remain unchanged. The participants must submit this Corrigendum No. 01 (One) along with their EoI document duly sealed and signed.

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SI.	Reference	To be replaced	Replace with					
No.		·						
1	2	3	4					
1.	Subject	Feasibility study of (i) Nayakandi (Sripur)-Chalakchar (Monohardi)-Shakerbazar Road (Z-2122), (ii) Shibpur-Bannerbazar-Palas (Taltali) Road (Z-2036), (iii) Dohar (Bashtala)-Kartikpur-Jhowkanda (Mainut) Road (Z-8207), (iv) Dohar-Kartikpur-Balirtek Road (Z-8209), (v) Kapashia-Pabur-Fuldi-Kaliganj Road (Z-3025), (vi) Lakpur-Kamargaon-Gagutia-Katiadi (Motkhola) Road (Z-2034) and (vii) Keraniganj (Konakhola)-Kholamura-Hazratpur-Itavara-Mirpur (Hemayetpur) Road (Ch. 7+000 to 23+500) = 07 (Seven) under Roads & Highways Department,	Feasibility Study work to construct 8 (eight) newly included roads in accordance with RHD standard of important District Highways under Dhaka Zone Upgradation Project (Dhaka Zone) (Phase II)					
		Dhaka Zone, Dhaka (Approx. length is 121.47km.)						

Md. Sabuj Uddin Khan ID No. 005032 Additional Chief Engineer (c.c) RHD

Dhaka Zone, Dhaka

GD-271