



Many areas of Tangail and Gazipur have been flattened due to rampant hillock cutting, which is supported by local influentials. This has put the biodiversity of the region in huge danger. If action is not taken to prevent this practice in due time, the distinct geological feature of this part of the country may just disappear. These photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

# Grabbers feast on Tangail hillocks

MIRZA SHAKIL

A range of red hillocks – it’s not only a great sight, surrounded by luscious Sal forests, but is also crucial in conserving the biodiversity of the midlands of Tangail and Gazipur.

However, this geological feature is on the verge of extinction, owing to the greed of an influential quarter, which is cutting the hillocks, flattening them and selling the soil to brick kilns.

In many areas, these influential locals have also occupied the surrounding flatlands and cultivated different crops, fruits and vegetables, by forging documents of ownership, thanks to some corrupt land department officials and employees, sources said.

A recent study by the environmental science and resource management department of Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University found that the hillocks in the region are undergoing a transformation due to the growing commercialisation of land and expanding

**According to locals, the excavators cut the hillocks in these areas at night and take the soil away on trucks, leaving the roads dusty. This also creates inconvenience for people living on the sides of roads.**

urbanisation and industrialisation.

Even just two decades ago, before falling victim to the soil traders’ greed, there were numerous hillocks in Mirzapur’s Gorai, Ajgana, Latilpur, Banshtail and Tarafpur unions. The traders have also been extracting soil from the government’s reserve forests surrounding the hillocks, alleged locals.

Ashrafur Islam, a ranger at Banshtail Range, said they had recently seized three excavators and sued one of the owners for extracting soil from the reserve forest land.

According to locals, the excavators cut the hillocks in these areas at night and take the



soil away on trucks, leaving the roads dusty. This also creates inconvenience for people living on the sides of roads.

Jamir Uddin, deputy director of Department of Environment in Tangail, said they cannot take any action against the plunderers due to not having magistracy power. “Only the local administration can take steps against it.”

Asked, Mirzapur Upazila Nirbahi Officer Hafizur Rahman said fines of around Tk 50 lakh have been realised during multiple drives. He also mentioned that they will continue the drives.

The mayhem has not stopped in Ghatail upazila as well, where about one third of the landscape is covered by red hillocks, under six bits of a reserve forest area in Dhalapara range. During a recent visit, this correspondent noticed that many of the hillocks have already been flattened in Delutia, Kachara and Baripara areas under Choura and Deopara, Gourishwar under Battala and Akander Baid in Sagardighi.

“It is not possible to cut the hillocks without contacting the forest department officials and employees. Yet, it has become a

common occurrence,” told Jahurul Islam, a local.

Dhalapara Range Officer Abdul Hamid, however, claimed that they stopped the hillocks from being razed after they acquired information about it.

Ghatail upazila assistant commissioner (land) Farzana Yasmin said they conducted mobile court drives at Delutia. However, no one was found at the scene.

Meanwhile, indiscriminate cutting of hillocks is also going on at adjacent Sakhipur, where grabbers have been occupying khas land, according to sources.

Contacted, Ataul Gani, deputy commissioner in Tangail, said a section of influential people backed by politicians are active in hillock cutting due to increasing demand for soil in different development projects.

“However, there is no alternative to conserving the beautiful natural assets for protecting the balance of environment and biodiversity,” he said.

The issue has already been discussed in several development coordination committee meetings of the district, he added.



**It is not possible to cut the hillocks without contacting the forest department officials and employees. Yet, it has become a common occurrence.**

Jahurul Islam  
A local from Dhalapara

## AL council of Ctg south by Sept: Hanif

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The council of Chattogram south district unit of Awami League will be held by September, the party’s joint general secretary Mahbulul Alam Hanif said yesterday. He made the announcement while addressing the grassroots representatives conference organised by the AL unit at a convention centre in the port city.

Hanif said unlike what BNP leaders are saying, Bangladesh will never face situation like that in Sri Lanka due to very strong economic foundation of the country. “We have been developing under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and so, there will not be any economic crisis in this country,” he said.

“The conspirators are spreading propaganda but they would not succeed,” he added. Minister for Information Hasan Mahmud, who also addressed the programme, echoed the same.

AL organising secretary Abu Sayeed Al Mahmud Swapan said the council of grassroots level would be completed by July while the district level council would be held by the first week of September. AL presidium member Engr Mosharruf Hossain addressed the meeting as the chief guest with AL Chattogram south district president Moslem Uddin Ahmed in the chair.

Hundreds of representatives from grassroots AL were present at the conference.



## ‘Will keep fighting for democracy’ Says Fakhrul

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday urged party leaders and activists to continue movements to restore democracy through the 2023 elections.

He said democracy has been destroyed during AL’s rule.

Fakhrul was addressing the inaugural session of Dinajpur district council of BNP on Dinajpur Institute premises.

The senior BNP leader said the nation is going through a tough time and such a situation occurs whenever AL is in power. “Awami League talks about democracy but does the opposite,” he said.

Autocratic rule is prevailing in the country, he said. Murder, rape, looting and robbery have become common nowadays, he said.

The AL-led government ruined the judicial



SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



Two mangled buses after they collided head-on on Tangail-Mymensingh highway in Madhupur, Tangail yesterday, killing one of the drivers and injuring at least 25 passengers. Inset, a car fell into a canal from an abandoned bridge in Tongibari, Munshiganj the same day, which killed two teenagers.

PHOTO: STAR

## No warning sign to prevent their death

**2 teens die as car falls off abandoned bridge; families blame authorities’ negligence**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Three young friends yesterday decided to go on a joy ride in a car, hoping to have a good time together. But that joy turned into a nightmare for them and their loved ones.

Their car fell from an abandoned bridge into a canal, killing two of them in Munshiganj’s Tongibari upazila.

The accident took place at Pura Bazar area around 3:30am.



SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

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বাংলাদেশ প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের উন্নয়নমূলক কার্য সূষ্ঠাভাবে সম্পন্ন করার নিমিত্তে প্রধান প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়ে নিম্নবর্ণিত পদটি খন্ডকালীন (সম্পূর্ণ অস্থায়ী) নিয়োগের জন্য যোগ্যতা সম্পন্ন বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।		
পদের নাম ও বেতন	পদের সংখ্যা	নির্ধারিত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা
স্থপতি (Architect) সর্বসাকুল্যে মাসিক বেতন ৳: ৪৬,৪৪০/- (ছেচল্লিশ হাজার চারশত চল্লিশ) এছাড়া বছরে ১টি নববর্ষ ভাতা ও ২টি উৎসব ভাতা প্রাপ্য হবেন। অফিস সময়ঃ সপ্তাহে ৩ দিন, সকাল ৯:০০ হতে বিকেল ৫:০০টা	১টি পদ খন্ডকালীন (সম্পূর্ণ অস্থায়ী)	বাংলাদেশ প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে B. Arch ডিগ্রিধারী হতে হবে। ন্যূনতম ১০ বছরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে।
প্রার্থীকে সাদা কাগজে নাম, পিতার নাম, মাতার নাম, স্থায়ী ও বর্তমান ঠিকানা, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা, অভিজ্ঞতা, জাতীয়তা, জন্ম তারিখ, NID-এর কপি, সদ্য তোলা পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ২ কপি ছবি, মোবাইল নম্বর, ইত্যাদি উল্লেখপূর্বক সকল প্রকার সনদের সত্যায়িত কপি এবং নিজ ঠিকানা সম্বলিত ফেরত খামসহ আবেদনপত্র রেজিস্ট্রার, বাংলাদেশ প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, ঢাকা বরাবরে পৌছাতে হবে। নিয়োগ পরীক্ষায়/সাক্ষাৎকারে উপস্থিত হওয়ার জন্য কোন প্রকার যাতায়াত বা দৈনিক ভাতা প্রদান করা হবে না। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ ব্যতিরেকে এই নিয়োগ প্রক্রিয়া গ্রহণ/বাতিল/পদ সংখ্যা হ্রাস-বৃদ্ধির ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। নিয়োগ প্রক্রিয়ায় কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে। চাকরিরত প্রার্থীগণকে অবশ্যই যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে।		
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