

When the hills cry for help

Politically influential gang continues to raze red hillocks in Tangail

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

Once what were beautiful hillocks of red earth, are now barren lands.

The Sal and Gajari trees which used to adorn the place, have also disappeared.

The red earth hillocks, locally known as "Tila" or "Chala," that once dotted the Madhupur Garh region from Gazipur to Tangail districts have been gradually destroyed over the years.

In areas like Tarafpur, Asgana, Banshtali, and Latifpur in Tangail's Mirzapur upazila, the hills were leveled and the trees cut down.

Environmentalists blame the greed of unscrupulous people and negligence of the authorities concerned for the razing of hillocks in Mirzapur, Ghatail, Sakhipur and Madhupur upazilas of Tangail.

Some locally influential people with political backing are allegedly involved

in levelling the hillocks to sell the earth to traders. The earth is used in producing bricks at kilns, for road construction, and filling of ponds and low lying areas.

The felled trees are sold for wood.

The status quo is destroying the environmental balance on one hand and increasing

the risk of natural disasters, such as landslides, on the other. Also, heavy trucks used for transporting the earth are damaging the rural roads as well as polluting the environment with dust and smoke, said green activists.

As per locals, Aminur Rahman, Ashraf Akanda, SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



PHOTO: STAR

No EPZ on cropland

Says Sultana Kamal at Gaibandha rally

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

The ongoing land acquisition process for the Rangpur EPZ at the Santal Palli under Gaibandha's Gobindaganj upazila should be stopped immediately, said eminent rights activist Sultana Kamal yesterday.

She was speaking at a rally held in Katarmor area of the upazila.

The rally was organised by Sahebganj-Bagda Farm Bhumi Uddhar Sangram Committee, Jatiya Adivasi Parishad, ALRD, Adivasi-Bengali Parishad and Gaibandha Samagik Sangram Parishad.

"No structures should be built on any cropland. This is our state policy. Even the prime minister has repeatedly said this to protect cropland. We are also demanding the same. There is no ambiguity," she said.

"Three Santal men died to save their land. Their families are yet to get justice. How can we say a pro-liberation party is ruling the country, if they are still being denied of justice?" she asked.

"We want to remind them [the government] that they have been in power for a long time by talking about the Liberation War ethos. It is their responsibility to improve the fate of the backward people," she said.

She said a separate commission for the plainland indigenous community should be formed. "We expect this from the pro-liberation government," Sultana Kamal added.

Philimon Baske, president of Sahebganj-Bagda Farm Bhumi Uddhar Sangram Committee, presided over the rally.

Ctg airport health official held with four gold bars

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Customs officials yesterday arrested a health officer of Chattogram airport and recovered four gold bars from his possession.

The arrestee, MZA Sharif, works at the Emergency Medical Services Department of the airport, said Assistant Commissioner of Custom House Alif Rahman Nirvul.

To smuggle the gold, the doctor allegedly used the VIP channel pretending to provide emergency medical care to one of the passengers, Md Alauddin, of a flight arriving from the UAE, he said.

Based on a tip-off, customs officials monitored the doctor's moves for the past few days and arrested him yesterday.

"Legal action is being taken against the passenger and the doctor," he said.

Following the incident, Sharif got suspended and the DGHS formed a two-member probe committee to investigate the incident, said officials.

'He was not offered teaching contract for vandalism'

Says BRAC University on Asif Mahtab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BRAC University yesterday said the recent act of tearing pages of a textbook published by the government, included in the national curriculum for students enrolled in 7th grade in schools, and asking others to do the same in a public forum, is an act of vandalism, a behaviour not supported by the university.

"The University considers any act of vandalism towards national property as unacceptable behavior and does not tolerate or support such activities," it said in a statement.

The university, therefore, cannot offer a part-time teaching contract to Asif Mahtab Utsha for the Spring 2024 semester. However, the university will compensate Asif Mahtab Utsha for his time and efforts towards his preparatory work for Spring 2024.

BRAC University believes, like all great institutions of higher education, its role should be to create space for all views to be discussed and debated constructively, predicated on tolerance and respect. The university believes in the exchange of ideas through dialogue, the statement said.

BRAC University respects and fully complies with the country's constitution and laws on all matters. Accordingly, it does not promote homosexuality as has been alleged by some quarters in various social media content. However, the university believes in equal rights and opportunities for every single human being to realise their potential, it added.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Farm Mechanization Through Integrated Management Project

DAE, Khamarbari, Dhaka

e-Tender Notice

Memo No: 12.01.0000.000.14.054.21/ 282

Date: 29/01/2024

This is to notify all concerned that the following tender have published through E-GP Portal

SI No.	Tender ID & Package No.	Name of Goods/Package Description	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing and opening date & time
1	ID-934947 Package No.WD/DAE/FMP233	Supply and installation of machinery Tools	13-02-2024 16:00	14-02-2024 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. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

(Tarik Mahmudul Islam)

Project Director

GD-149

Government of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh
Modernization of Onion-Garlic Storage System at Farmer Level and Marketing Activities Development Project
Department of Agricultural Marketing
Ministry of Agriculture.
Khamarbari, 1st building, Farmgate, Dhaka. 1215.
www.dam.bd.com

Memo No.12.02.0000.547.07.004.22- 61

Date:30.01.2024

e-Tender (OTM) Notice

e-Tenders (OTM) are invited through e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) under "Modernization of Onion and Garlic Storage System at Farmer Level and Marketing Activities Development Project" of Department of Agricultural Marketing, Khamarbari, Dhaka for the Procurement of the following packages.

SI No.	Tender ID, Reference and package No.	Name of the Works	Last Selling date & Time	Tender Closing Last date & Time
01.	ID: 941450, Ref:12.02.0000.547.07.004.22-42 Package No:-OGSP-W-3	Construction of 15 Nos Onion and garlic Storage houses at different farmer's house of Shaikupa upazila of Jhenaidah districts according to given drawing and design.	14.02.2024 Up to 16.00	15.02.2024 Up to 14.30
02	ID: 941658, Ref:12.02.0000.547.07.004.22-42 Package No:-OGSP-W-4	Construction of 15 Nos Onion and Garlic Storage Houses at different farmer's house of Chatmohar Upazila of Pabna districts according to given drawing and design.	14.02.2024 Up to 16.00	15.02.2024 Up to 14.35
03.	ID: 941639, Ref:12.02.0000.547.07.004.22-42 Package No:-OGSP-W-5	Construction of 25 Nos Onion and Garlic Storage Houses at different farmer's house of Bagmara Upazila of Rajshahi districts according to given drawing and design.	14.02.2024 Up to 16.00	15.02.2024 Up to 14.30

This is Online Tender (OTM), 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 (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

s/d-

(Md. Helal Uddin)

Project Director

Department of Agricultural Marketing.

Phone: 02-55008096.

GD- 152

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