

CITY

Owners of 54 illegal brick kilns fined Tk 2.16cr

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday fined Tk 4 lakh each to the owners of 54 brick kilns in Chattogram Hill Tracts (CHT) for illegally running their operations.

During hearing of a writ petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB), the HC also ordered the owners to deposit the money to this court in 30 days.

The brick kiln owners include Mohammad Waliullah, Mozammel Haque, Obaidul Kabir, Shamima Akhter, Gias Uddin, Enamul Haque, Nasir Ul Alam, Mohammad Islam, Biplob Kanti, Abdul Kader.

The HC bench of Justice Fatema Najib and Justice Sikder Mahmudur Razi also withdrew its earlier order that issued status quo on shutting down the operations of the 54 illegal brick kilns, writ petitioner's lawyer Manzill Murshid told The Daily Star.

He said the owners have been running their illegal brick kilns by taking status quo orders from the HC even though there are several orders for shutting those down.

Following a petition filed by the owners, the HC on February 12 extended the order of status quo for six months, which the court withdrew yesterday.

Ctg councillor held in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police arrested a fugitive Chattogram city ward councillor in Dhaka yesterday in several cases filed over the violence during the July uprising.

Jahurul Alam Jasim, councillor of ward-9, was held in Bashundhara Residential Area, said Mohammad Hossain Kabir, deputy commissioner of Chattogram Metropolitan Police (West Division).

Jasim, also the joint convener of North Pahartali Ward Awami League, has been accused in several cases filed with Akbarshah Police Station and Double Mooring Police Station, he told The Daily Star.

Jasim has been accused of attacking and shooting protesters of the Students Against Discrimination and financially aiding their attackers.

In August 2022, the Department of Environment filed a case against Jasim and his wife Taslim Begum with Akbarshah Police Station for illegally cutting hills near the Lake City Residential Area.

Livelihoods, dreams reduced to ashes

Fire guts 35 shanties in Dhaka's Bhasantek slum



SHAIHEEN MOLLAH and RAJIB ISLAM

With her rickshaw-puller husband gone, survival became Renu Begum's only goal. Poverty forced her to leave Kishoreganj and move to Dhaka 25 years ago, clutching the hand of her seven-year-old son, Jahangir.

She found shelter in a slum in Bhasantek and worked as a day labourer in various sectors, slowly building a life with every hard-earned penny.

However, in 2019, her world was shattered when a fire tore through the slum, reducing everything she had built to ashes. Starting over again, she took out a loan, using her income along with a small contribution from her now-grown son, who works as a construction worker.

Over the years, she managed to buy two shanties in another slum nearby and rebuild her life. But disaster struck once more yesterday, as a fire ripped through the slum -- "Abuler Bost" -- in the capital's Bhasantek area, turning her home to ashes again.

"Our life has once again been reduced to nothing but ashes. How will we survive now?" cried Renu, now over 50.

She and her son had managed to save some belongings when the fire started, only to have them stolen when they stepped away for a moment.

Renu is now terrified, unable to repay the Tk 30,000 she still owes from her previous debt.

Like Renu, many others in the slum have similar stories of losing their homes and everything they owned. The fire gutted at least 35 shanties before five fire engines brought it under control around 12:30pm.

When this correspondent visited the slum in the afternoon, residents were



seen clearing the debris, some desperately searching through the ashes for valuables.

The slum was home to low-income workers -- garment workers, rickshaw pullers, hawkers, small shopkeepers, and house helps. Many were at work when the fire broke out, leaving them with nothing to save. No major casualties were reported.

Halima Begum and her family lost all 12 of their shanties in the fire. "The fire

has left us under the open sky. Decades of hard work, gone in the blink of an eye," she said.

Like Renu, Halima also suffered in the 2019 fire, but this time, all her family members have been left homeless.

Another resident, Swapna Begum, a tailor, lost everything. Her fridge, TV, bed, clothes, and money -- everything she had worked for -- vanished before her eyes.

When she heard people screaming "Fire!" she grabbed her only child and ran out. "Not just my savings and belongings; the fire destroyed my dream," she said.

"I took a loan of Tk 85,000 and bought clothes worth Tk 60,000 for my business before Eid. Now, the fire has burned not only the clothes but also the remaining Tk 25,000," she added.

Shafia Begum, wife of Abul Hossain, ran a small grocery shop with her daughters -- Papia Akter and Meghla Akter -- after Abul had been on the run since the political changeover in August.

The family used the shop's income to cover the educational expenses of the two girls, both college students, but the fire burned it down, destroying goods worth around Tk 5 lakh. "My house, my livelihood -- I have nothing left," Shafia said.

Fire officials said the cause of the fire is still unknown and that they will launch a probe to determine what started it.

Action if Hizb ut-Tahrir holds programmes Warns DMP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police yesterday said any activities with the banner of banned outfit Hizb ut-Tahrir are punishable under the anti-terrorism laws.

Hizb ut-Tahrir was banned by the Bangladesh government on October 22, 2009, considering it a threat to public security, said a DMP statement.

Under the Anti-Terrorism Act-2009, any form of gathering, procession, distribution of posters and leaflets, or promotional activities by banned outfits is a criminal offense.

If any banned outfit, including Hizb ut-Tahrir, attempts to hold meetings, rallies, or engage in any form of publicity, necessary legal action will be taken. The statement was issued by Muhammad Taleb Rahman PPM, deputy commissioner (media) of DMP.

GRAFT CASE

Tarique, Mamun acquitted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday acquitted BNP's acting chairman Tarique Rahman and his close aide Gias Uddin Al Mamun from a money laundering case, in which they were sentenced to seven years' imprisonment by the High Court.

The apex court also scrapped the HC verdict.

A four-member bench headed by Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed delivered the judgement following an appeal filed by Mamun.

The Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case in October 2009 with Cantonment Police Station against Tarique and Mamun on the charge of laundering Tk 20.41 crore to Singapore between 2003 and 2007.

Transactions worth

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legal income amounts to Tk 3.46 crore. Moreover, between 1990 and 2024, Mahmuda's 14 bank accounts saw questionable transactions totalling Tk 461.17 crore.

Meanwhile, suspicions extend to Lak Mia's employee, Md Mohsin Molla, whose salary was only Tk 12,000 per month. Despite this, his 14 bank accounts recorded transactions amounting to Tk 10,322.76 crore.

The ACC has also filed a case against his wife, Mahmuda Begum, for allegedly possessing

13 stranded fishers rescued from the Bay

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Coastguards in Mongla has rescued 13 fishermen who had been stranded at sea for four days after their trawler's engine broke down in the Bay of Bengal.

The rescue operation was carried out on Wednesday afternoon, said Lt Commander Md Siamul Haq, media officer of the Coast Guard (Mongla Headquarters) yesterday.

"Around 2:00pm on Wednesday, we received a call through the 999 helpline, informing us that the fishing trawler MV Ma Babar Doa had been floating in the sea for the past four days due to engine failure," he said.

According to sources, the trawler had set sail from Patharghat in Barishal 12 days ago for a fishing expedition.



Hundreds of brick kiln workers demonstrated in front of the DC office in Khulna yesterday, protesting the recent shutdown of over 40 brick kilns. They warned that if these closures continue, thousands will lose their livelihoods. They demanded official recognition of brick kilns as an industry and urged the government to allow environment-friendly kilns to operate.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

4-yr-old boy killed by stepbrother

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A four-year-old boy was strangled to death allegedly by his stepbrother at Enuya village in Thakurgaon's Piroganj upazila yesterday afternoon.

Tajul Islam, officer-in-charge of Piroganj Police Station, told The Daily Star that the deceased Siam was left at home with his 14-year-old stepbrother as his mother had gone out for work.

When Siam's mother returned from work, she found both boys missing. Then she and the villagers began searching the area. At one stage, locals found the older boy at the nearby Futkibari Bazar in Dinajpur's Bochaganj.

Based on his statement, Siam's body was later found in a maize field. Police recovered the body around 5:30pm and sent it to the Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital morgue for an autopsy.

The stepbrother was detained after he admitted to the killing during primary interrogation, OC Tajul said.

Supreme Court of Bangladesh

High Court Division

www.supremecourt.gov.bd

e-Tender Notice

Tender Notice No. 63/2024-25

Open Tendering Method (OTM)

Sl. No.	Tender/Proposal ID Reference No.	Name of works	Publication Date & Time	Last Selling Date & Time	Tender Closing Date & Time
1	1083001, e-GP/02-PMP-Road/Sher/2024-25	Re-Construction of Severely damaged & washed out road due to heavy Flash flood recently occurred at 8th (p) km & Rigid Pavement (Bazar portion) of Bougao-Nam-Natipgar Road (Z-4693) under Sherpur Road Division during the year 2024-2025	05-Mar-2025 10:00 08-Apr-2025 12:15		
2	1080540, e-GP/02-PMP-Road/Sher/2024-25	Periodic Maintenance Program Work of Nekala-Nalimbar-Nakupur Landport Road (N-402) at Ch. 11-000 to Ch. 28-000 km (Nakupur Land Port) Providing by DBS. Wearing Course and protective work under Sherpur Road Division during the year 2024-2025.	05-Mar-2025 10:00 08-Apr-2025 12:30		

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 (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and their e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents can be deposited online through any bank's Branch as per tender notice.

63/2024-25

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Memu No: 35/01/8900/470/06/400 25-315
e-Tender Notice

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

Sl. No.	Tender/Proposal ID Reference No.	Name of works	Publication date & closing date
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