

Sitting on ticking time bomb

Hardware, grocery or even betel leaf stores, in small towns or villages, in Nilphamari are now carrying LP gas cylinders, without obtaining any licence from appropriate authorities

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

While demand for liquefied petroleum (LP) gas is growing rapidly, fatal incidents similar to that in Narayanganj near the capital may happen any time in rural areas of Nilphamari where the highly flammable gas is being sold at every nook and cranny. Hardware, grocery or even betel leaf stores, in small towns or villages, in Nilphamari are now carrying LP gas cylinders, without obtaining any licence from appropriate authorities.

The canisters filled with the highly

The soaring demand and absence of monitoring and enforcement of applicable laws are driving everyone to try to cash in on the situation.

combustible material are being stacked up at the storefront, usually next to a busy road, as the sellers find it the best way to attract customers.

The soaring demand and absence of monitoring and enforcement of applicable laws are driving everyone to try to cash in on the situation in the district, said concerned citizens.

Despite a recent fire incident triggered by a gas cylinder in Neyamatpur area of Saidpur town, there has been no visible improvement in the enforcement or monitoring of LP gas cylinder sales in the district, they alleged.

According to Liquefied Petroleum Gas

(LPG) Rules, 2004, a seller has to store gas cylinders away from any source of heat or fire including sunlight and away from the reach of smokers, said Aminul Islam, deputy assistant director of Fire Service and Civil Defence in Nilphamari.

No dealer or distributor can sell LPG cylinders without a licence, which the Department of Explosives issues upon receiving due clearance from the office of the deputy commissioner (DC) and various departments including the fire service and the Department of Environment, he added.

But violating the rule, many municipalities and union parishads are also issuing the licence to sellers, he added.

Poran Mia (not his real name), is a plumbing and sanitary ware seller who has stacks of LPG cylinders in front of his store at a busy market in Dimla upazila.

Asked whether he has any licence to sell LPG cylinders, he said he was unaware of any such requirement.

At another market in Domar upazila, an LPG seller requesting anonymity said he has always known that the licence is mandatory only for sellers who sell more than ten cylinders at any given time.

Locals said if LPG bottling companies were strict about ensuring their selected dealers or distributors obtain necessary licensing, the situation would be safer for all.

Contacted, Nilphamari DC Hafizur Rahman Chowdhury said LPG bottling companies must follow the rule while selecting their dealers or distributors.

He also said that he would call the LPG bottling companies in a meeting to make them aware of the requirement. "If we get a specific complaint regarding any rules violation by any quarter, we will take action instantly."



LP gas cylinders stacked up in front of a grocery store and a hardware store in Nilphamari's Domar upazila.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Bid to trap environmental activist with Yaba

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Abdul Qayyum, an environmental activist, has been saved from a heinous attempt to trap him with Yaba in Habiganj's Madhabpur upazila, thanks to the prompt investigation by police.

The victim, also the owner of a furniture shop in Shahpur Natun Bazar area of the upazila, is known in the area as an honest man.

Local people alleged that the authorities of a company named 'Maar Limited' in the industrial area of Madhabpur tried to frame Qayyum with Yaba as he has been protesting against industrial pollution in the area for long.

Qayyum said one Milon, 32, son of Shukur Ali and Javed, 28, son of Muktar Miah of Shahpur village, came to his shop in the name of buying furniture around 5:00pm on August 28.

Around 9:00pm on the same day, three sub-inspectors of Madhabpur Police Station came to his shop in plainclothes and started searching. At one stage, one of them took out a packet of cigarettes from under the shutters of the shop and showed him 40 Yaba pills.

Locals then rushed to the spot and thwarted the attempt of the policemen to frame him with Yaba. On information, a police team, led by the officer-in-charge (OC) of the police station, rushed to the spot and pacified the angry locals with the help of Qayyum.

After the incident, locals filed a complaint with the police station against the three SIs. However, following a request from the OC, the names of three SIs in the complaint were dropped later.

On the same day, Qayyum filed a complaint against Milon and Javed, bringing allegation that they tried to trap him with Yaba.

OC Iqbal Hossain said during primary investigation, it was found that there was a



Environmental activist Abdul Qayyum (bearded) visits a canal near Maar Limited in Habiganj's Madhabpur upazila. Most of the factories in the area discharge their waste into the canal. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

conspiracy to frame Qayyum with Yaba.

Superintendent of Police Mohammad Ullah said during primary investigation, it was found that Qayyum is innocent. Someone wanted to trap him with Yaba because he works for the environment.

Tofazzal Sohel, general secretary of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon Habiganj unit, said many industries have been set up at different places in Madhabpur and Sadar upazilas of Habiganj

district over the years. Most of the factories are discharging their waste into open space or into canals and rivers without treating it. Abdul Qayyum has been protesting against industrial pollution for several years.

Contacted, Sadiqul Islam, general manager of Maar Limited, refuted all allegations brought against them.

They have set up a central waste treatment plant, he said.

Man crushed under train wheels

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A man was crushed to death under the wheels of a running train in Kujihahar area in Sadar upazila on Friday.

The deceased, Abdur Rahman, 46, son of Monir Uddin of Kujihahar village, was a peon at Ruheha Saleha Khatun Junior High School.

Quoting the villagers, Officer in Charge of Ruheha Police Station Chitta Ranjan said Rahman went to fishing in a waterbody alongside Thakurgaon-Panchagarh rain tracts on Friday night.

At one stage of fishing, he lied on the rail tracks and went to deep sleep, putting his current net in the waterbody.

Later, a Panchagarh-bound train crushed him under its wheels in his sleep, while crossing the area around 11:30pm.

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"Strengthening the Capacity of Officers and Staffs of Planning Division/Commission" প্রকল্প

স্মারক নং-২০.০০.০০০০.৩৩৪.০২৬.০০৫.১৯-১৬৪

তারিখঃ ১৭/০৯/২০২০খ্রিঃ

গাড়ি ভাড়ার দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পরিকল্পনা বিভাগ কর্তৃক বাস্তবায়নাদীন "Strengthening the Capacity of Officers and Staffs of Planning Division/Commission" প্রকল্পের আওতায় ২০ মাস মেয়াদে ১টি ডুয়েল এসি মাইক্রোবাস (চালকসহ) ভাড়ায় সঞ্জাহের নিমিত্ত রেন্ট-এ-কার ট্রেড লাইসেন্সধারী ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠান থেকে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

০১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	পরিকল্পনা বিভাগ, পরিকল্পনা মন্ত্রণালয়।
০২	সংস্থা	পরিকল্পনা বিভাগ।
০৩	সম্প্রদায়িক সংস্থা	প্রকল্প পরিচালক, "Strengthening the Capacity of Officers and Staffs of Planning Division/Commission" প্রকল্প।
০৪	যে কাজের জন্য দরপত্র	ভাড়ায় ১টি এসি মাইক্রোবাস (মডেল ২০১৫ বা তদূর্ধ্ব, ২০০০ সিসি)। বিস্তারিত বিবরণ ও শর্তাবলী দরপত্র সিডিউল-এ উল্লেখ করা হয়েছে।
০৫	সম্প্রদায়িক পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি।
০৬	বাজেট ও তহবিল	উন্নয়ন বাজেট, বাংলাদেশ সরকার।
০৭	দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ	২০/০৯/২০২০।
০৮	দরপত্র প্রদানের সর্বশেষ তারিখ	০৪/১০/২০২০খ্রিঃ পর্বত কমিটিবসের সকাল ৯.০০ ঘটিকা থেকে ৫.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
০৯	দরপত্র দাখিলের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	০৫/১০/২০২০খ্রিঃ সকাল ০৯.০০ ঘটিকা থেকে দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১০	দরপত্রের উন্মুক্তকরণের তারিখ ও সময়	০৫/১০/২০২০খ্রিঃ দুপুর ০৩.০০ ঘটিকা।
১১	দরপত্র প্রদানকারী দপ্তর, দরপত্র দাখিল ও উন্মুক্তকরণের স্থান	"Strengthening the Capacity of Officers and Staffs of Planning Division/Commission" পরিকল্পনা বিভাগ, পরিকল্পনা মন্ত্রণালয়, ব্লক-০৯, রুম-১৫, শের-ই-বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭।
১২	দরপত্রের মূল্য	১০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা।
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Date: 15 September, 2020

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

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