

Transporting perishables from N-dists to capital Traders frequently harassed to pay unauthorised toll

by Naimul Haq recently back from Aricha

MANIKGANJ, August 26: Traders transporting seasonal vegetables, fruits and spices from the northern districts to the capital through Nagarbari and Aricha ferry ghats have too many tales of harassment at the hands of unauthorised toll collectors to tell. Many such traders have virtually become hostages to the 'rules' imposed by these elements leading to frequent untoward incidents at the ghats.

Traders who make regular trips on this route with their perishable goods from Bogra, Joypurhat and other districts alleged that police sergeants often stop their five-tonner trucks at different points on arbitrary grounds of overloading and ask for a toll. This happens every day, said one trader carrying on business for long 18 years. Traffic police stop our vehicles and ask their goons to collect toll from us. This is done

to avoid public attention', said one truck driver. 'We are left with no choice but to pay the toll or else stand there for the rest of the day for clearance. As we are aware of the so-called 'rules' we avoid the long wait', he said.

The month of August is the peak of the season as fresh vegetables and fruits from the northern districts start moving to the capital. A regular trader would not risk violating the 'rules' of paying tolls at the recognised places on the way. 'Any sort of resistance to paying the tolls can end up in disastrous loss of business', said another trader who asked not to be named. A fellow trader said, usually a loaded truck carry perishables worth Tk 1.5 lakh to Tk 2 lakh. So, resistance is out of the question.

When asked, a police sergeant of Manikganj said, 'the truck drivers overload the vehicles. It is not always possible to check such overloading at starting points. We stop vehicles at random to curb overloading but some still get away. Sometimes we are accused of accepting bribe. This is not true. They break the rules and we are blamed for trying to curb the offence', he said.

A truck driver said, 'a single loaded trip from Joypurhat to Dhaka would cost a trader Tk 8,000 to Tk 12,000. Usually a number of traders hire a single truck for convenience. In business, load means money. So in most cases we overload the truck in return for extra earnings.'

'Our charge for a trip includes the toll money paid at different points,' said another truck driver from Bogra, Nagarbari, Sarishabari, Sherpur, Aricha, Chandaighona, Ul-

lapara and Nagarbari are some of the recognised points where we pay tolls. At each point a hundred taka note is good enough for 'transit pass', said the truck driver.

Crossing the Padma and the Jamuna is always a big problem. At Nagarbari a five-tonner truck has to pay Tk 720 as ferry charge, as prescribed by the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation. However, if it is overloaded, a trader has to pay between Tk 100 and Tk 500 for a place on an early ferry jumping the ghat's serial system.

Trucks carrying perishables are entitled to priority to board a ferry. However, traders allege that the ticket masters and ferry workers 'create' traffic jams at the pontoon to create conflicts between the drivers as conflicts lead to offering of bribes which are shared by the ticket masters and the ferry workers.

A small trader from Joypurhat said, 'I do not take the risk of waiting at the ghat. I rather go for putting my truck on the ferry irrespective of the cost. The earlier I reach the wholesale market at Kawan Bazar in Dhaka the higher is the price I get for my merchandise. It's business. As long as the ferry service remains so very unsatisfactory the unholy practice of bribing one's way through will remain.'



JHENIDAH: Administrative building of BSCIC estate at Dhanbaria in Jhenidah still not in use. — Star photo

BSCIC estate in Jhenidah

No industrial unit set up in 10 years

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Aug 26: The industrial estate of Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) was not able to go into operation even in 10 years of starting the project, according to sources.

BSCIC took initiative to establish an industrial estate by the side of Jhenidah-Magura highway near Dhanbaria in

Jhenidah sadar thana in 1987. 15.7 acres of land was acquired to prepare 98 plots for the entrepreneurs, sources said.

According to Jhenidah BSCIC authority sources, earth filling works, road construction, electricity supply, construction of administrative buildings have been completed long ago spending Taka 1.10

crore so far. But only nine plots were given allocation among nine entrepreneurs. Remaining 89 plots are unused.

Source further informed that instead of setting up industry at BSCIC estate the wealthy people are purchasing buses, trucks and other vehicles to avoid harassment by hoodlums.

RCC Mayor tells The Daily Star in an interview

'A substantial development achieved'

From Abdul Wadood

RAJSHAHI, Aug 26: 'Rajshahi has been a very neglected area deprived of its just shares of development for many years. BNP government, led by the former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, first took steps to remove the deprivation and began to allocate increased amount of funds for rapid development of the locality,' said Mijanur Rahman Minu, Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) and hoped that the new government led by the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina would extend cooperation and necessary assistance for enhancing development of Rajshahi.

Mijanur Rahman Minu, the youngest of all four mayors of the country said this in an interview with The Daily Star recently at his office. He observed that Rajshahi had been an important place socially, politically, economically and culturally for a long time. It had played vital roles in all important national activities and deserved development. But no government looked after into the matter in the past with due consideration. This is the reason why Rajshahi city has not witnessed much development.

Soon after the BNP was voted to power in 1991, the government appointed Mijanur Rahman Minu, the then young leader as the mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation. Then in March 1994, he took the charge of his office as the first elected mayor of Rajshahi. He got the highest percentage of votes among all the mayors.

'When I took the charge,' he said, 'Rajshahi was a dark, ghostlike town having a few lanes and by-lanes full of cracks and holes. It had no good drainage system. The corporation authorities lacked sufficient manpower. The administration was very weak and there was no cooperation among the departments.'

You must admit that situation has been completely changed. A substantial development has been achieved. The city has now been well-lighted with sodium bulbs. Garbage are

now cleared everyday with use of motor vehicles. We have built and renovated several hundred kilometers of roads and by-lanes drains and water-lines. The man power has been increased by about two fold.'

'Our health department has earned international reputation. Rajshahi City Corporation captured first position in 1995 and 1996 for its EPI (Expanded Programme of Immunisation). RCC also got gold

medals of the Prime Minister in last three consecutive years for afforestation programme. To describe his development achievements, the mayor further enlisted that he, in last five years, was able to develop 16 slums where road, water, drainage and health services were provided.

Mijanur Rahman identified shortage of water supply as the major problem of the city in terms of civic amenities. He claimed that 70 per cent of five lakh residents of the city are

now getting water supply which was far too poor in 1991. He was able to increase the pump machines from six to 24 and water-lines from 17km to 93km.

The ECNEC (Executive Committee of National Economic Council) has already approved the long-expected Water Treatment Plant worth Tk 56 crore. The ECNEC also okayed a project of Tk 22 crore for preparing a master plan with detail design for the city, a project of Tk 10 crore for RCC building, a project of Tk 18 crore for a by-pass road from Rajshahi Medical College Hospital to Kasiadanga, a project of Tk 1.80 crore for building a hospital for workers and a Tk 4 crore project for establishment of a modern children park.

When asked about the alleged low quality of works the Mayor admitted that there were some allegations against the engineering department. 'We are trying to correct the matter. In fact, to ensure the quality of works and prevent corruption, the officials, contractors and the people should have to play positive role.'

Mijanur Rahman Minu, who is also a central organising sec-

retary of the opposition party, BNP is the pilot of the party in Rajshahi. He is seen every now and then in the Sonadighi crossing and even at his office surrounded by huge number of party leaders and workers.

To comment on allegation of politicising the RCC administration by employing party workers, Mayor Mijanur Rahman said, 'I never mixed my party politics with the activities of RCC administration. All appointments are done as per rules and regulations of the Ministry of Local Government.'

He expressed satisfaction over the law and order situation prevailing in the city corporation areas and said that law and order situation of the city has improved after the inception of Rajshahi metropolitan police in 1991.

Mijanur Rahman lastly said, 'my dream is to build my birthplace into a peaceful green and gracious city of education. I seek cooperation from all concerned in this regard.'

He earnestly urged the present government to gradually increase all cooperation and allocation for development of the long-neglected Rajshahi city.

Mijanur Rahman Minu

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now getting water supply which was far too poor in 1991. He was able to increase the pump machines from six to 24 and water-lines from 17km to 93km.

Strike observed in educational institutions in Pabna

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Aug 26: Strike was observed peacefully in all educational institutions under the auspices of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal protesting killing and hall capturing accidents in Dhaka University by armed Chhatra League activists Saturday.

The JCD also held a rally in Edward College premises and demanded recognition of the Home Minister.

Export Promotion Bureau

রপ্তানি বৃদ্ধি জাতির সমৃদ্ধি

Sale Notice

Sealed tenders are invited by 12-00 Noon of 3-9-96 from buyers interested to purchase 4 (four) nos. old (operative) Canon NT photocopy machines of Export Promotion Bureau. For detailed information schedule should be bought from the General Section of the Bureau at Tk 100/- (one hundred) only by 2-9-96.

DFP-18432-19/8
G-998

Md. Shah Alam
Dy-Director (Admin)

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Institute of Post-Graduate Medicine & Research, Shahbag, Dhaka

No. IPGMR/S-19/96-97/4296 Dated: 13-8-96

Re-Tender Notice

Lac-sealed tenders from bonafide traders & contractors are invited by 12-00 Noon of 3-9-96 for auction sale of X-Ray machine, cassette, hanger and surgical other goods declared out of use of various departments of this Institute. Tender schedule will be available against cash payment of Tk 200/= (two hundred) from SLPP/Personal Assistant of Superintendent up to 2-00 PM of 2-9-96. No schedule will be sold on the date of submitting tender.

Joint Director
Institute of Post Graduate
Medicine & Research
Shahbag, Dhaka.

DFP-18533-20/8
G-997



Bangladesh Railway

Engineering Department (West Zone)

Local Tender for Procurement of Wooden Sleeper

Tender No. Eng/West/Suspense/96-97

Dated: 22-8-1996

Sealed tenders are invited from the bonafide Importers/Timber Merchants/Suppliers for the following works:-

Sl. No.	Name of works	Approx cost	Bid Bond Amount
1.	Group 'A': Supply of 10,000 Tk. Nos. (31,250 Cft.) Broad lakhs. Gauge standard Garjan wooden sleepers for West Zone.	190.62	Tk. 3,82,000/-
2.	Group 'B': Supply of 5,000 Tk. 41.32 lakhs. Nos. (7,500 Cft.) Metre Gauge standard Garjan wooden sleepers for West Zone.		Tk. 83,000/-
3.	Group 'C': Supply of 2,000 Tk. 12.00 lakhs. Cft. Special Metre Gauge Garjan wooden sleeper for West Zone.		Tk. 24,000/-

Tender documents will be available for sale from the office of the Track Supply Officer/West, Bangladesh Railway, Rajshahi, Track Supply Officer/East, Bangladesh Railway, Chittagong and Executive Engineer/Project/Track, Bangladesh Railway, Kamalapur, Dhaka up to 24.9.1996 on all working days with deposit of non-refundable sum of Taka 750/- (seven hundred fifty) only per set. Dropping and opening time 12.00 hours and 12.30 hours respectively on 25.9.1996 in the offices mentioned above. Railway Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender as a whole or part without assigning any reason whatsoever. Other terms and conditions can be had from the Tender documents.

RPRD No. 470
Date: 24-8-1996
D-906

Chief Engineer/West
Bangladesh Railway
Rajshahi



Bangladesh Railway

Engineering Department

(West Zone)

Tender Notice

TN No.6/96/W(II)

Dated: 21-8-96

Sealed tenders are invited for supply of 1416 cum.

Pakur stone boulders of size 30 kg. to 55 kg. (Angular shape) including all leads, lifts and proper stacking at Kushtia Gorai Railway Bridge site in all respect

from the registered 'C' class contractors of Bangladesh Railway, West Zone and 'C' class contractors enlisted prior to re-organisation of the Railway into 2(two) zones and bonafide 1st class

contractors of other govt. and semi-govt. department having past experience of boulder/ballast supply works. 'C' class Railway contractors will submit their past experience certificate of boulder/ballast

supply works along with the application at the time of purchase the tender documents and bonafide contractors of other departments may participate

with the prior permission of competent authority of Bangladesh Railway, Rajshahi on production of certificate of boulder/ballast supply works and on

cash payment of a non-refundable sum of Tk 3,000/= (three thousand) only as enlistment fee. Approximate cost 21.94 lakhs. Earnest money 2% (two) per cent of the quoted price to be deposited from any scheduled

bank of Bangladesh in Bank Draft/Pay Order in favour of FA & CAO/West, Bangladesh Railway, Rajshahi. Cost of tender documents Tk 750/- (seven hundred fifty) only non-refundable. Tender documents

will be available in the offices of the undersigned, Divisional Engineer/Lalmonirhat, Divisional Engineer/I/Paksey and Executive Engineer/Project/Dhaka up to 21-9-96 during office hours and to be

dropped in the tender box kept in the aforesaid offices by 12.00 hours of 22-9-96 and which will be opened publicly at 12.30 hours of the same date in presence of

contractors or their authorised representatives, if any. Railway administration reserves the right to accept or reject the tender as a whole or in part thereof.

RPRD No. 469
Date: 24-8-1996
D-907

For Chief Engineer/West
Bangladesh Railway
Rajshahi.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer (RHD)

Sylhet Road Division, Sylhet

Phone No 716339

Tender Notice

No 08 of Sylhet Road Division, 1996-97

1. Tender Notice No : 08 of Sylhet Road Division, 1996-97.
2. Name of work : Tender for HBB work in bailey bridge approaches in bridge no 48/1 & 55/1 at 48th & 55th KM of Charkhai-Jakiganj Road under Road Division, Sylhet during the year in 1996-97.
3. Charge to : 168 (Maintenance).
4. Whom estimate : Superintending Engineer, RHD, Road Circle, Sylhet.
5. Estimated cost : Tk 1,48,511/-
6. Earnest money : Tk 2,971/-
7. Time allowed : 20 (Twenty) days.
8. Name of offices where the tender will be received : Superintending Engineer, RHD, Road Circle, Sylhet/Undersigned/Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Moulabazar/Sunamganj & Habiganj.
9. Name of offices where the tender document will be sold : Undersigned/Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Moulabazar/Sunamganj/Habiganj Planning & Design Division, Comilla/Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Road Sub-Division, Sylhet/Golapganj/Biswanath & Mechanical Sub-Division, Sylhet.
10. Last date of selling the tender : 10-9-1996 up to office hours.
11. Last date and time of receiving the tender : 11-9-96 at 12.30 PM
12. Date and time of opening the tender : 14-9-96 at 12.45 PM
13. Date of lottery : 15-9-96 at 11.30 AM (if required) in office of the undersigned.
14. Eligibility of contractor : Under RHD, Department 'A' to 'C' general category Sylhet Road Circle, 'D' general category and Sylhet Road Division, 'E' general categories contractor.

Md. Muzammel Hoque
Executive Engineer (RHD)
Sylhet Road Division, Sylhet.
DFP-18876-24/8
G-999

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Secondary Education Development Project

Ministry of Education

458, Senpara Parbata, Section-14

Mirpur, Dhaka-1216, Bangladesh

Tender No SEDP/PIU/3983 Dated: 22-08-96

Tender Notice for International Shopping (IS) for Procurement of Scientific Equipment (Chemistry & General Equipment)

1. The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a loan from Asian Development Bank (Loan # 1268-BAN(SF)) for Secondary Education Development Project under Ministry of Education. A portion of the loan proceeds has been earmarked for procurement of scientific equipment (Chemistry and General Equipment).

2. The Project Director, Secondary Education Development Project, Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education, 458, Senpara Parbata, Section 14, Mirpur, Dhaka now invites sealed tenders in prescribed form from the Manufacturers/Agents/Distributors/Bonafide Dealers of scientific equipment of ADB member countries for the Project Institutions.

3. A complete set of bidding documents with terms and conditions can be obtained on submission of a written application on cash payment of Taka 1000/- (One thousand) or a Bank Draft of US\$25.00 (Twenty-five US Dollar) only (non-refundable) in favour of Project Director, Secondary Education Development Project on all working days from 05 September 1996 to 12 September 1996 between 10.00 am to 1.00 pm from the Office of the undersigned or from the Ministry of Education (Asstt. Secretary, Section-6, Room-1801/1, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka).

4. The bid must be accompanied by the following documents duly attested by Class-I Govt. officer:

(a) Valid up-to-date Trade License, (b) Manufacturers and Agency/Dealership certificate, (c) Income Tax payment certificate/TIN, (d) Bank solvency certificate, (e) VAT Registration certificate, (f) Certificate from Chamber of Commerce/Specialized Association, (g) Experience certificate/Performance certificate (Tk 25 lakh in a single work order of similar nature within last 03 years), (h) Certificate of financial capability from a Scheduled Bank to execute minimum work order value of Tk. 50.00 lakh (fifty lakh) only.

5. The bidders must have arrangement of warehouse where they will have to repack the equipment and chemicals schoolwise in separate carton/cartons (as required) into standard kits package. Cartons and other packing materials will have to be supplied by the bidders at their cost. For repacking and distribution purpose, the purchaser will use the warehouse of the supplier for a minimum period of 03 (three) months.

6. The bidders must have to submit 02 (two) sets of identical samples of each item along with their bids, failing which the bids will not be considered.

7. Each bid must be accompanied by a bid bond of 2% (two per cent) of the quoted amount in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any Scheduled Bank of Bangladesh in favour of the Project Director, Secondary Education Development Project, 458, Senpara Parbata, Section-14, Mirpur, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

8. All the bids should be delivered either via Air Mail/Courier or in person to the undersigned or the Asstt. Secretary, Section # 06, Room#1801/1, Bangladesh Secretariat (Building No. 6), Dhaka on 26 September 1996 up to 12-30 pm and will be opened on the same date at 01.00 pm in presence of the bidders or their representative (s) if any.

9. The authority reserves the right (a) to accept or reject any or all bids wholly or partially without assigning any reason whatsoever; (b) to drop out any/all items; and (c) to increase or decrease quantity of any/all items.

Project Director
Secondary Education Development Project
458, Senpara Parbata, Mirpur
Dhaka-1216, Bangladesh.

DFP-18958-24/8
G-1001