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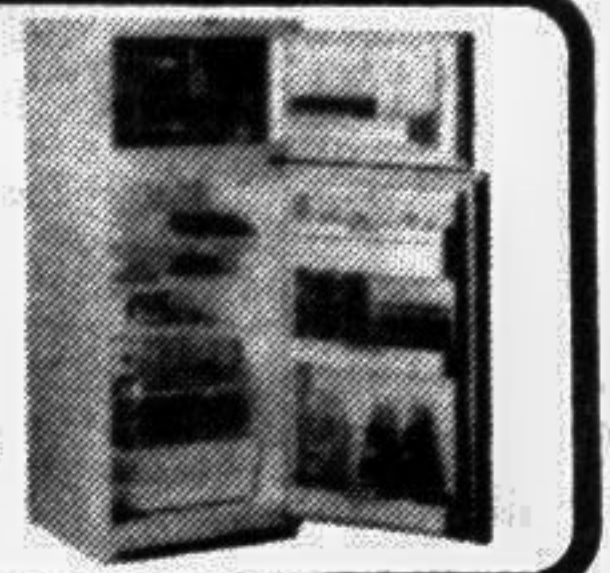
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Budget: Tax proposals revised

From Page 1 45 per cent to increase productivity in mills and factories. On top of it, VAT has been withdrawn from the retail sale of cement, CI sheet and MS products and toiletries. The finance minister proposed 25 per cent increase in the duty on buses and trucks to protect local assembling plants, and supplementary duty on paper-backed aluminum cigarette paper to 45 per cent from 30 per cent to discourage smoking. Kibria proposed to reduce the rate of tax collection at the stage of purchase of handrolls of bidi to five per cent from the earlier proposed 10 per cent. He also proposed a downward revision of tax from the sellers of immovable property to 7.5 per cent from the proposed nine per cent. The rate is currently six per cent. Instead of taking two-pronged excise from power-looms, by way of measuring the length of cloths at the rate of 50 per meter and by counting the number of looms at the rate of Tk 300 per loom, the finance minister proposed a simplified Tk 200 revenue on each loom. Earlier, in his budget winding up speech, Kibria responded to the criticism of the proposed budget by opposition BNP. He said former finance minister Saifur Rahman had once warned that the economy would collapse within two months, but 10 months after his warning it is still doing well. "Such nihilistic statements

bring frustrations," he said. "In fact, we are enjoying such high growths which never occurred in the last 20 years. I expect that this year's estimated growth of 5.6 per cent would go up after final estimation." On inflation, he said the government is firm to keep prices of essentials within limits. About BNP charges about frequent devaluation, he said this is a misinformed statement and that the country has a stable currency. Those who took part in the budget discussion yesterday included Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed, Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak, Suranjit Sengupta, Dr Mohammad Selim, Forest and Environment Minister Sajeda Chowdhury, Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim, Food and Agriculture Minister Motia Chowdhury, Deputy Minister for Shipping Saber Hossain Chowdhury, AHM Mostafa Kamal, Abdul Mannan, Dr Kazi Abu Yusuf, Ahsanullah Master and Aferuddin Khan of the ruling Awami League. The BNP lawmakers who took part in the discussion included Chief Whip Khandakar Delwar Hossain, Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain, Mosharraf Khan, Abu Yusuf Md Khalilur Rahman, Ruhul Kuddus Talukder Dulu, Mosharraf Hossain Mongu, Joint Abedin Faruq, Hafizuddin Ahmed, Syed Monjur Hossain, Mozahar

Hossain, Akhteruzzaman, Abul Kalam Azad, Dr Habibur Rahman, Moshirur Rahman, Shamsuddin Ahmed and Golam Moshad. On behalf of Jatiya Party, HM Ershad, Fazle Rabbi and Zinat Hossain took part in the discussion. Taking part in the budget discussion, former finance minister Saifur Rahman said the proposed budget is contractionary in nature and it is a document of stagnation and decline. He said time has come for some expansionary measures to create jobs. He also called for a partnership in politics by shunning mudslinging between the Treasury and the Opposition benches. He said the partnership is needed to move ahead to the 21st century. Saifur said many of the budget's assessments are inadequate and it lacks transparency. He charged that the size of development fund has reduced over the years adding that this would reduce employment. Former President HM Ershad of JP said that there was no reflection of the people's hopes and aspiration in the proposed budget. Ershad said in the budget, the Finance Minister has failed to take any pride of the success of the government and also to give any future guideline. There was no mention of last year's failure in the budget, he added. The JP Chairman and parliamentary party leader criticised widening the VAT net and said it would affect the common people. Industries and Commerce Minister Tofael Ahmed said that for the first time budget has been prepared after discussing with different professional groups, including different business bodies. Terming the budget as a balanced one, the minister during the budget discussion, said the main characteristic of the proposed budget is no fresh tax has been imposed and the budget has given a boost to computer software export and declared it as a thrust sector which he said will help to earn foreign currency. He said steps have been taken to boost the export, to stop harassment and corruption, from revenue and tax collection. Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim termed the proposed budget as the most balanced budget and said it has been prepared keeping in mind the reality of the country. He blamed General Zia for the present dismal situation of the country's economy and said Zia had opened the door of banks to the borrowers and destroyed the banking sector. He said Ershad and Begum Zia followed the culture. Admitting restriction in sanctioning bank loans, he said, the present Finance Minister is trying to bring back discipline in the banking sector. Food and Agriculture Minister Begum Motia Chowdhury termed the proposed budget as most disciplined one. Opposition Chief Whip Khondoker Delwar Hossain said the expansion of the VAT net would increase price of essentials creating tremendous pressure on the general people.



BNP chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad Begum Khaleda Zia receiving former Indian Prime Minister IK Gujral when he called on her at her official residence in the city yesterday. — Star photo

PM: Economy revitalised

From Page 1 In addition to some genuine cases, there were many cases which had been filed with ill motives. "I reports that some Opposition lawmakers file such cases whenever they pay visits to their respective constituencies. An investigation is in progress now to ascertain the percentage of such motivated cases." Sheikh Hasina reiterated her government's firm commitment for rule of law in the country. She referred to a recent incident without mentioning anyone's name and said, "How can rule of law be established if anyone, being accused in a case, dare to disregard court by not placing oneself on the dock and instead make speeches on court premises." She said in the past people could not even visit police stations in fear of ruling party hoodlums. But now, she claimed, people can easily file cases with thanas as a sense of security has been restored. Accusing late president Ziaur Rahman of killing of many military officials including 600 Air Force personnel and rewarding killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman with diplomatic jobs, Hasina said, "Patronising criminals encourages the tendency of committing crimes and that's why we have put an end to that legacy of the past." The Prime Minister was also critical of some Opposition leaders' 'provocation centring their June 9 long march programme' and said that propaganda and misinterpretation of fact could not be fool the people.

In a sharp contrast with the tradition of past, she claimed, her government did not indulge in politics of vengeance and showed enough restraint and patience by not arresting any one of the previous government. Without naming the previous BNP government, she said, "the biggest offences they committed were rigging votes in the February 15, 1996 elections and killing 140 people between February 15 and March 30, 1996. But, we did not arrest them." Regarding various corruption cases against opposition leaders, Hasina said the Bureau of Anti-Corruption was filing cases and the government refrained from any interference. Turning to power crisis in the country, the Prime Minister said investigation was on to identify how the National Grid failed recently. She added that it was because of the previous government's corrupt practices, donors refrained from providing funds for the power sector and as a result, overhauling of age-old power generating units could not be done. She raised questions about Opposition lawmakers managing candles instantly when there was a power failure in the Jatiya Sangsad a few months back. Hasina also blasted the Opposition for being critical of 'BKSA' (Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Awami League) saying that "They don't like it as the idea of BKSA was to bring economic freedom for peasants and workers in the country."

Teenage boy murdered at Mirpur

By Staff Correspondent A teenage boy was found dead in the city's Mirpur area yesterday morning. The boy was identified as Faruk Hossain alias Guitar, 16, son of Golam Rasul, a resident of Block-A in Mirpur Section-1, police said. There were several marks of stab injuries in different parts of the body. The motive behind the killing could not be known immediately. Four friends of Faruk called him out of his home at about 10:30 pm Sunday. The next morning he was found dead in front of a house at Block-E, according to police. Meanwhile, Mirpur police said last night that Guitar was an accused in a case under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, 1995. None was arrested in connection with the killing till filing of this report last night.

Germany win

From Page 1 where close, had all day to put in the rebound, but instead poked it straight back to the keeper. Had Germany lost, it would have been its earliest World Cup exit since 1978, when the second round was used a group format instead of single elimination. The match was played in torrid conditions at the Stade de la Mosson, with temperature at kickoff reaching 33 Celsius (91F).

JP walkout

From Page 1 was undemocratic and unparliamentary," said Ershad coming out of the House at 6:15 pm. Taking part in yesterday's budget discussion, JP Chairman and Parliamentary Party leader Ershad refuted the allegation made by Tofael Ahmed. After this, Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak took part in the budget discussion. After Razzak's speech, Ershad demanded the floor to give personal explanation, but he was refused by the Chair as it was raised after Tofael's speech. The JP lawmakers raised hue and cry and finally walked out of the House. BSS adds: Communications Minister Anwar Hossain Manju was not present when JP staged the walkout. Manju, however, joined the session later.

Budget: B Chy

From Page 1 don't want to see a gloomy picture of the country and for that tolerance of everyone is required and the government will have to take the leading role." Peace and stability is required for the development of the country, he said adding peace and stability can be ensured with the establishment of justice in the society that the government has failed to ensure. Pointing to the socio-economic programmes mentioned in the proposed budget, he said there was nothing new in it.

Direct bus service

From Page 1 should be agreement on other rivers and therefore meeting of the JRC should be held shortly, the foreign secretary said. On extradition of ULFA leader Anup Chetia, Bangladesh side said that since he was facing trial in cases filed here, the matter could not be considered before it was settled by the local courts. He replied in the affirmative when asked if they discussed cross-border insurgency and terrorism. The Indian side, led by Foreign Secretary K Raghunath, included Dev Mukherjee, High Commissioner in Dhaka, Mrs Lella Ponnappa, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Ms Sen Vyas Minister, D Chakravarty, Minister and Debnath Shaw, Counsellor of the Indian High Commission in Dhaka. The Bangladesh side, led by Foreign Secretary Mostafizur Rahman, included Bangladesh High Commissioner to India Shaif Sami and Director General South Asia, Sirajul Islam Raghunath left Dhaka last night for home after a two-day visit to Bangladesh.

Why Speaker came by bus instead of helicopter

By Staff Correspondent Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury yesterday explained why he returned to the capital by road rather than by helicopter after the inauguration ceremony of the Bangabandhu Jamuna Bridge on June 23. "I preferred to stay back to enjoy the natural beauty," said the Speaker after Mashiur Rahman of BNP criticised Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for flying back to Dhaka from the bridge site taking her "children in her copter but leaving the Speaker behind". The Speaker's statement in the Jatiya Sangsad made the Opposition members laugh while the Treasury Bench members kept mum. Mashiur Rahman followed another BNP lawmaker, Shahidul Islam, who made a similar statement the other day. On Saturday, Shahidul Islam resented the government for not offering the Speaker a seat on the dais at the bridge's opening ceremony. "This showed Awami League's character of bluffing (the people)," commented Mashiur, expressing his sympathy for the Speaker who, he said, had to return on a bus. The PM took me in her helicopter to the Jamuna Bridge's opening programme and I was supposed to fly back on the same copter. But I preferred to stay back to enjoy the natural beauty", Humayun Rashid Chowdhury said, adding that he later came back on the home minister's car. His clarification was for the sake of record in the parliament proceedings, Chowdhury remarked.

Only bilateral talks can resolve crisis: Gujral

Former Indian Prime Minister IK Gujral yesterday opposed the mediation by a third country, saying that it would rather create obstacle to reducing the tension in the sub-continent, reports UNB. Referring to the recent move of Bangladesh government to bring India and Pakistan across the table, Gujral said only bilateral discussion between the two countries could resolve the crisis. IK Gujral expressed his views during a 70-minute discussion with BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia when he made a courtesy call on her at her official residence yesterday. Briefing about the discussion, a spokesman of BNP later told newsmen that issues including current political situation in the sub-continent came up in the meeting. Former Prime Minister Begum Zia drew attention of Gujral to the tense situation created following the nuclear tests by India and Pakistan and the recent statements of India BNP leaders on the construction of Ram Mandir at the site of Babri Mosque. "Nuclear tests by India was an election manifesto of BJP, but it was not a national agenda of the government," Gujral was quoted to have told Begum Zia. About Ram Mandir, Gujral said the statements made by the BJP proved their foolishness.

Uproar in JS over agarbati

By Staff Correspondent Treasury and Opposition bench lawmakers yesterday hurled abuses at each other, causing uproar in the Jatiya Sangsad, as the two sides were locked in a debate on whether supplementary duty had been proposed on agarbati (perfumed stick) in the proposed budget for 1998-99. Lawmakers of Opposition BNP claimed that 15 per cent supplementary duty was proposed on agarbati while Finance Minister SAMS Kibria and some other members in the Treasury Bench denied it. During the challenge and counter-challenge, both the sides quoted from the budget documents. At one stage Prof Shahidul Islam of BNP passed a derisive comment about the finance minister, prompting the ruling party MPs to shout at him. Most of the Treasury Bench members including several ministers sprang up on their feet and threw similar comments to the Opposition MP. The situation cooled down when Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury expunged the BNP MP's remark. He also advised the members to refrain from making such comments. However, the finance minister made it clear that there was no such proposal in the new budget and blamed the Opposition lawmakers for misleading the people through spreading "untrue" statement. Duty on agarbati was imposed during the past BNP regime, he said.

Dutch win

From Page 1 67th minute when he dived full length to meet a fine right wing cross from Ronald De Boer but sent his header a fraction wide of Ivica Kralj's left post. Cocu did put the ball into the net in the 79th minute but the goal was disallowed for dangerous play by Bergkamp, who had lifted a foot too high seconds earlier. The Yugoslavs would have been ahead by that stage had striker Mijatovic not lashed his penalty against the bar. It was the first World Cup finals penalty miss in regular time for eight years and followed 38 successful conversions in a row. Spanish referee Jose Garcia-Aranda had signalled a foul when defender Jaap Stam pulled the shirt of Vladimir Jugovic in the area, although the Yugoslav player stayed on his feet. The Eaat European side, who went in 1-0 down at half time looking very short of ideas, shed their defensive inhibition after the interval and equalised in the 48th minute. Slack Dutch marking allowed defender Komljanovic to rise unmolested at the far post to head home a swirling free kick from captain Dragan Stokjovic.

Finance Bill

From Page 1 by-cycle and rickshaw tyres has been fixed at 15 per cent instead of the proposed 30 per cent. Supplementary tax on air-conditioner has been fixed at 25 per cent instead of 45 per cent. Excise duty on power loom has been re-fixed at Tk 200 per loom. Duty on furniture used for operation theatre, hospital bed and dentists' chair has been reduced to 7.5 per cent from the proposed 15 per cent. Depreciation value of old vehicles has been fixed at 50 per cent instead of proposed 60 per cent. Supplementary duty on old motor car and jeep from 1300 cc to 1600 cc has been reduced to 60 per cent from the proposed 80 per cent while for 1600 cc 1800 cc reduced to 80 per cent instead of 100 per cent.

SOFA

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Holding of offices

From Page 1 their acceptance of the public posts of State Minister and Deputy Minister were illegal, unconstitutional, unethical, unparliamentary and against the convention of Parliamentary form of government.

Foreign delegates

From Page 1 of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, Bangladesh, which hosted the conference. Kandupatty has been converted into a market after local residents forced the inmates out last year. A former inmate of the bordello, Ms Montaz and a human rights activist from Odhikar, Ms Shireen Asad, accompanied the group after a press conference that followed the regional conference. "They pulled our driver down the bus and in the melee, somebody struck me with his fist, Ms Aida Santos of Philippines told The Daily Star last night at her hotel. Ms Siti Ruhaini Dzuhayatin of Indonesia lost her silk jacket and Ms Shireen was injured. The group finally managed to return to their hotel after they took shelter in a market near the Balda Garden, where their bus also came under attack on their way back. A case has been filed by Advocate Sigma Huda with the Sutrapur thana. Ms Cecilia Hoffman demanded that the government should provide security to Ms Montaz, who told The Daily Star that she could identify some of the people, who are sidekicks of the local commissioner, Hossain Mollah.

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বিজ্ঞপ্তি সরকারি আর্থিক লেনদেনে নতুন শ্রেণীবিন্যাসের প্রবর্তন
সর্বশ্রেণী সরকারের অবপতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে আগামী ১লা জুলাই, ১৯৯৮ থেকে সরকারের বাজেট প্রণয়ন ও হিসাব সংরক্ষণে বর্তমানে প্রচলিত মুখ্য খাত ও শৌখ খাত ভিত্তিক শ্রেণীবিন্যাস কাঠামোর স্থলে নতুন শ্রেণীবিন্যাস প্রবর্তন করা হবে।
নতুন শ্রেণীবিন্যাসে সরকারের প্রতিটি আর্থিক লেনদেন ১৩ অংক বিশিষ্ট কোড দ্বারা চিহ্নিত করা হবে।
নতুন শ্রেণীবিন্যাসে সৃষ্টি জবাবদিহিমূলক বাজেট প্রণয়ন ও হিসাব সংরক্ষণে এবং সরকারের আর্থ-ব্যবস্থাপনা ও অর্থনৈতিক বিশ্লেষণে সহায়ক ভূমিকা রাখবে।
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নতুন শ্রেণীবিন্যাস প্রবর্তনের পরিপ্রেক্ষিতে এখাবং সরকারি লেনদেনে যেসব ফরম (ফেমন: বেতন বিল, ভ্রমণ বিল, চালান, হিসাব সংকলন ইত্যাদি) বিয়ক ফরম) ব্যবহৃত হয়ে আসছিল সেগুলো প্রয়োজন মত সংশোধন করা হয়েছে এবং সংশোধিত ফরমসমূহ সকল ব্যবহারকারী অফিসে পাঠানো হয়েছে।
সরকারি তহবিলে যারা নিয়মিত অর্থ জমা দেন তাদেরকে যেসব কোড ব্যবহার করতে হবে সেসব কোড ব্যবহার সংক্রান্ত পরামর্শ সংবলিত একটি পুস্তিকা ইতোমধ্যে সর্বশ্রেণী সকল সরকারি অফিস, ব্যাংক, চেম্বার অব কমার্স ইত্যাদি প্রতিষ্ঠানে প্রেরণ করা হয়েছে এবং উহা বিজ্ঞপ্তি আকারে দৈনিক সংবাদপত্রে প্রকাশ করা হয়েছে এবং হচ্ছে।
আগামী ১লা জুলাই, ১৯৯৮ থেকে বিদ্যমান হিসাব খাতের (মুখ্য খাত, শৌখ খাত) স্থলে নতুন কোড ব্যবহারের ক্ষেত্রে প্রাথমিক পর্যায়ে হাত কিছুটা সংশোধন সৃষ্টি হতে পারে। এ কারণে বাংলাদেশের নিরীক্ষা ও হিসাব বিভাগের অধীন সকল হিসাবরক্ষণ অফিসসহ সর্বশ্রেণী সকল সরকারি অফিসকে কোড ব্যবহারকারীদের যে কোন অসুবিধা ও সংশয় নিরসনের কাজে সর্বাঙ্গিক সহযোগিতা প্রদানের নির্দেশ দেয়া হয়েছে। সরকারের আর্থিক ব্যবস্থাপনায় সৃষ্টি সংস্কার কর্মসূচি বাস্তবায়নের এই পর্যায়ে সর্বশ্রেণী সকল মহলের আন্তরিক সহযোগিতা একান্তভাবে কাম্য।
মেজর (অবঃ) রউফুল আলম
যুগ্ম-সচিব (প্রশাসন)
অর্থ বিভাগ
অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয়
ডিএফপি-১৪৪২৬-২৮/৬
ডি-১৫০৬

বিআইডব্লিউটিসি বাংলাদেশ অভ্যন্তরীণ নৌ-পরিবহন করপোরেশন
(অভ্যন্তরীণ জাহাজ চলাচল প্রতিষ্ঠান)
৫, দিলকুশা বা/এ, ঢাকা-১০০০
"দুবৃত্তনামুক্ত নৌ-চলাচল ও নিরাপদ যাত্রীসেবা প্রদান করতে বিআইডব্লিউটিসি অঙ্গীকারবদ্ধ"
বিআইডব্লিউটিসি'র পুনঃ নির্ধারিত ফেরি ভাড়া প্রসঙ্গে
সরকারের অনুমোদনক্রমে বিআইডব্লিউটিসি'র আরিচা-দৌলতদিয়া ও মাওয়া-চরজানায়াত ফেরি সার্ভিসে যানবাহনের ভাড়া পুনঃ নির্ধারিত করা হইয়াছে। পুনঃ নির্ধারিত ভাড়া আগামী ১লা জুলাই ১৯৯৮ ও ১লা জুলাই ১৯৯৯ সাল হইতে দুই ধাপে কার্যকর হইবে। পুনঃ নির্ধারিত ভাড়ার তালিকা নিম্নে প্রদত্ত হইল। ফেরি পারাপারে যানবাহনের সমানিত মালিক ও চালকদের সহযোগিতা কামনা করা হইতেছে। উল্লেখ্য, যাত্রী ভাড়া অপরিবর্তিত থাকিবে।
পুনঃ নির্ধারিত ফেরি ভাড়া নিম্নরূপঃ
ক্রমিক নং যানবাহন ০১-০৭-৯৯ হইতে ০১-০৭-৯৯ হইতে
আরিচা-দৌলতদিয়া মাওয়া-চরজানায়াত আরিচা-দৌলতদিয়া মাওয়া-চরজানায়াত
টাকা টাকা টাকা টাকা
১) অস্বাভাবিক সাইজের বাস/কোচ (যাত্রী ব্যতীত) যাত্রী ৯২০.০০ ৯২০.০০ ১০৫৮.০০ ১০৫৮.০০
লম্বায় ২৬-৫'xপ্রস্থ ৭-৫' হইতে ৩৪-৫'x৮-৫' পর্যন্ত
২) ৮ টনের অধিক ধারণ ক্ষমতাসম্পন্ন ট্রাক (বোঝাই/বাধি) ৮৬৩.০০ ৮৬৩.০০ ৯৯২.০০ ৯৯২.০০
৩) ৫ টন ও তাহার অধিক ধারণ ক্ষমতাসম্পন্ন বাধি ৭০৮.০০ ৭০৮.০০ ৮১৪.০০ ৮১৪.০০
বাস/কোচ (যাত্রী ব্যতীত)।
৪) ট্রাক বোঝাই বা বাধি ৩ টন হইতে ৮ টন পর্যন্ত ধারণ ক্ষমতাসম্পন্ন ৬১০.০০ ৬১০.০০ ৭০২.০০ ৭০২.০০
৫) ৩ টন ধারণ ক্ষমতাসম্পন্ন বাধি মিনিবাস/কোচের ৩৬০.০০ ৩৬০.০০ ৪১৪.০০ ৪১৪.০০
এবং ৩ টনের কম ধারণ ক্ষমতাসম্পন্ন ট্রাক (বোঝাই বা বাধি)।
৬) মাইক্রোবাস/পিক-আপ/স্টেশন ওয়াগন/ল্যান্ড ২৪৩.০০ ২৪৩.০০ ২৭৯.০০ ২৭৯.০০
রোটার/ল্যান্ড ক্রুজার/স্ট্রাট জাতীয় গাড়ি/বড় জীপ/নিশান পেটোল জাতীয় লাক্সারী জীপ (যাত্রী ব্যতীত)।
৭) কার/জীপ/টম্পু (যাত্রী ব্যতীত)/টেইলার পৃথকভাবে ১২৩.০০ ১২৩.০০ ১৪১.০০ ১৪১.০০
অথবা জীপ/ট্রাকের সাথে।
৮) বেবী টেক্সি/ভ্যান গাড়ি/অটোরিক্সা (আরোহী ব্যতীত)। ৫৮.০০ ৫৮.০০ ৬৭.০০ ৬৭.০০
৯) মটর সাইকেল/বাইসাইকেল (আরোহী ব্যতীত)। ১৮.০০ ১৮.০০ ২১.০০ ২১.০০
বিআইডব্লিউটিসি/জস/৯৪/৯৭-৯৮
মেহামদ আলী
জিডি-৫১৩
মহাবাহাদ্রক (যাত্রী ও ফেরি)