



Floods halt wholesale business

AVIK SANWAR RAHAMAN

The wholesale markets of Moulvibazar, Islampur, English Road and Nayabazar have suffered tremendous setbacks because of the devastating floods that swamped two-thirds of the country, virtually cutting off the transport system that suspended supplies to many districts.

"Almost 60 percent sales slid downwards as retailers over the country could not make their way to the wholesale market because of the increasing water level," said Golam Mawla, general secretary of Moulvibazar Businessmen Association.

There are more than 5,000 businessmen in the Moulvibazar area of which more than 2,000 are wholesalers and 3,000 retailers who together suffered because of this calamity, he

added.

The floods have affected 42 districts. The communication network is completely cut off in many places. Roads and river ports have all gone under water.

Business came to a standstill as bazaars, shops and warehouses were submerged. Many small and medium businessmen have taken refuge in flood shelters. Not even retailers from nearby areas like Keraniganj, Nawabganj, Dohar, Munshiganj and Kamrangirchar could come to the wholesale market.

"I supply caustic soda to factories that dye grey cloth but now all factories are closed," said a chemical wholesaler of Moulvibazar.

The Moulvibazar wholesale market controls the supply of essential commodities to the city and other parts of

the country. "The condition of all wholesale markets other than essential commodities markets is in dire straits," said a chemical products wholesaler of Moulvibazar.

But the wholesalers of essential commodities denied that their markets are better. "The stock of essential commodities is ample and we cannot supply them to other parts of the country," said a wholesaler of essential commodities.

By contrast, retailers blame the wholesalers for the price hike of the essentials. "Wholesalers don't supply ample essential commodities to the market and this causes a scarcity of essential commodities," said a retail shop owner of Shantinagar kitchen market.

Golam Mowla said the sugar price per maund was Tk 1,230 two weeks ago

and its current price is Tk 1,075. The price of palm oil, which was Tk 1,400, is now Tk 1,295 per maund. "The retailers are actually increasing the price," the general secretary said.

According to a TCB report released on Monday, the retail price of sugar is Tk 31 to Tk 32 a kilogram and palm oil is Tk 40 to Tk 41. The wholesale price of local onion is Tk 17 to Tk 18 a kilogram, whereas the retail price is Tk 20 to Tk 24.

TCB officials said the prices of commodities on the retail market are about Tk 3 to Tk 4 higher than on the wholesale market. Although the prices of a product increased about 25 paise per kg on the wholesale market, the increase on the retail market was about Tk 3 to Tk 4.

MOHAKHALI FLYOVER

Neglect leaves bypass potholed

NAIMUL HAQ

About two kilometre-stretch of the road on both sides of the Tk 113-crore under-construction flyover at Mohakhali in the capital is in a dilapidated condition for over a year due to alleged negligence of the project director.

The World Bank-funded Dhaka Urban Transport Project (DUTP) that is implementing the project has allocated Tk 4.50 crore for any repair, carpeting and levelling to keep the road and its pavement smooth and operative always irrespective of weather conditions. But the project director has not taken steps to do this, sources alleged.

The surface of the road is badly damaged at many points, including at the level crossing, causing a nagging traffic congestion most of the time.

"We cannot control traffic here as hundreds of vehicles pour in from three sides and get stuck up due to poor shape of the road," said a traffic sergeant at the site.

The contract for the project provides that the contractor is to maintain pavements on both sides of road and keep the road surface clean and free from any debris and obstruction.

The contractor is also to take adequate safety measures to reduce accidents, install traffic signboards and ensure operation of the road should with minimum obstruction.

Dhaka Transport Coordination Board (DTCB), which is supervising implementation of the flyover project, on July 20 issued a letter to DUTP Project Director (PD) Shahabuddin bringing to his notice 'very bad shape of the road surface.' The letter said, 'The uneven road surface and the potholes/depressions are all left unattended.'

"We are indeed very concerned at the condition of the road on both the sides of the flyover ... Despite several written reminders, the project officials are not complying with the contract rules," said Qamrul Islam Siddique, executive director of the DTCB.

Asked about this, the project director

claimed the road was repaired on a regular basis. He however said the current floods have slowed down maintenance and repair work.

"The brick chipping plant at Amin Bazar in Gabtoli is now under floodwater and for this, our contractors cannot supply brick chips for repair work. This is the reality I am facing. But instead of realising the difficulties, DTCB officials are blaming me for violating contract rules. This is unfair," Shahabuddin said.

He has also informed the DTCB in writing the reasons for the delay in road repair, he added.

The project director however could not say how much of the allocated fund (Tk 4.50 crore) he has spent so far for maintenance and repair of the road.

DTCB Additional Executive Director Md Abdul Batin said he did not receive any written information from the project director on the delay in repair of the road.

At least 10,000 vehicles, including heavy lorries, ply the road every day.



NOT WATERFALLS

Though waters recede, some eastern parts of Dhaka are still reeling under floods. Experts said it would take about 8 to 10 days for complete recession. To pump out the filthy stagnant water from the low-lying submerged areas the Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) has installed 104 pumps in the city with 44 near the Rampura Bridge in Khilgaon are pumping out water from the affected eastern parts.

healthouting, taxicab & train timing

HEALTH

- Hospitals**
- Heart**
National Institute of Cardio Vascular Diseases (NICVD), - 9130800, 9122560-59
- Burn**
Dhaka Medical College Hospital
Burn Unit-8626812-6
- Cancer**
National Cancer Institute-8014914, 8826561-65
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University-8612550-4, 861455-9
- Diabetes**
Diabetic Research Hospital (BIRDEM)- 9661551-5, 8616641-50
- Mother & Child Care**
Shishu Hospital- 9119119, 8116061-62
Azimpur Mother & Child Health

- Training Institute- 8624827, 8624980
- Eye**
Islamia Eye Hospital-9110794, 9119315
National Eye Hospital- 8117202, 8114807
- Dental**
Dental College -9002035
- Orthopaedics**
National Orthopaedics (Pangu) Hospital- 9114075, 9112150
- General**
Dhaka Medical College Hospital- 8626812-6
Rushmono General Hospital- 8317819
Holy Family Hospital- 83111731-25
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital- 8612550-4, 8614545-9
Bangladesh Medical College & Hospital- 8115443, 9118202,

- Shamarita Hospital- 9131901
Suhrawardy Hospital -- 9130800, 9122560-69
Salimullah Medical Collage Hospital -- 7310061-4, 7319002-6
Cholera Research Hospital (ICDRB)- 8811751-60
Monowra Hospital 8319802, 8318135
- Blood Bank**
Red Crescent Centre- 9116563
Sandhani (DMCH)- 8624040
Sandhani (SMCH)- 7310061, 7310061, 7319022
Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital- 8626812-9
- Eye Bank**
Sandhani International Eye Bank- 8614040
- Ambulances For Dead Body**
Anzumam Mafidul Islam (Kakrail) 9336611, Gandaria 7319808, 7318166,
Al-Markajul Islam 9127867,

MARKET CLOSED

- Gulshan 1, 2 markets-Friday
Elephant Road-Friday
Bishal Center-Friday
Baitul Mukarram Market-Friday
Polwell Market-Friday
BCS Computer City-Friday
Isha Khan Shopping Complex-Friday.
Rajlaxmi Complex-Friday
Stadium Market-Friday
Bangabazar Market-Friday
National Museum-Thursday
Ahsan Manzil--Thursday.
New Market-Tuesday
Gausia Market-Tuesday
Mouchak Market-Sunday
Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday
Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday
Eastern Plaza-Sunday
Farmview Super Market-Sunday
Muktijuddha Jadughar-Sunday
Dhaka Zoo-Sunday
Shishu Jadughar-Sunday

TAXI CAB

- Yellow Cab**
Navana 9558065
Salida 9344477, 0171620881
Cosmo 9112959 and 8127191
Cab One 7113282-3
Nihon 8624741-2
Orion 9347277
Anudip 8125285 and 8127611
Capital 9352847
- Union 8130485**
Kool 0171826731
- Black Cab**
Cab Ex 9358401
Cabline 8321162
JBS Cab 019364675
Sajan 018126036
Anudip -- 8125285 and 8127611
- Cab One 7113282-3**
Palki 0171052500
Cab I 7113282
Jatri 0171540074
Nipun 9572277
R-Cab 8914782
Star Cab 9571919
Shihab 018202477 & 018228675
KGN 8620011
- Subarna Express**
Mahanagar Prabhati
Mahanagar Godhuli
Turna
Parabat Express
Joyantika Express
Upaban Express
Tista Express
Ekata Express
Upakul Express
Agnibeena Express
- Leaves Dhaka at 4:30 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 7-30 am
Leaves Dhaka at 3-15 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 11-00 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 6-40 am
Leaves Dhaka at 12-45 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 9-45 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 7-00 am
Leaves Dhaka at 5-00 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 8-00 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 9-20 pm
- Reaches Chittagong at 10:35 pm
Reaches Chittagong at 1-55 pm
Reaches Chittagong at 10-55 pm
Reaches Chittagong at 6-40 am
Reaches Sylhet at 2-30 pm
Reaches Sylhet at 9-20 pm
Reaches Sylhet at 6-40 am
Reaches Bahadurabad at 1-05 pm
Reaches Bahadurabad at 11-15
Reaches Noakhali at 5-00 am
Reaches Jagannath at 2-30 pm

TRAIN TIMING

LIBRARY & INFO-

- Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers**
Central Public Library- 8626001-4,
Shishu Academy- 9564128
Shilpakala Academy- 8614673
Bangla Academy- 8619550
Islamic Foundation- 9550280, 9556407
Nazrul Institute- 9114602
Ford Foundation- 8116133
Alliance Francaise- 8611557
Information Resource Center, The American Center - 8813440-4, 9886395-9
British Council- 8618867-8, 8618905-7
Community Development Library- 8113769, 8113604
Goethe Institute Int'l- Dhaka- 9126525-6
Indian Information Centre & Cultural Library- 8615096
The Russian Cultural Centre- 9116314, 9118531, 9118314
Drik Photo Gallery- 9120125, 8112954, 8123412
Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) 9330081-4