

Packaging and printing irregularities in primary textbooks

CITY CORRESPONDENT

The government might incur huge losses following alleged corruption in quotation for printing and packaging of primary textbooks. Officials of the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) said that a non-responsive party had submitted the lowest price in the tender and for that reason, the second lowest price has been approved instead of the lowest price endorsed by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

But printing and packaging companies that had participated in the tender said that this was a fabrication of facts.

"The lowest price was submitted by Hamid Printing and Packaging which had been verified and then approved by the PMO," said an owner of a printing and packaging house of Banglabazar.

Printers and packagers also thought that the NCTB was violating regulations.

"By approving two tenders without canceling the first one and by not re-tendering, the NCTB has become legally at fault," said another printer.

The printers and packagers alleged that the tender price had been re-negotiated between a group of printers and packagers and NCTB officials.

"We could have easily done the job with the lowest price which was Tk. one crore higher than last year's quotation. The second lowest quotation would raise the cost by Tk. 70 lakhs which will benefit some NCTB officials and printers," said an owner of a printing press.

The NCTB had floated the tender for printing, packaging and transportation of 8.5 crore primary textbooks for the year 2005. Accordingly 523 quotations had been submitted for 239 packages on the last date of submission on August 18. The NCTB verified the tenders and

selected 352 applicants as responsive.

Hamid Printing and Packaging gave the lowest estimate for printing which was Tk. 14 crore. The cost was Tk. one crore higher than last year's lowest package.

The quotation had been approved by the PM's office and accordingly the NCTB started issuing notification of award letters to applicants from September 20 for the submission of performance guarantee. But a section of printers and packagers allegedly influenced NCTB officials in having the second lowest quotation approved.

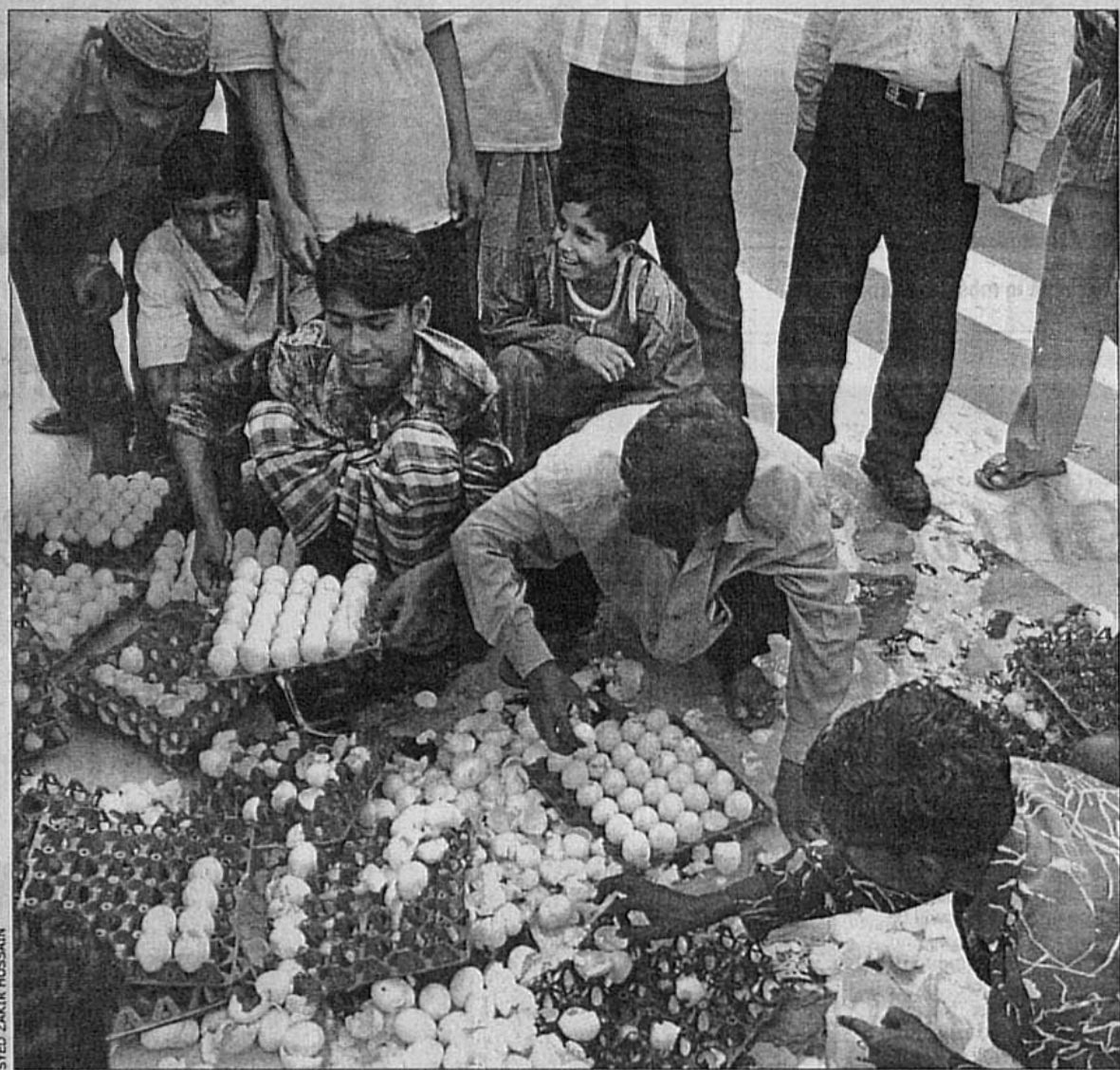
One NCTB official said that some printers and packagers were asking for re-tender to increase the package price which would delay the printing by two to three months and would eventually lead to a deadline failure for availability of textbooks in the 2005 education year.

School children who are generally victims of delayed recipients of textbooks because of malpractice in printing and packaging were seen flocking to school premises to receive aid provided to buy textbooks and other school stationery recently. Yet uncertainty lies whether they would receive books in time for the next academic year.



PHOTO: SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN

EGG ON THE FACE OF TRAFFIC RULE



An egg vendor in a rickshaw-van was trying to make a right turn at Nabisco Point at Tejgaon yesterday when a speeding vehicle hit him from behind, dropping the eggs on the road. Such reckless driving, heedless to traffic rules seems to be the order of the day now.

Dhaka's digital map on cards

SYED TASHFIN CHOWDHURY

The digital map of Dhaka city is expected to be made available to important departments and agencies and the public within the next two months.

Printing of the map is underway at the moment and once completed, it will be a welcome tool in effective planning of the city.

The map is likely to make periodical essential activities easier for a number of departments and organizations operating in the private and public sectors. The map would also be used for effective disaster management.

The government of Bangladesh and the Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) have been working at an urban information management system since January, 2003. From a total of Tk. 23 crore for the entire project, Tk. 21.5 crore was provided by the Japanese government for the digital map.

"The aim of this project is to prepare a 1:5000 scale digital topographic map of the Dhaka metropolitan city and collect other data for the geographical information system (GIS)," said Matsushiro Horiguchi, Japan's ambassador to Bangladesh during the official announcement of the digital map project earlier this year.

The map has been designed with the help of aerial photography and pre-existing topographical maps of the city. Excluding the cantonment area for security reasons, aerial photographs and over 122 topographic map sheets

were prepared within the aforementioned scale covering 581 square kilometers.

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) would be the major users of the map which would aid its garbage and waste collection, tax assessment and collection, encroachment control, maintenance of disposal system etc.

The tourism department, various intelligence agencies like the National Security Intelligence, Directorate General of Forces Intelligence and Crime Investigation Department, Fire Brigade and Civil Defense, Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA), Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) will also be direct beneficiaries of the map.

"We have already printed 20 sheets out of the total 120 sheets of the map," said Shinji Takazawa, a Japanese expert working on the map with the Survey of Bangladesh.

"The map would be an essential tool in projects that are being planned at the moment. It would possibly hasten the solution to the waterlogging problems of the city," said Dr. M. Abdul Awal of the Computer Science and Engineering Department of North South University. Dr. Awal is also a consultant in a number of ongoing projects of the Ministry of Science and Information and Communication Technology.

The digital map will be made available first on the web page www.iscgm.org/index.htm.

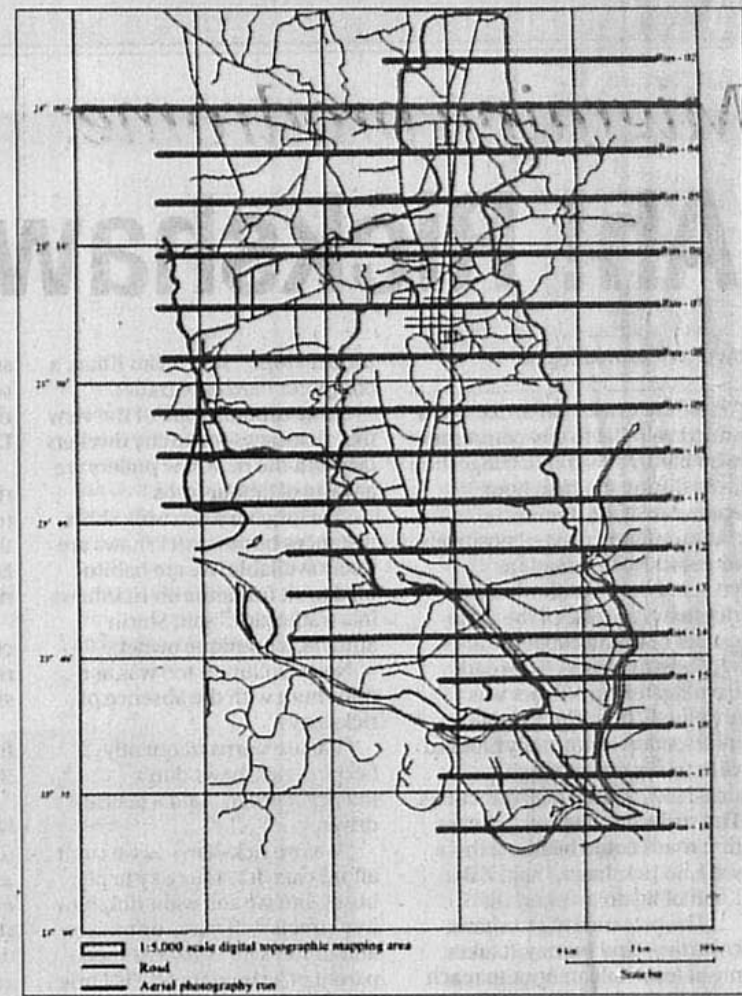


PHOTO: STAR

useful telephone numbers

COURIER SERVICES

International

Air Borne Express- 9561371, 9561372, 9550724
Air Couriers Int'l (BD) Ltd.- 8815970
Aramex International Courier- 9558003, 9559582, 9565075
Airspeed Express- 9563494
Asian Courier Services Ltd.- 8313543
Baishakhi Courier Service- 9558606
Bangladesh Express Co., Ltd.- 9565114
Bangladesh Courier Service- 9563989
Bengal Express- 9560642, 9552666
Bangladesh Int'l Courier- 953636
Continental Service Ltd.- 9552948, 9558425
DHL Worldwide Express- 9881703-7, 9886305-9, 9882057
Enem Express- 9330699
Fedex Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.- 9565114
Modhuban Courier Service-

9550884

Overseas Courier Service- 9352431, 8321169
Pacific Courier- 9568446
Reliance Express Service- 9558515, 7110249
Sky International service- 9660442
Skynet world Wide Express- 9558062, 9560258, 7114787, 7113184
TNT Express- 9566662, 9558239, 8618155
Union Courier Service- 9341722
United Parcel Service Air alliance Ltd.- 8826429, 8810223

National

Asian courier Service Ltd.- 8313543
BAE- 9884851
Central Courier Service- 9881118
Confidence Courier Service Ltd.- 9567036
Chisty Courier- 7110177-9
Cosmopol Services- 9552793, 9557975
Dhaka Courier Services- 7236222

Dolphin Courier- 9558802
Dreamland Courier Service- 9550326, 9566975
Pioneer Courier Services- 9561727, 9569759
Probashi Courier Services- 9346359
Rainbow Express Parcel Services Ltd.- 8322773, 8315703
Reliance Express Services- 9558515, 7110249
Sundarban Courier Services- 9551984, 9556189, 9551656
Sunrise Courier Services- 9568751
World Runner Express Ltd.- 9112068, Fax - 880-2-9112068

TIPS

Do you know according to Dhaka City Corporation, you must deposit your waste at the collection site between 4pm and 10pm

LIBRARY & INFO-

Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers

Central Public Library- 8626001-4, Shishu Academy- 9564128
Shilpakala Academy- 8614673
Bangla Academy- 8619550
Islamic Foundation- 9550280, 955640
The American Centre (IRC)- 8813440-4, 9886395
The Nazrul Institute- 9114602
Ford Foundation- 8116133
Alliance Francaise- 8611557
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

OUTING

Museum and Zoo

National Museum- 8619396-9
Open: 10 am - 5 pm, Friday 3 pm - 8 pm, Thursday closed
Muktijuddha Jadughar- 9559091
Open: 10:30 am - 6:30 pm, Sunday Closed
Bangabandhu Smiti Jadughar- 8110046
Open: 10 am - 5 pm, Wednesday closed
Ahsan Manzil
Open: 10 am - 5 pm, Friday: 3 pm - 7 pm, Thursday Closed
Shishu Jadughar- 9666466
Open: 10 am - 6 pm, Sunday Closed

CITY BUS ROUTE

Bus No. Route

1 Gulistan-Shahbagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 10, 11, 12
2 Gulistan-Shahbagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 1, 2
3 Gulistan-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Mahakhali-Airport-Azampur
4 Shyampur-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Airport-Tongi
5 Sayedabad-Kamalapur-Motijheel-Airport-Joydebpur-Gazipur
6 A Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Gulshan 1, 2
6 B Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 1, 2
6 C Motijheel Shapla chattar- Mallbagh- Farmgate- Gulshan 2
7 Sadarghat-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 2
8 Chittagong-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Asad Gate-Kalyanpur-Gaboli
9 Demra Rani mahal-Motijheel-Kalbagan-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 10, 11, 12
10 Sadarghat-Gulistan-Kakrail-Mallbagh-Rampura-Biswa Road-Tongi Bridge
11 Sayedabad-Motijheel-Fakirapool-Maghbazar-Mohakhali-Tongi Bridge
11/A Sayedabad-Khilgoan-Mallbagh-Rampura-Airport-Tongi Bridge
12 Shanir Akhra-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Asadgate-Mohammadpur
13 Motijheel-Shahbagh-New Market-Jhigatola-Shangkar-Mohammadpur
14 Signboard - Motijheel-Shahbagh-New Market-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 12
15 Chittagong Road-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Mirpur 12
24 Gulistan-Maghbazar-Mohakhali-Airport-Uttara-Bipile

Starts from

Golap Shah Mazar
Phoolbaria bus station
Phoolbaria bus station
Shyampur
Sayedabad
Kamalapur
Kamalapur
Motijheel Shaplachattar
Sadarghat
Chittagong Road
Demra Ranimahal
Sadarghat
Sayedabad
Sayedabad
Shanir Akhra
Motijheel
Signboard (Chittagong Road)
Chittagong Road
Gulistan