

THREAT BY EXTORTIONISTS

62 NGO branch offices stop operation in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

At least 62 branch offices (Kendra) of three major NGOs have stopped operation in different areas of Khagrachhari district following threat by extortionists.

Twelve of them were 'closed' on Thursday as the offices did not fulfill the demand for toll, sources in the NGOs said.

Of the closed offices, 26 are of Grameen Bank (GB) and 18 each of Brac and ASA. Eight GB offices and four of ASA and Brac were closed on Thursday and the rest were closed since the menace began about four months ago, the sources said.

They said extortionists demanded toll up to Tk 5 lakh from an NGO office. The offices are in different areas in Maischhari, Bichitala, Gagrachhari under Mohalchhari upazilas in the district.

The offices stopped operation as extortionists threatened officials with death or kidnapping as they did not comply with their demand, the sources told this correspondent.

Following 'closure' of the offices, realisation of over Tk 50 lakh micro credit given to poor hill people has become uncertain. Most of the recipients were

indigenous people, the sources said.

GB, Brac and ASA had offices at Maischhari, Gagrachhari, Thalipara, Bichitala and Joysempara in Mohalchhari upazila; Bibonchhara and Munigrame Perachhara in Khagrachhari Sadar upazila; Babuchhara, Baradom and Babupara in Dighinala upazila.

The extortionists also threatened loanes not to repay their loan installments. Over 3,000 loanes are not paying their installments as toll collectors also threatened them, NGO officials and some loanes said.

Quoting NGO officials, Khagrachhari police said armed youths of different ethnic communities demanded over Tk 20 lakh tolls from NGO offices since last Sunday. Failing to comply with the demand, the officials kept their offices closed.

Loanee Madhu Monghal Chakma at Maischhari in Mohalchhari upazila told this correspondent that extortionists threatened him with death if he paid loan installment.

Khagrachhari district manager of ASA, Bithika Chakma, said their 21 offices in Bhaibonchhara, Perachhara, Shimbamdhir in Sadar upazila disbursed over Tk 18

lakh loans. "I am now worried how

to collect the money," she said. "Toll collectors belonging to ethnic communities stopped all our branch offices. We informed joint force and police," she said.

Seeking anonymity, a Grameen Bank official said their 26 offices are now closed. It disbursed at least Tk 25 lakh micro credit among about 2,000 loanes. Weekly repayment of around Tk 2.5 lakh installments is now stopped, he said.

The official said some more Grameen Bank offices are facing closure as the extortionists are annoyed and angry after filing of cases with police.

An official of Khagrachhari district Brac office said they disbursed over Tk 10 lakh loans through different branch offices. The loanes are not paying weekly installments following threat by toll collectors, he said.

Contacted, Kazi Helal Uddin, officer-in-charge of Khagrachhari Sadar police station, said he submitted a report to higher authorities for action as his small force with poor logistics is too inadequate to take action against organised gangs of extortionists.

Khagrachhari Police Superintendent Khandakar Lutful

Kabir said three toll collectors have been arrested and a drive is on to nab the rest criminals.

Some sources claimed that most of the toll collectors belong to United Peoples Democratic Front (UPDF), a party of indigenous people that opposed the Chittagong Hill Tracts peace accord signed in 1997 between the then Awami League government and Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCSS) led by Joitirindriya Bodhipriya Larma alias Shantoo Larma.

In remote Munigrame area alone, UPDF cadres demanded Tk 5 lakh toll from different NGO offices, the sources claimed. Earlier, Grameen Bank authorities filed two cases with Dighinala police station on May 14 as toll collectors forcibly closed some of its offices for toll. After filing of the cases, joint forces arrested alleged toll collector Nagor Chakma from Baradom village in Dighinala.

Acting on his confession, joint forces arrested their alleged godfather Tatindra Lal Chakma and Santushito Chakma from Nench Bazar and Mohazonpara in Khagrachhari Sadar upazila. They were produced before court, which sent them to jail, police sources said.

Another extortion case against Kalaroa Jubo Dal president

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira

An extortion case was filed yesterday against nine BNP men including detained Jobo Dal leader Ashraf Hossain.

Ashraf Hossain is president of Kalaroa Jubo Dal, youth front of BNP, and chairman of Keragachhi Union Parishad (UP).

Chairman in Kalaroa upazila allegedly for demanding toll and snatching six cattle heads for non-compliance.

With this, Ashraf Hossain faces two extortion cases, filed with Kalaroa police station, police said. Ashraf Hossain was arrested by joint forces on January 28.

Cattle trader Ainal Haque of Boalia village in Kalaroa upazila filed the case. He alleged that Ashraf Hossain demanded Tk one lakh as toll on January 12, 2003 and snatched six cattle from him as he did not pay the money.

The other accused include Atiar Rahman, Sohrab Hossain, Sharif and Rahmat Ullah.

On February 3, 2003, Ashraf Hossain and his men snatched six cattle at Panchpota village when he was going to Kalaroa market to sell those, the complainant alleged in the case.

Earlier, on April 19, Abdur Rahman of Boalia village filed another case with Kalaroa police station against Ashraf Hossain as he did not pay him Tk 3,06,240 as the price of sanitary goods taken last year.

On contact, Kalaroa police station officer-in-charge Farid Uddin confirmed filing of the cases.

Ashraf Hossain was a close aide to former BNP lawmaker Habibul Islam Habib, elected in 2001 from Sathkira-1 (Tala-Kalaroa constituency) as a candidate of BNP led 4-party alliance.



As the sun sets, a staff fixes a bamboo fence to close the door of Kalikaprashad highway police outpost with sacks hung atop.

Hard task, poor logistics

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

Kalikaprashad highway police outpost is manned by 16 policemen but there is no sitting arrangement in the shed for a meeting, said Officer-in-Charge Md. Mohiuddin Sheikh during a visit.

The costly patrol car is kept nearby under the open sky. The policemen have rented a house in the village near the outpost. Those not on duty spend the night there.

The fuel they are allotted daily can run the patrol car about 25 kilometres but they are assigned to patrol the 100 km highway.

There is no safe place in the outpost to keep arms. Cops have to keep arms with them always, whether they are on duty or not, OC Mohiuddin said.

He said 25 litres of fuel are allotted monthly for the lone motorbike in the outpost, which keeps it running for a few days. The patrol car gets 10 litres of fuel a day.

Mohiuddin said, he can not supervise on-duty staff due to lack of logistics.

He said there are many important spots on the highway. These include Kachpur bridge area in Narayanganj, Sibpur and Vitmorjal in Narsingdi and Bhairab and Katiadi areas in Kishoreganj.

All these points are used by drug traffickers and hijackers, he admitted. Night coaches from Sylhet, Kishoreganj, Bhairab, Comilla and Chittagong cross the Kanchpur bridge point.

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority				
141-143, Motilheer C/A, Dhaka-1000				
Conservancy & Pilotage Department				
Invitation for Tender (4th Time)				
1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Shipping.		
2	Agency	Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority.		
3	Procuring entity name	BIWTA.		
4	Procuring entity code	Not used at present.		
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.		
6	Invitation for	Procurement of fuel for BIWTA Vessels, Pontoon etc. for sections Sadarghat & Aricha for the period from September 2007 to June 2009 (22 months).		
7	Invitation Ref. No.	MS/2-2 (Part-13).		
8	Date	18-08-2007.		
KEY INFORMATION				
9	Procurement method	National open tendering (NOT).		
FUNDING INFORMATION				
10	Budget and source of funds	GOB Fund.		
11	Development partners (if applicable)	Not applicable.		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
12	Project/programme code (if applicable)	Not applicable.		
13	Project/programme name (if applicable)	Not applicable.		
14	Tender package No.	MS/2-2 (Part-13).		
15	Tender package name	Procurement of fuel for BIWTA Vessels, Pontoon etc. for sections Sadarghat & Aricha for the period from September 2007 to June 2009 (22 months).		
16	Tender publication date	27-08-2007		
17	Tender last selling date	09-09-2007		
18	Tender closing date and time	Date: 10-09-2007 Time: 1300 hrs		
19	Tender opening date and time	Date: 10-09-2007 Time: 1400 hrs		
20	Name & address of the office(s)	Address: Accounts Department, BIWTA, 9th Floor, 141-143, Motilheer, Dhaka.		
21	-Selling tender document (principal) -Selling tender document (others) -Receiving tender document	Primary C&P Dept, BIWTA Bhaban, 10th Floor, 141-143, Motilheer, Dhaka. Secondary (i) Ministry of Shipping, Bangladesh Secretariat, Bhaban No-6 (7th Floor), Room No-826, Dhaka, (ii) Divisional Commissioner Office, First 11th Floor Bhaban (1st Floor), Segunbagicha, Dhaka. C&P Dept BIWTA Bhaban, 10th Floor, 141-143, Motilheer, Dhaka. BIWTA Bhaban, 10th Floor, Dhaka.		
22	-Opening tender document Place/date/time of	Date: 10-09-2007 Time: 1400 hrs		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
23	Eligibility of tenderer	The bidder must be an updated agent of Padma/Jamuna/Meghna fuel Co. under BPC having explosive licence, with at least 3 years experience of supply of fuel to govt/semi govt/autonomous organisations. The bidder must have storage & supply arrangement of petroleum. At least 5 (five) copies of supply order of fuel for the last 2 (two) years to be produced with the bid. Owners of fuel tanker/vessel will be given preference.		
24	Brief description of goods or works	Diesel, lub oil, kerosene & petrol to be supplied to vessels, pontoons, flats etc. as per order of the concerned officials.		
25	Brief description of related services	Price of tender document (Tk) Tk 5000/- (five thousand) non refundable.		
26	Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	
27	1	Sadarghat, Dhaka	Covering the area Sadarghat, Fatullah, Mirpur, Tongi etc. under NED Section	
28	2	Aricha	Covering the entire area under Aricha Section, Aricha	
29	Tender security amount (Tk)	Tk 1,50,000/-		
30	Completion time in weeks/ months	22 months		
31	Name of official inviting tender	Md Ibrahim Hossain.		
32	Designation of official inviting tender	Director C&P.		
33	Address of official inviting tender	C&P Dept, BIWTA Bhaban, 10th Floor, 141-143, Motilheer, Dhaka.		
34	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: 9550918, Fax: 9551072.		
35	Note: The procuring entity reserves the right to accept any or reject any or all tenders.			
36	Note: Tenders invited for individual lot in a single notice. Any tenderer may submit one or more lots in the package.			
37	Director C&P Depart			

Ensure rights of Harijans Seminar in Kushtia told

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Speakers at a seminar here yesterday stressed on ensuring the Constitutional rights of Harijans, a neglected community in society. FAIR, a local NGO working for development of Harijans, organised the seminar at its seminar room in collaboration with Manusehr Jonno, a Dhaka based NGO.

Nazrul Islam, former deputy director of Social Welfare Department presided the seminar. In his keynote paper, FAIR official Niranjan Kumar Biswas said the children of Harijans are being deprived of their right to education in most of the schools in the district. Although a few of the schools allow their studentship in schools, but they are not treated equally. Even, in some cases, Harijan children are not allowed to sit with other children, he said. He urged to eliminate the manmade social discrimination.

Among others, former lawmaker Advocate Badrudzoza Gama, FAIR executive director Dewan Aktaruzzaman, Advocate Rajib Ahsan Ranju, Sunil Chakrabarty, Shahana Ahmed Talukdar, Sohail Bashphore and The Daily Star correspondent Amanur Aman addressed.

Anniversary of Prof Nadira's death today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The sixth anniversary of death of Prof Nadira Sultana, a renowned educationist, will be observed here today.

Various programmes have been chalked out to mark the occasion. The programmes include discussion, Quran Khwani, milad mahfil and offering of prayers.

Late Prof Nadira was the wife of Fazlur Rahman Siddiquee, local correspondent of The News Today and mother of Dr Fayela Sabrun Siddiquee and Engineer Nabil Imran Siddiquee. She died of lung cancer on September 1, 2001. At that time, she was serving as an assistant professor of Mathematics department at Ananda Mohon Government College.

Well-known as a dedicated and popular teacher of the college, specially among girl students, Nadira Sultana joined Muminunnisa Government Women's College in 1981 as a lecturer of Mathematics. There she served till the year of 2001. She was a strict disciplinarian and served the college hostel as its first superintendent very skillfully for 14 years till her demise.

Open House Day observed in 3 dists

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Open House Day was observed in Pabna, Kushtia and Bandarban districts yesterday with a call for cooperation of police and public for improvement of the standard of police service.

Police department organised the day in all the three districts.

Our Pabna Correspondent reports: A meeting was held at Pabna Sadar police station where Pabna superintendent of police (SP) AFM Masum Rabbani presided and the deputy inspector general (DIG) of police of Rajshahi, AKM Shahidul Haque was present as chief guest.

While addressing, the DIG said that crime would be eradicated from society through introduction of community policing.

The DIG said people-police cordial relationship would grow through this system. Earlier, a colourful procession was brought out in the district town. Pabna Pourasabha organised the procession where police officials and community policemen here took part.

Among others, President of Pabna district community policing Advocate Md Mohiuddin, Principle of Pabna Edward College Prof Abdus Salam, Dr Sarwar Jahan

Fayaz addressed.

Our Kushtia correspondent reports: Open House Day was observed in all seven police stations in the district. The police stations are Kushtia Sadar, Bheramara, Daulpur, Mirpur, Khamarkhali, Naokulpur and Islamic University (IU).

Kushtia SP Gazi Jasim Uddin attended all the programmes as chief guest.

Elite, businessmen, journalists, Union Parishad (UP) leaders and general people attended the meetings.

Our Bandarban correspondent reports: A meeting was held with active participation of general public at the service delivery room of the police station.

Bandarban SP. Mohammed Abdul Kader presided the meeting. Local people called for increasing police patrol in the municipal area to strengthen the anti-drug drive.

Among others, Mizanur Rahman Biplab, Chairman of Bandarban pourasabha, Additional SP Mosarraf Hossain Majid, and Asstent Police Super Abdul Quayum addressed.

Businessmen, public representatives, social workers, lawyers, journalist and senior citizens of the district attended.

বাংলাদেশ সড়ক পরিবহন কর্পোরেশন				
২১, রাজউক এডিনিউ, ঢাকা-১০০০।				
পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি				
ক) পরিবহনকারী বিভাগ	বিভাগ	সিভিল এন্ড ও দরপত্র	টেন্ডার প্রদান ও খোলা	সিভিল এন্ড ও দরপত্র
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গ) বিজ্ঞপ্তির তারিখ	০৮/২০০৭/২	০৮/২০০৭/২	১২,০০ টি পত্র প্রদান	১০০/- (সাতশত) টাকা
ঘ) বিজ্ঞপ্তির বিষয়	পোড়া মণি, ইঞ্জিন যৌত	কোরোসন ও যৌত ডিজেল	কোরোসন ও যৌত ডিজেল	কোরোসন ও যৌত ডিজেল
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ধ) বিজ্ঞপ্তির প্রাপ্তি	০৮/২০০৭/২	০৮/২০০৭/২	০৮/২০০৭/২	০৮/২০০৭/২
ন) বিজ্ঞপ্তির প্রাপ্তি	০৮/২০০৭/২	০৮/২০০৭/২	০৮/২০০৭/২	০৮/২০০৭/২
প) বিজ্ঞপ্তির প্রাপ্তি	০৮/২০০৭/২	০৮/২০০৭/২	০৮/২০০৭/২	০৮/২০০৭/২
ফ) বিজ্ঞপ্তির প্রাপ্তি	০৮/২০০৭/			