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BIWTA engineers, wives sued for Tk 1.29cr bribery

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A dredging company yesterday sued four engineers of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) and four of their family members and relatives on charges of taking Tk 1.29 crore in bribe.

The accused are BIWTA executive engineer Saiful Islam, also former director of 'Aricha-Rajshahi-Godagari-Bholahat Waterways Dredging Project', his wife Sharmina Islam, deputy assistant engineer Mohammad Abu Bakar Siddique, his wife Fazila Khatun, deputy assistant engineer Mohammad Zahirul Huq, his wife Afroza Khanam and assistant engineer AH Mohammad Farhuzzaman and his mother-in-law Ferduos Jahhan.

Gazi Mohammad Jahangir Hossain, assistant general manager (accounts and finance) of Basic Dredging Company Ltd, filed the case with the Motijheel Police Station.

The complainant alleged that

Come rainy season, come road digging

7,555 sq metres of city road being torn for utility service works

HELEMUL ALAM

Moving around the capital city in the middle of the monsoon has become extremely hazardous as most utility service providers started digging up 7,555 square metres of city roads with the approval from Dhaka City Corporation (DCC).

Following the heavy downpour last Monday, most city streets that lack proper drainage system became submerged in water and unmarked trenches and manholes dug on these streets turned into death traps for pedestrians and vehicles alike.

Munshi Habibur Rahman,

employee of a barbershop at Jamtala of East Shewrapara, said local residents have been suffering immensely for the last two months as the Jamtala Road has been dug up for the installation of a sewerage system.

"During Monday's heavy rain, I saw a female garment worker stumbling into an unmarked under-construction manhole," he said adding that the girl could die there unless a few good Samaritans pulled her to safety.

"Everyday I have to walk about half a kilometre to hire a rickshaw, if I'm lucky enough to get one, as I can't use my car due to the ongoing digging on the road," said Samiya

Islam, a resident of Al-Samir apartment in the area, who has to escort her daughter to and from school everyday.

Mayna, worker of a local sweater factory, said the road becomes very dangerous even after a light shower as the under-construction open manholes on the road get immersed in ankle to knee-deep rainwater mixed with filthy sewage.

Road digging in Jhilpar area at Modhubagh by Dhaka Wasa (Water and Sewerage Authority) for the last 25 days has left the roads unsuitable for vehicular movement, causing tremendous

1,732 more held as mass arrests go on

STAR REPORT

The joint forces arrested 1,732 people including 130 in the capital in the last 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday in the ongoing special anti-crime drives across the country.

The arrestees include a journalist in Kushtia, the publicity secretary of Sylhet City unit BNP and the organising secretary of Rupsha upazila unit BNP in Khulna.

At least 11,786 people including political leaders and activists have been arrested so far since the launching of the crackdown on May 28.

Among the latest detainees, 1,114 were arrested on warrants, 544 on various charges, and nine others under the Arms Act. Of the detainees, 28 are convicts and six are arrested criminals.

The joint forces also recovered 19 firearms, 10 bombs, and 86 rounds of bullet during the drives



Relatives of people arrested during the ongoing mass arrest drives wait outside Dhaka Central Jail for hours yesterday to meet their loved ones.



Dhaka Wasa tears off a large section of tarmac near Matshya Bhaban intersection in the capital to install drainage pipes under the street. The photo was taken yesterday.

World leaders get down to details on food price crisis

AFP, Rome

World leaders meeting in Rome yesterday focused on the roles of biofuels, trade practices and global warming in the food price crisis that is threatening more hunger, poverty and conflict worldwide.

In talks on Tuesday clouded by controversy focused on the presidents of Zimbabwe and Iran, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called for "bold and urgent steps to address the root causes of this global food crisis."

high, the UN chief warned that while the world must "respond immediately," it must also put the long-term focus on "improving food security."

Prices have doubled in three years, according to the World Bank, sparking riots in Egypt and Haiti and in many African nations. Brazil, Vietnam, India and Egypt have all imposed food export restrictions.

The world "simply cannot afford to fail" in efforts to address the global food price crisis, the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said later at a news conference.

"We simply cannot afford to fail," Ban said. "Hundreds of millions of people expect no less," he said, adding: "We are duty-bound to act now."

at reasonable prices," Ban said. Bilateral and international donors must reverse "years of neglect of the agricultural sector," he said, calling for "sustained, intelligent investment in agriculture."

He added that in the immediate term, "We must find a way to significantly boost the harvest in the next year."

WORLD BANK CHIEF World Bank President Robert Zoellick yesterday called for the lifting of trade barriers that contribute to food price inflation and "hurt the poorest people."

"We need an international call to remove export bans and restrictions," Zoellick told a news conference at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization summit in Rome.

"These controls encourage

Fugitive forest gobbler Tapan surrenders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Fugitive forest official and former project director of Dulahazra Safari Park Tapan Kumar Dey surrendered before a court here yesterday.

Judge AMM Basiru Ullah of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court rejected Tapan's bail prayer and sent him to jail.

The court also fixed June 11 for hearing on charge framing in a case filed against Tapan by the Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) last year, sources said.

Tapan, divisional forest officer (DFO) of Chittagong north, went into hiding early last year following arrests of chief conservator of Forest (CCF) Osman Gani and a few other top brasses of the department on charges of corruption and misuse of power.

Sources said a deputy director

DMP to get tough on false case culprits

Detects 22 cases filed to harass innocent people

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) is going to take actions against the complainants found to have lodged false cases with ill intentions of harassing innocent people.

The DMP has so far detected 22 such cases during investigations and has started the process of filing cases against the culprits.

A top DMP official told The Daily Star that they began the process to identify false cases in January this year aiming to check the practice of harassing innocent people as well as to reduce the burden of cases on the police.

He said that the courts have already accepted the final reports

of those cases, which were proved 'false' during the investigation. "We will file cases against 19 complainants after receiving the acceptance letters of final reports of those cases from the courts concerned," he added.

The final reports of the rest three cases will be submitted to the courts soon, the DMP official said.

Though section 211 of the Penal Code permits police to file cases against people lodging false cases, the enforcement of this law is virtually absent.

The section says: "Whoever, with intent to cause injury to any person, institutes or causes to be instituted any criminal proceedings against that person, or falsely

charges any person with having committed an offence, knowing that there is no just or lawful ground for such proceeding or charge against that person, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.

The section further reads: "And if such criminal proceeding be instituted on a false charge of an offence punishable with death, imprisonment for life, or imprisonment for seven years or upwards, shall be punishable with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine."

Rab nabs 4 over graft in imports

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested four people, including three staff of clearing and forwarding (C&F) agents and a customs official of Kamalapur Inland Container Depot (ICD), in the last two days on charge of evading over Tk 54 lakh tax through manipulating prices of imported goods.

The arrestees are C&F firm staff Rafiqul Islam and Borhan Uddin, customs official Shakhawat Hossain and Zafar Imam, a computer operator of C&F agent JB International.

The goods, including electronic appliances, machinery and IT items, were imported from countries like China, Hong Kong and Germany, the Rab officials said.

"We have detected evasion of Tk 54 lakh tax by checking only seven files. It may amount to several

crores of taka once we finished going through all the files," Rab-3 Commanding Officer Sultan Mohammad Noorani told The Daily Star.

A syndicate of corrupt importers, C&F agents and some ICD employees at Kamalapur are involved in dodging taxes on imported goods showing much lower price than the original value of the items on the Clean Report of Findings (CRF) and bank copies, the Rab said.

Giving an instance, Squadron Leader Khaled Shams of Rab-3, who led the drive, said that though goods worth \$3.47 lakh was imported, the price was shown only at \$72,000.

Aspecial Rab team launched the drive following information from Joint-Commissioner (Customs) at Kamalapur ICD Wahida Rahman

APPEAL AGAINST RE-DEMARCATON EC plans to complete hearing in 9 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) has planned to complete hearings on about 3,000 appeals filed with it against re-demarcation of 74 parliamentary constituencies in just nine days beginning from June 15.

The time to complete the mammoth task of hearing and disposing such a huge number of appeals is much short compared to what the EC experienced previously for the same job.

In 1984, the EC took 13 days to hear only 307 appeals against its initiative to redraw the constituencies.

This time, the commission obviously faces more pressure as far as the number of appeals is concerned. Leaders and activists of different political parties filed the huge amount of appeals, challeng-

ing the re-demarcation of the constituencies.

If the EC hears the appeals until June 29, it may not be possible for the commission to publish the final list of parliamentary constituencies to be redrawn by the end of June as per its electoral roadmap.

On completion of the hearings, the EC will have to make decisions on the basis of merits of the appeals and the next procedures may consume more time.

According to a draft schedule, hearings on the appeals filed against re-demarcation of the constituencies in Dhaka division will be held on June 15-17 at the EC Secretariat conference room.

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda and election commissioners Muhammed Sohul Hussain and



Wastes from tanneries are being burnt under the open sky at Hazaribagh in the capital yesterday, polluting air and soil on the eve of World Environment Day today.

Outlaw killed in 'crossfire'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

An outlaw was killed in a shootout between his accomplices and Rab at Sargram village in Ataikula.

The dead was identified as Ershad Ali (30), son of Abdur Razzak of Sargram village.

Rab recovered bombs, firearms and ammunition from the spot. Rab said acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab-12 raided Sargram Pashchim Para at Sargram village where a gang of outlaws was holding a secret meeting at about 3:00am.

Sensing the presence of the law enforcers, the outlaws opened fire on the Rab members prompting them to retaliate.

Ershad was killed in the shootout while his cohorts managed to escape.

Rab recovered a US-made one-barrel gun, four rounds of bullet and four powerful hand bombs from the spot.

Ershad was accused in several cases on different charges including murder, rape and robbery, Rab added.

Prayer Timing

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-45	6-50
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation