

COMPUTERISED SYSTEM IN REALISING FINES BY CMP

## Corruption declines, revenue increases

DWAIPAYAN BARUA

Computerisation of the traffic department of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) has reduced corruption in the department as well as increased collection of revenue a record high compared to the previous years.

Traffic Department of CMP has realised Tk 6 crore in fines during the last one and a half years following the system introduced in December 2006.

The department filed over 10 lakh cases against different vehicles in the city areas for violating traffic rules from January 2006 to June this year and fined them over Tk 5.72 crore.

Sources in the department said around Tk 4 crore has been collected as fine during the last fiscal year as of June 30 compared to Tk 2.41 crore during the previous fiscal year.

Action was taken against the CNG-run auto-rickshaws for not installing meter and buses for hampering smooth vehicular movement and wrong parking.

If a section of sergeants or constables were not involved in taking bribes from the violators the department could earn more, an official in the department said preferring anonymity.

It is a common allegation against the traffic sergeants and constables that they are involved

in different types of corruption, including gobbling up of a major portion of the revenue of the department while collecting fines from the violators of the traffic rules.

Owners of the seized vehicles are to bribe the officials at the traffic office for returning their vehicles, alleged Haji Zakaria, a former leader of the bus owners' association.

These officials, including top ones in the CMP (traffic), also allegedly shared the money collected as fines since the previous system for preserving data on fine collection had many loopholes.

Moreover, incidents of taking bribe from vehicles by the on-duty traffic sergeants and constables on the city streets were very common in the previous years, allowing the vehicles to ply without valid documents as well as reckless driving, commuters alleged.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) (traffic) Abu Sufian said the department deposited around Tk 30 lakh a month collected as penalty after launching the system while it was Tk 10 lakh to Tk 12 lakh a month earlier.

The officials said introduction of the computerised system for realising fines and repeated drives against the violators of traffic rules helped collect such an amount.



A policeman of the Traffic Department of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) uses a computer to check accounts.

Before launching the computerised system, corrupt officials at the traffic department used to gobble up a good amount of the fines collected from the violators.

Now there is no scope for taking any amount of the penalty since every single data regarding the fines, including type of rule violation, amount of fine and section under the traffic rule are being

filled up in computerised system using a software, Sufian said.

Traffic sergeants are not empowered to collect any sort of fines on the spot as they are to provide one portion of a document regarding fine to the drivers and submit other portion to the data collection section of the department.

The drivers and owners now are to pay the penalty money at

the traffic department that provides them with printed receipt copies after receiving the money.

Different officials at the department, including the DC, can check all the data through their own computers as soon as they are put in the computer section with the help of servers, said Sergeant Nazmul Islam, prosecution-in-charge.

## Routine power outage makes life miserable

SHAHIDUL ISLAM

Routine power outage has made life miserable for the people in the port city nowadays.

Besides, a large number of consumers of Power Development Board (PDB), Southern Distribution Zone, in Chittagong have alleged 'discrimination' in the supply of power in their respective areas.

They said, "While frequent incident of power outage has made life miserable in these days in the port city, the discrimination by the PDB in the distribution of power or enforcing loadshedding to vast city areas is worsening the situation at the cost of our sufferings."

They said the PDB used to favour some so-called 'posh' residential areas and supplies power to them more than other areas that are densely populated and under-developed.

PDB officials, however, denied such allegations and said they always try to maintain an evenness or balance while supplying power or going for loadshedding in different areas of the city despite poor generation of power since the commencement of this summer.

People living at Bakalia, Chawk Bazar, Kapashgola, Badurtala, Sholoshahar, Bohaddarhat, Anderkilla, Dewan Bazar, Muradpur, Sholak Bohar, MM Ali Road, Halishahar, Kattali, Pahartali, Madarbari, Pathantuli,

Dewanhat, Oxygen, Kalurghat, Chandgaon, Lalkhan Bazar, Patharghata, Firingee Bazar, Dampara, Kazir Dewri, Nasirabad, Monsurabad and few other areas were feeling most the pinch of the 'discrimination' in loadshedding. On the other hand, residents in the Jalalabad area near Chittagong Cantonment, and posh areas like Panchlaish, Mehdiabag, OR Nizam Road, Zakir Hossain Road, Khulshi, Jamal Khan and parts of Agrabad Commercial Area were getting relatively fair amount of power.

"The PDB is not only playing a discriminatory role as far as 'reasonable' or 'even' power supply is concerned but also taking our patience," said Shahidul Alam, commissioner of West Bakalia Ward of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC).

He said none in the area can say when the power will trip and how long it will persist since there is no specific policy of the PDB about loadshedding.

Chawk Bazar Ward Commissioner Syed Gohar Haider Mintu and Vice Chairman of Tea Traders Association of Bangladesh (TTAB) MA Taher expressed similar views about the unpredictable supply of power in their localities by the PDB.

"In comparison to some posh areas, what the PDB is doing with its large number of consumers under Bakalia Sub Division is in fact a stepmotherly attitude," they said.

Abdus Samad, a resident of Halishahar H Block, said he has rented the house in the area three months ago and has since then been experiencing the unpredictable nature of the power supply.

PDB officials attributed the problem to inadequate generation in the plants in Chittagong, frequent mechanical glitch in some of the plants and above all shortage of gas for the situation in the port city.

"For shortage of gas supply, generation at 210 MW-capacity Raosan Power Plant Unit-1, Shikalbaha Thermal Plant and Burge Mounted Plants have been suspended for the last two months since May 9 while four, out of five units, of Kaptai Hydroelectric Plant now generate only 94MW and 210MW Raosan Unit-2 only 90MW of power. On the other hand, we get 200 to 210MW of power from the National Grid," Md Moniruzzaman, public relations officer of PDB, said.

He said the current average daily loadshedding in Chittagong is around 200MW at night and 50 to 60MW in daytime against the daily demand of over 550MW.

Acting Chief Engineer Shibu Kumar Chowdhury denied any discrimination in the loadshedding or power supply.

Despite limitations, we try our level best to keep the loadshedding as low as possible in the industrial belt in daytime and in the residential areas at night.

### the week that was

#### CCC body to identify risky foothill areas

The newly formed vigilance committee of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) will conduct a search programme in different areas throughout this monsoon to identify the vulnerable foothill inhabitants with a view to checking any natural disaster in future.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the committee on Sunday at the CCC auditorium with M Monzur Alam, the acting mayor, in the chair.

The meeting decided that several teams of the committee in cooperation with joint forces, police and magistrate will conduct the search on every Monday and Wednesday. It also decided to form survey teams under the aegis of concerned ward commissioners.

The meeting identified primarily eight wards as vulnerable. These wards are: South Pahartali, Jalalabad, West Sholoshahar, Sholak Bohar, North Kattali, Saraipara, Pahartali and Lalkhan Bazar. Commissioners of these wards have been co-opted in the vigilance committee.

CCC Chief Executive Officer AKM Khairul Alam, Secretary Md Shamsuddoha, Director of Department of Environment (DoE) Md Nazmul Hoque, Deputy Commissioner (north

of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) Mostafa Kamal, Representative of Joint Forces Major Khondoker Mukit Al Mahmud, Assistant General Manager of Bangladesh Railway (eastern zone) Md Mosharrar Hossain, Representative of Fire Services Jasimuddin Majumder and CCC Chief Medical Officer Dr Mohammad Ali were present at the meeting.

#### Reception to students

Speakers at a reception ceremony on Saturday said value of time is important for every person especially the students to attain success and glory in life.

Ankur Society Girls High School organised the reception for the successful SSC examinees of this year on the school premises in Nasirabad with Chowdhury Md Shahabuddin Babar, vice president of school managing committee, in the chair.

Daily Azadi Editor MA Malek, who is also the managing committee president, was present as the chief guest at the function. Former Chittagong Press Club President Abu Sufian and Managing Committee Member ZSM Bakhtiar were the special guests.

School Headmaster Md Azizul Haque, Nasirabad Housing Society Director Dr Omar Fruque, school teacher Ferdous Parveen and SSC

examinee Farzana Akhter also spoke. The school, established in 1964, has achieved cent percent pass in the SSC examinations for the last three years. A total of 34 students appeared this year.

#### Workshop on NGOs ends

A five-day workshop on "Introduction to NGO's in Bangladesh" ended on Thursday at the Asian University for Women (AUW).

AUW and Ghashful, a non-government organisation, jointly organised the workshop from June 29 to July 3 at the university conference room. Sources said the workshop was aimed at making the participating students of AUW gather knowledge on current development issues of the world, NGO and its history, role of NGOs, their major activities and development process in Bangladesh.

The students from India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal, Cambodia, Myanmar and Bangladesh participated in the workshop.

Aftabur Rahman Jafree, executive director of Ghashful, made the address of welcome and briefed the participants about the workshop.

Ghashful President Shamsun Nahar Rahman, Director of AUW Access Academy Anne Shu and Deputy Director Prof Rehena Alam were pres-

ent as the guests at the closing and certificate giving ceremony. Ghashful directors Lutful Kabir Chowdhury Shimul, Anjum Banu Lima and Mahruful Karim Chowdhury conducted the workshop.

#### Wage board demanded

Speakers here on Saturday demanded implementation of wage board for the local correspondents of media for expansion of the newspaper industry and development of journalism.

Though the journalists of the metropolitan areas are getting different benefits, no step for welfare of the local correspondents was taken till date, they said.

They were addressing the installation ceremony of the Bangladesh Journalist Association Patiya Upazila unit at its office.

Founder president of the association Shafiuddin Ahmed was the chief guest at the ceremony with the unit President ATM Toha in the chair.

Patiya Municipality Mayor Nurul Islam, the unit General Secretary Kobial Abu Yusuf, Patiya Press Club President Sirajul Islam Chowdhury, General Secretary Biksah Chowdhury, Central Committee Member Aminul Haque, Joint Secretary Sohel Mohammad Fakhruddin and Patiya Chairman Samity Secretary Jasim Uddin Master also spoke at the ceremony.



Debate's pose for photograph with the organisers of "Mutual Trust Bank-The Daily Star Debate Contest 2008" at a view exchange meeting at the seminar room of Shilpakala Academy. Drishty Chittagong, an educational and cultural organisation, organised the debate.

#### Reception to GPA-5 achievers

GPA-5 achievers of the BAF Shaheen School and College were accorded a reception on Saturday.

Group Captain of the Jahurul Haque Base of Bangladesh Air Force Mohammad Abu Bashar was the chief guest at the reception ceremony held at the Base Recruits Training School auditorium.

The chief guest in his speech called upon all to keep the pace of success in future. A total of 36 students out of 93 secured highest GPA-5 this year with cent percent pass percentage.

Later, the chief guest handed over prizes among the students.

#### Fruit festival held

Global Scholar School and College organised a tree plantation programme and fruit festival on the institution premises on Thursday.

Dilshad Ahmed and MM Rafiqul Islam inaugurated the tree plantation and fruit festival with the Principal Nahid Israt in the chair.

Most of the local fruits were displayed in the festival and different species of trees were distributed among the students. Institution's teachers and guardians attended the programmes.



(Left) A concrete slab on a drain on the Commerce College Road in the city's busy Agrabad Area has been missing for around one month posing a danger to the pedestrians as well as vehicles. A local shopkeeper has set up a pole on the drain to make the people aware of the danger when the authorities concerned remained indifferent to the problem.



Fulki, a school for children, organises a fruit festival at the institution on Thursday.