

## ALLEGATION OF ARTIFICIAL GRIDLOCK AT PATURIA, DAULATDIA

# Truck drivers forced to bribe for tickets at ferry terminals

ZAHANGIR ALAM BISWAS,  
Manikganj

A section of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) officials, traffic policemen and middlemen are forcing truck drivers to give bribe to get their way to the ferry terminal as 'artificial' traffic jam is created at Paturia and Daulatdia.

Government rate of ferry ticket per truck is Tk 960 but it is often sold for Tk 1500-3000 in the black market, said a number of truck drivers.

Those who decline to give

the extra money have to stay at the terminal for unusually long time, they said.

BIWTC office sources said around 1200 trucks cross Paturia-Daulatdia ferry a day.

As around 7 lakh taka is taken a day from the truck drivers to let them have access to the terminal through breaking the serial, the 'extorted' amount stands at around Tk 25 crore a year, sources said.

Three BIWTC officials with the help of a good number of employees at Paturia and Daulatdia ferry terminals allegedly lead the 'bribery

business' by creating artificial traffic jam on both sides of the river, truck drivers alleged.

Around 100 brokers are engaged in ticket selling for extra money allegedly with the connivance of a few traffic policemen, they said.

As this correspondent 'visited Paturia terminal several times this week, dozens of truck drivers told him the tale of bribery.

"I came from Dhaka for Kushtia with a truck loaded with soyabean oil. After staying at Paturia ferry terminal for 24 hours, I have got ticket

for Tk 1600 against the government rate of Tk 960," said truck driver Rokon of Kushtia.

"After staying for hours at Paturia terminal, I bought the ferry ticket for Tk 1500 from brokers, as the legal ticket sellers declined to give it at the government fixed rate," said truck driver Abdur Rashid of Jhenidah.

Truck driver Babul of Jessore said tickets often sell in the black market when the staff at ticket counters say tickets are not unavailable.

Many other truck drivers made similar allegations.

The truck drivers recently

staged demonstration in front of the BIWTC office at Paturia terminal protesting ill practices by a section of BIWTC officials, traffic policemen and brokers.

Asked about the irregularities, BIWTC Manager Bidyut Kumar Saha, ticket counter official Shafiqul Islam and Paturia outpost in-charge Sub Inspector Razzak denied the allegations.

BIWTC terminal assistant Tara Mia said, "We only maintain serials. We do not know anything about the alleged irregularities by BIWTC officials."



PHOTO: STAR

Water Development Board workers trying to check erosion by putting sandbags on the earthen portion of the spar area at Meghai point of Kazipur upazila in Sirajganj yesterday.

## JAMUNA SPAR AREA WASHED AWAY

## Massive erosion threatens 5 villages in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

At least 60 metres of earthen structure in spar - 2 area on the western bank of the Jamuna at Meghai point under Kazipur upazila collapsed on Monday, threatening massive erosion in the downstream areas of the spar.

Sources said the structure collapsed due to strong current in the river that marked a rise following heavy rain and onrush of water from upstream in the last few days.

About 25,000 people of five villages-- Saultola, Biaracharpara, Muslimpara, Khudbandhi and Meghai in the downstream areas of the spar fear massive erosion.

Water Development Board officials said

Jamuna engulfed at least 50 dwelling houses and other establishments in the areas in the last seven days. Besides, many other homesteads and establishments are now under erosion threat, they added.

While visiting the spar site, this correspondent found that labourers of the WDB were trying to protect the areas from erosion by dumping sacks of sands.

WDB official Arifur Rahman said the earthen structure collapsed during repair work of the spar. He said the authorities concerned gave an emergency work order to "AKMSS Joint Venture" to complete repair works of spar no 2 and spar no 3 at Meghai point by June this year. But the construction firm failed to complete the work in time.



Truck drivers, tired of waiting in 'artificial gridlock' for over a day, demonstrate at Paturia ferry terminal on Saturday, left, and a BIWTC official allows a truck to break the serial allegedly in exchange for bribe.



PHOTO: STAR

## Downpour floods many Chittagong city areas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Many parts of the port city including the low-lying areas were submerged due to daylong torrential rain yesterday causing untold sufferings to the townsfolk.

Commuters faced a lot of trouble to reach their destinations as several city streets went under waist-deep water at busy points like Bahadderhat, Muradpur, Sholoshahar Gate No 2, Agrabad Access Road and Badurtala creating gridlock throughout the day.

Students, office goers and garment workers had to wait for a long time to avail public trans-

port.

The worst sufferers were residents of low-lying areas like Chawkbazar, Bakalia, Kapashgola, Sholakbazar, Agrabad, CDA Residential Area and Dewanbazar.

Met Office sources at Patenga said, around 110.6mm rainfall was recorded in 24 hours till 7.00pm while met office at Ambagan recorded around 91.0mm rainfall during the period.

Met office also forecast heavy rainfall in the next 24 hours.

However, there was no report of any casualty due to heavy shower in the city or hill areas till filing of the report at 7.15pm yesterday.



PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Vehicles lumber on a flooded road at Muradpur as yesterday's heavy downpour caused serious waterlogging in different areas of Chittagong city.

## JCD men assault teacher for refusing undue admission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,  
Sylhet

Students of MC College yesterday blocked Sylhet-Tamabil road in front of the college for about two hours in protest against assaulting a teacher by a group of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) men.

The JCD men had asked Bangla department Chairman Prof Ashfaq Ahmed, also chairman of the admission committee, to 'arrange' admission for some of their men but he declined it.

Yesterday was the last date for admission into the first year classes of the college.

At about 1:00pm, some 12 to 13 men met Prof Ashfaq at the teachers' common room and charged him for 'not getting their job done'.

Prof Ashfaq said that admission had been done on the basis of merit and there was no scope to violate the rules. He also suggested the group to file written complaint to the acting principal, if necessary.

As Prof Ashfaq came out of the common room after

some time, the group followed him, knocked him down to the ground and fled the scene on motorbikes.

As the news spread on the campus, teachers came out of their classes in protest.

The students took out a procession and put barricade on Sylhet-Tamabil road demanding punishment to the perpetrators.

Meanwhile, the MC College unit of JCD expelled Joseph Khan from the organisation on charge of his complicity with the incident.

## ARREST OF 14 SHIBIR ACTIVISTS IN SATKHIRA

## Jamaat files counter case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira.

A local Jamaat leader filed a counter case with Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court here yesterday accusing 15 people, including seven cops of Satkhira Sadar Police Station and eight BCL men, of ransacking the district Jamaat office on July 5.

The accused are sub-inspectors Asad, Sarwar, Harun and Khaled and constables

Tapan, Khaleque and Afzal and BCL Satkhira Government College unit leaders Abdul Majed, Billal Hossain, Sudarshan, Phillips, Shahjahan, Asad, Abdul Gafur and Abu Sayeed.

On July 5, police arrested 14 Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) leaders and activists in a case filed by the district BCL president with the police station

the same day for assaulting a BCL leader by Shibir men on

the night of July 4.

The complainant, Satkhira district Jamaat Secretary Nurul Huda, stated in the case that the accused raided the district Jamaat office in Satkhira town at 2:00am on July 5 and damaged its collapsible gate and furniture.

The court asked the officer-in-charge (OC) of Sadar Police Station to inquire into the matter and take necessary actions.

## SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

### 3 teenage girls rescued

A CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Police in a raid on Monday night rescued three teenage girls from Jessore central bus stand and arrested two traffickers. The girls are Halima, 17, daughter of Jalil Bepari of Channari village in the district, Runki, 17, daughter of Boshir Hawlader of Palashpur village in Barisal and Munni, 16, daughter of Jinnah Mollah of Ramkantor village in Narail. The arrested 'traffickers' are Salina, wife of Alif Hossain of Muroli in Jessore and Dherajuddin of Nagarkanda village in Faridpur. Police said, the young girls were brought to Jessore for trafficking by promising them suitable jobs in a neighbouring country.

### BCL beats up JCD leader

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

The activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) at Islamic University (IU) yesterday beat up Sariful Islam Sumon, president of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) Bangbandhu Sheikh Mujib Hall unit on IU campus. The BCL cadres swooped on Sumon at main gate of the university at about 1:00 pm and beat him up with iron rod and bamboo sticks, witnesses said. The attackers alleged that Sumon led several attacks on BCL on the campus during the last BNP tenure. BCL activists faced at least 12 attacks by JCD men that left at least 100 injured, they said.

### 3 arrested, arms recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Police yesterday arrested three alleged arms traders and recovered a foreign made pistol and bullets from their possession at Mathurapur in Daulatpur upazila in the district. A team from Mathurapur police camp arrested Liton, 20, son of Yasin Ali of Pakuria from Mathurapur bazar last night and recovered a 9mm pistol from his possession. Later, on his disclosure, police arrested two accomplices from the bazar areas and recovered five bullets from them. The arrestees are Tufan, 24, son of Asgar Ali and Nantu, 25, son of Ibrahim of Ramkrishnapur in Daulatpur upazila. Police said Liton was an arms trader involved in arms smuggling in border areas.

### Pirated CDs recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A mobile court on Monday seized a huge number of pirated CDs and pornographic films from video shops and arrested one person in the town. During raid on shops at Haque Super Market they recovered over 500 pieces of CDs from Mouchak Video and Movie Video. The arrested person is the owner of Mouchak Video.

### English medium schools

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) has decided to set up two English medium schools in the city. The schools will be set up on RCC land near Hatimkhan and Bornali intersections within a few months, said RCC officials. "We have taken up the initiatives so that our future generation becomes good at English besides the mother tongue," said Rajshahi Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton. Meanwhile, the RCC also has decided to run two private colleges and three private schools of the city from this fiscal.



PHOTO: STAR

Patuakhali District Lawyers Association forms a human chain in Patuakhali town yesterday demanding withdrawal of increased court fees.

## Invitation for Tenders

1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operative/Local Government Division.
2.	Agency	Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (DWASA).
3.	Procuring entity name	Project Director, Emergency Rehabilitation & Expansion of Water Supply System Project (EREWSPP).
4.	Invitation for	Procurement of 200mm & 150mm dia C-Class PVC pipes for water line within MODS Zone-3, 4 & 10 areas.
5.	Invitation No.	TA/556/EREWSPP Date: 01-07-2009.
6.	Procurement method	National Open Tendering Method (NOTM).
7.	Budget and source of funds	GOB.
8.	Project code	
9.	Tender document last selling date	28-07-2009 during office hours.
10.	Tender closing date and time	29-07-2009 at 12:00 noon.
11.	Tender opening date and time	29-07-2009 at 2:00pm.
12.	Price of tender document	Tk. 3,000/- (three thousand) only.
13.	Amount of tender security	Tk. 4,00,000/- (four lac) only.
14.	Name & address of the offices selling tender document	1. Janata Bank, Kawran Bazar Corporate Branch/ Fakirapool Branch/Posta Branch/Mohammadpur Corporate Branch/Mirpur Section-1/Mohakhali Corporate Branch, Dhaka. 2. Agrani Bank, WASA Branch, Dhaka. 3. Uttara Bank, Kawran Bazar Branch, Dhaka.
15.	Address of the office receiving & opening tenders	Office of the Superintending Engineer & Project Director, EREWS Project, Dhaka WASA, WASA Bhaban (5th floor), 98, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215.
16.	Eligibility of tenderer	(i) The tenderer shall have a minimum 5 (five) years of overall experience in the supply of goods and (ii) The tenderer shall have a minimum 2 (two) years of specific experience in the supply of similar goods.
17.	Brief description of goods or works	Procurement of 200mm & 150mm dia C-Class PVC pipes for water line within MODS Zone-3, 4 & 10 areas.
18.	Special instruction	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.

Superintending Engineer  
and  
Project Director

WASA-PI-446/09  
GD-3330

EREWS Project  
Dhaka WASA, Dhaka