

ALLEGATION OF ARTIFICIAL GRIDLOCK AT PATUSHIA, DAULATDIA

Truck drivers forced to bribe for tickets at ferry terminals

ZAHANG 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 Patushia 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 Patushia-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 Patushia 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 Patushia 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 Patushia 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 Patushia 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 Jhenaidah.

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 Patushia terminal protesting ill practices by a section of BIWTC officials, traffic policemen and brokers.

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

BIWTA 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 spade area at Meghali 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 Meghali 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 outflow of water from upstream in the last few days.

About 25,000 people of five villages—Saultola, Biaracharpura, Muslimpara, Khudbandhi and Meghali 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 sand.

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 Meghali point by June this year. But the construction firm failed to complete the work in time.

DISPUTE OVER NEW PRINCIPAL

BCL ransacks college rooms, injures 10 students

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Chhatra Oikya brought out a procession on the campus welcoming new principal Prof Protap Chandra Biswas yesterday noon. But the BCL cadres who opposed the appointment attacked the procession.

The BCL cadres also ransacked college office rooms and seminar room of political science department.

Barguna police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. Officer-in-charge of Barguna Sadar police station said the

situation is now under control as police deployed on the campus. No case was lodged in connection with the incident, he added.

Junaid Hossain Jewel, district BCL joint secretary claimed they did not attack the general students, only resisted the outsider JCD and Shibir cadres from entering the campus.

Sources said Prof Protap's appointment angered BCL as Prof Nirmalendu Sil was their choice for the post.

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 (EREWSSP).	
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/EREWSSP 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/Mohakali 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, EREWSS 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
EREWSS Project
Dhaka WASA, Dhaka

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 townfolk.

Commuters faced a lot of trouble to reach their destinations as several city streets went under waist-deep water at busy points like Bahadernagar, 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, Sholabahar, Agrabad, CDA Residential Area and Dewanbandi.

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.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

3 teenage girls rescued

A CORRESPONDENT, Jessor

Police in a raid on Monday night rescued three teenage girls from Jessor central bus stand and arrested two traffickers. The girls are Halima, 17, daughter of Jalil Bepari of Chanmari village in the district, Rumki, 17, daughter of Boshir Hawlader of Palashpur village in Barisal and Munni, 16, daughter of Jinnah Mollah of Ramkantohor village in Narail. The arrested 'traffickers' are Salina, wife of Alif Hossain of Muroli in Jessor and Dherajuddin of Nagarkanda village in Faridpur. Police said, the young girls were brought to Jessor 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) Bandhundu 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.

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 Ashfaque 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 Ashfaque at the teachers' common room and charged him for 'not giving them their due' job done.

Prof Ashfaque 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 Ashfaque 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



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

WASA-PI-446/09
GD-3330