



Farmers weed a cauliflower field at Routnagar village in Ranishankoil upazila under Dinajpur district, right, Hossain Ali, a pioneer of early variety cauliflower growing in the area, talks to farmers about better cultivation of the winter vegetable.



PHOTO: STAR

ACC detects Tk 18.5 cr graft by RPGCL men in 2002-07

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

Officials of Rupantarita Praktik Gas Company Ltd (RPGCL), a concern of state-run Petrobangla, had misappropriated petroleum products worth Tk 18.54 crore through manipulating logbooks, tampering with metres and other ways during the years between 2002 and 2007.

Sources said the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) recently detected such large-scale irregularities in the RPGCL, which produces liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) by processing locally available natural gas liquid (NGL).

The memo of evidence (proposed charge sheet) submitted by the investigation

officer (IO) of the much-talked corruption case is now awaiting approval of the ACC director.

When contacted, ACC Director of Sylhet Division Major Tuhin Md Masud told The Daily Star that they are checking the memo of evidence of the case and other documents.

ACC Assistant Director in Habiganj Md Abdul Mazed, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, in his proposed charge sheet submitted to the director stated that at least six officials with the connivance of each other during their service to the RPGCL had misappropriated petrol and LPG worth Tk 18.54,59,734 through manipulating logbooks, tampering with metres and other docu-

ments of the plant during the period from June 2002 to July 2007. High-ups of the state-run company also ignored getting specific allegations.

The accused officials involved in such massive irregularities include former Deputy Manager Jasim Uddin Chowdhury (left the job years ago and now staying abroad), Deputy Manager Md Zahidul Islam (former marketing officer of fractionation plant), former manager and in-charge of Kailashitla LPG fractionation plant Engineer Shuvo Barua (presently manager, CNG workshop, RPGCL, Dhaka), Deputy Manager (production) of fractionation plant Sheikh Md Kamal Uddin

and former Deputy Manager (marketing) AKM Shafiqur Rahman and General Manager (Planning) Md Abdul Khaleque Khan.

However, the IO in his memo of evidence suggested dropping the name of former deputy manager (marketing) AKM Shafiqur Rahman from the proposed charge sheet as the person had served the company for only 15 days during the five-year scam.

The case in brief is that the then ACC chairman on July 30, 2007 ordered the director, Sylhet divisional ACC office for investigation into the written complaint filed by RPGCL Deputy Manager AKM Shamim against a number of his fellows and senior officials on charge of misappropriation. ACC Assistant Director Mazed later enquired about the matter.

As the ACC assistant director found the allegation true after preliminary enquiry, the ACC head office asked him to file specific case. Accordingly, Md Abdul Mazed filed the case with Golapganj Police Station on March 9, 2009.

On getting some specific complaints about the matter, the then managing director of RPGCL Ekramul Haque Chowdhury on September 24,

2003 ordered for sending logbooks, metre reading and concerned reports to him within two weeks. Accordingly, the then fractionation plant in-charge Shuvo Barua formed a four-member committee, which detected huge irregularities in production and sale reports. But the then acting general manager, NGL Abdul Khaleque Khan reportedly stopped sending the reports as the managing director was transferred shortly.

The RPGCL's metre reading and logbooks showed that they had received additional 15,76,356 litres NGL. By processing such amount of NGL, the RPGCL produced 9,57,352 litres MS (petrol) worth Tk 2,83,61,253 and 347.429 tonnes of LPG worth Tk 75,08,996. Thus they had misappropriated an amount of Tk 3,58,70,250.

Besides, the accused officials had misappropriated another 36,02,500 litres of MS (petrol) worth Tk 11,08,86,234 and 1,759 tonnes of LPG worth Tk 3,87,03,249 during the same period.

The accused officials also had sold out the said petroleum items, the investigation officer (IO) stated on his memo of evidence.

AGITATION FOR UPGRADATION CONTINUES Hartal, processions in Bhairab, Kuliarchar

A CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

A half-day hartal was observed in Bhairab and Kuliarchar upazilas yesterday to press the demand for upgrading Bhairab as district and arrest of those who burnt the effigy of President Zillur Rahman in Kishoreganj on November 2.

All educational institutions, business establishments, private banks and offices in the two upazilas were closed during the hartal enforced by all-party action committee. Attendance at government office and nationalised commercial banks was thin.

The agitating people put up barricades on roads and Dhaka-Sylhet highway, disrupting traffic for eight hours from 6:00am. Besides, train, bus and launch services between Bhairab and other districts remained suspended.

Several processions were brought out at Bhairab and Kuliarchar upazila headquarters during hartal hours. Rallies were also held at

Bhairab and Kuliarchar where the speakers urged the government to immediately declare Bhairab as district.

They also demanded arrest and punishment of those who burnt the effigy of President Zillur Rahman during November 2 hartal in Kishoreganj demanding retention of the district's undivided status.

The speakers threatened to launch agitation programme in the two upazilas if the persons responsible for burning the effigy of President Zillur Rahman were not arrested in the next three days.

On November 5, Bhairab Awami League acting President Haji Siraj Uddin lodged a case with Bhairab Police Station on November 5 against some unidentified people for burning the effigy of the president.

Another case was filed with Kuliarchar Police Station the same day. Abul Hossain Liton, president of Kuliarchar AL, filed the case.

BCL activists stab JCD man at RU

A RU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists yesterday stabbed an activist of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) at Rajshahi University (RU).

Critically injured Sharif Hossain Sutan, a second year student of anthropology department was later admitted to the university medical centre.

Sources said, at around 2:00pm, a group of BCL activists asked Sutan to join their activities as BCL activist. As Sutan refused to do so, they stabbed him in front of Ismail Hossain Siraji Bhaban.

Sutan said, a group of BCL cadres led by Humayun Kabir, also a second year student of anthropology department severely stabbed him in his chest and hit him with iron rods and hockey sticks branding him as an activist of JCD.

"I shall lodge a general diary (GD) with Motihar police station in this regard", Sutan said.

RU proctor Prof Chowdhury Zakaria said he will take steps for punitive action against the culprits.

BID TO END NILPHAMARI FEUD BNP dissolves new upazila, union and ward units

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

The BNP high command has dissolved the newly formed upazila, union and ward units of the party in Nilphamari district to put an end to chaos and conflict that surfaced anew at grassroots level after formation of the committees.

The central committee also declared the convening committees for the dissolved upazila and municipality units. Nilphamari district unit received a letter signed BNP Office Secretary Ruhul Kabir Rizvi in this regard on Monday.

In the letter, BNP central body directed the district convening committee, led by Ahsan Ahmed, to continue its activities as usual. The upazila convening committees will constitute new union and ward units, goes the letter.

The central body dissolved Domar upazila committee formed recently by the district unit with Monsurul Islam Danu and Mostofa Firoz Proddhan as president and secretary and made Mosabber

Hossain Manu as convener of the unit.

Domar municipality unit president Rezaul Islam Raju has been replaced by Mostofa Feroz Proddhan as convener.

Sadar upazila unit convener Farhanul Islam has been removed. In that place, Alamgir Sarker will act as convener. Convener of Nilphamari municipality unit Zahurul Islam has been replaced by Mostofa Haque Proddhan Bachchu.

The central committee has removed Dimla upazila unit convener Abul Kashem and made Raisul Islam as convener.

Jaldhaka upazila BNP convener Jahangir Alam has been replaced by Anwarul Kabir Chowdhury.

BNP central committee has taken the decision as some senior leaders of the district unit recently lodged written complaints with the chairperson against convener Ahsan Ahmed who had earlier formed these committees at upazila, union and ward levels ignoring opinion of the senior leaders.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Police Headquarters
Dhaka

International Tender Notice

Memo No: E&T/Arms/58-2009/3807(5) Date: 04 November 2009
Sealed tender is hereby invited from the manufacturers/suppliers/local agents in their official pad for purchase of the following items for Bangladesh Police.

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. Agency	Police Headquarters, Dhaka.
3. Procuring entity name	Inspector General, Bangladesh Police.
4. Invitation for	Purchase of Tear Gas & Rubber Cartridge items.
5. Invitation Ref No.	E&T/Arms/58-2009/09(2009-2010).
6. Date	04 November 2009.

KEY INFORMATION

7. Procurement method	Open tendering method (OTM).
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FUNDING INFORMATION

8. Budget and source of fund	GOB Revenue.
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PARTICULAR INFORMATION

9. Tender package No.	25, 26.
10. Tender publication date	05 November 2009.
11. Tender selling last date	20 December 2009.
12. Tender closing date and time	21 December at 12.00 noon.
13. Tender opening date and time	21 December at 12.30pm.
14. Name & address of the office(s)	Police Headquarters Phnix Road, Fulbaria, Dhaka-1000.
- Selling tender document	AIG (E&T), Room No-220 (1 st Floor), Police Headquarters, Dhaka-1000.
- Receiving tender document	AIG (E&T), Room No-220 (1 st Floor), Police Headquarters, Dhaka-1000.
- Opening tender document	AIG (E&T), Room No-220 (1 st Floor), Police Headquarters, Dhaka-1000.
15. - Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	Date-23 November 2009 at 11.30am Conference Room (3 rd Floor), Police Headquarters, Dhaka-1000.

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

16. Eligibility of tenderer	(i) Up-to-date trade license (ii) Up-to-date income tax clearance certificate (iii) Up-to-date VAT registration certificate and (iv) Other documents described in tender document.
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17. Brief description of goods:							
Package	Lot	Items	Identification of lot	Quantity	Price of tender document (BDT)	Tender security amount in (BDT)	Completion time
25/2009-10	A	Item-1	Tear Gas Shell	20,000 rounds	500.00	2,30,000.00	120 days
		Item-2	Sound Grenade/Flash Bang Grenade	2,000 pcs	500.00	36,000.00	120 days
		Item-3	Tear Gas Sprayer	2,000 pcs	500.00	50,000.00	120 days
		Item-4	Tear Gas Grenade	5,000 pcs	500.00	1,15,000.00	120 days
		Item-5	37/38 mm Rubber Bullet/Kinetic projectile	30,000 pcs	500.00	5,25,000.00	120 days
26/2009-10	B	Item-1	12 bore shot Gun Rubber Cartridges	8,00,000 rounds	500.00	5,50,000.00	120 days

18. Name of official inviting tender	Md. Rezaul Karim.
19. Designation of the official inviting tenderer	AIG (E&T).

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

20. Address of official inviting tender	AIG (E&T), Bangladesh Police, Police Headquarter, Dhaka.
21. Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: 9564779, Fax: 7176129 E-mail: aige_t@police.gov.bd.

Special instruction-

- No tender will be received after the deadline for submission.
- The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender proceeding.
- Bangladesh police will establish framework agreement with the successful tenderer for supply of goods. Order to be placed within the financial year 2009-2010, in particular with regard to price.
- The tenderer will be evaluated item-basis.

Md Rezaul Karim
AIG (E&T), Bangladesh Police
Police Headquarters, Dhaka
E-mail: aige_t@police.gov.bd

GD-5109

7 Jubo Dal men held on extortion charge Police playing partisan role, alleges Lalmonirhat BNP

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

BNP leaders at Lalmonirhat yesterday alleged that police refused to record a case on Sunday against the AL leaders and activists who torched and vandalised BNP district unit office, Jamaat-e-Islami district unit office, houses and business establishments owned by the BNP men.

Contacted, superintendent of police of Lalmonirhat, however, said, a case was lodged on the day with police in this connection. "One case is enough to take action against the offenders. There is no provision for filing separate cases", he said.

Asadul Habib Dulu, convener of BNP district unit alleged that police were playing a partisan role.

"The complainant of the earlier case was none of BNP. BNP of Lalmonirhat does not know who is Gazi. Police discovered a fictitious name and made him complainant in the case against AL men," Dulu added.

Meanwhile, AL district unit lodged a case against 51 leaders of BNP and its front organisations on Monday night.

They accused the leaders of BNP and its front organisations of beating up Murad, BCL district secretary for religious affairs.

A correspondent in Lalmonirhat adds: Police arrested seven Jubo Dal men on charge of extortion after a BCL leader filed a case with Lalmonirhat Sadar police station on Monday.

The arrestees are district Jubo Dal office secretary Mehedi Hasan Jewel. Ward Four Jubo Dal secretary Ibrahim Miah, joint secretary Apel Haque, local leaders Abul Kalam Azad, Jahedul

Islam and workers Mohammad Jamal and Rakib Miah. Police said, BCL leader Iqbal Hossain Mamun sued 51 people on Monday and the seven were arrested the same night.

According to the complaint, the Jubo Dal and Chhatra Dal men attacked BCL leader Ershad Hossain Murad, the younger brother of the complainant on Sunday. Murad was catching fish at Saptana Abason pond in the town. The attackers also demanded Tk one lakh as illegal toll from the BCL leader, the complaint stated.



Teachers and students of Barguna Government College joined by locals bring out a procession in the town yesterday demanding punishment to the killers of Munmun, a student of the college.

Boys engaged in forced labour often meet tragic death

Study says 67 killed in 5 years in fishermen's colonies in 13 coastal islands

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Sixty-seven boys, engaged in forced labour in different fishermen's colonies in 13 coastal islands near the Sundarbans, lost their lives in natural disasters, attack by ferocious animals and snakebite from 1998 to 2003.

Revealing the information, a survey report of Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) said the 67 victims are among thousands of boys who were brought to the coastal area for forced labour since 1973.

Meanwhile, all the 46 victims of forced labour, rescued by coastguards on October 31 from different fishermen's colonies at Dublarchar, Alokol and Meheralirchar under Sharankhola upazila of Bagerhat district, were handed over to their guardians on Monday last.

Brought to Dublarchar by shutki (dried fish) traders a month ago for forced labour, these boys hail from Chittagong,

Sylhet, Feni, Brahmanbaria and Bagerhat districts, said Operations Commander of the coastguard Lokman Hakim.

Brokers of dried fish traders picked up the boys from their areas assuring them of good jobs and once taken to the fishermen's colonies, the boys were made to do hard labour from early morning till midnight everyday, said the coastguard men who rescued the boys.

The minor boys, provided with insufficient food, were subjected to inhuman physical torture if they failed to do hard labour as per order, they said.

"I was brought to Dublarchar a month ago along with others. They said I would be given a good job. But we were engaged in hard work which was beyond our capacity," young Ripon of Chittagong told police.

Sabuj of Sylhet has a similar tale to tell. A number of boys, kept in confinement in different islands of the Sundarbans, are made to work from sunrise till midnight,

alleged Ripon and Sabuj. Coastguards arrested Abdus Shukur, Ramjuddin, Ananda Kumar Das, Ayub Ali and Ratan Kumar Das from fishermen's colonies on charge of trapping the boys into forced labour at Dublarchar.

The five brokers of dried fish traders were handed over to Sharankhola Police Station on Monday night.

"Child labour is banned as it is an offence under Section 374 of Bangladesh Penal Code. Permits of dried fish traders will be cancelled if their involvement in engaging minor boys for forced labour is proved. Legal action will also be taken," Divisional Forest Officer (East) Mihir Kumar told this correspondent.

"We have given permits to 14 fish traders this season for producing shutki fish. The season began in October and will continue till February next year. About 30,000 fishermen gather at Dublarchar every year to work for the purpose," he said.