

Virtual hartal by government

FROM PAGE 1
terminals. As a result, a few commuters who tried to go somewhere had to turn to rickshaw or van rides.

A similarly grim picture was seen at the Sadarghat launch terminal where a pro-government workers' group armed with sticks were seen resisting the entry of all vessels and boats.

However, flight operations at Shahjalal International Airport and rail operations at Kamalapur station were normal. But passengers faced plenty of hurdles trying to reach the airport, station and other destinations.

The main mode of transport yesterday in the city was rickshaws.

During hartal it is normally seen that some public transport plies on some major roads with the help of the law enforcers. But yesterday the scene was completely different.

SCENES FROM TONGI

From early morning, dozens of motorcycle-riding youths armed with sticks were seen

stopping any vehicles from entering the city through Tongi. The police were also seen backing these youths.

From Abdullahpur to Jasimuddin Road crossing of Uttara, many office-goers and commuters were seen walking for miles to find some wheels to hop on. Many finally gave up and returned home.

"I waited for over an hour to get any mode of transport," Altafur Rahman, a manager at Jiban Bima Corporation, told The Daily Star at Abdullahpur, adding, "Now I am going home."

He said, "The government has stopped operation of all public vehicles without any official notice or declaring March 12 a public holiday. How can we commute to our work places in such a situation?"

Dr Momena Akhtar, who works in Rampura, waited for 30 minutes at the same spot. She noted, "Some local buses are available even on hartal days to travel in order to accomplish urgent jobs. But today, that opportunity

too is not available."

The road from Abdullahpur to Mohakhali was nearly empty at 10:00am, as a heavy posse of policemen imposed tough checks on each and every vehicle entering the city with passengers through Uttara.

At noon, police intercepted two private cars, including one bearing registration no-Dhaka Metro 31-0235, while they were entering Dhaka through Abdullahpur, forced the passengers to get off and took the vehicles into their custody. The owner of the car, Shahidullah Shahid, told The Daily Star his papers were all in order.

JATRABARI
Sayedabad bus terminal, which remains busy round the clock, yesterday wore a grave look as no bus left or entered it. Only a few CNG-run three-wheelers were seen carrying passengers in the morning.

The driver of a Dhaka-Comilla bus service, sitting idle at the terminal, told The Daily Star, "We could not run

our services due to the pressure of our top leaders and harassment by police."

Comilla-bound housewife Chameli Begum was seen stranded at the terminal with two heavy suitcases.

"We came to Dhaka for some urgent work but today my husband has to join his office in Comilla for which we came to the bus stoppage taking a huge risk," she said.

Another stranded passenger, Ali Ahsan, described his plight, "My father is very sick and asked me to go to Sylhet immediately. But I failed to get any mode of transport in the last two hours."

The Jatrabari crossing was, however, crowded with CNG-run three-wheelers, rickshaws and human haulers. Commuters who came to the bus terminal turned to these modes of transport which were seen charging two to three times the usual fares.

GABTALI

As police had restricted all types of vehicles coming from Dhaka-Paturia

Highway and entering the capital since the morning at Amin Bazar point, commuters had to resort to walking, taking rickshaws or other modes of transport.

As at other bus terminals, no bus came to or left from the Gabtali bus terminal.

A police team led by Mohammad Rafiqul Islam, assistant superintendent of police of Savar Circle, carried out searches by stopping vehicles at Amin Bazar. The law enforcers were allowing only one person to travel in each vehicle and forcing the others to get off.

Furious at the situation, private service holder Abdur Rahim, who was going to his workplace in Motijheel, was seen yelling at the police, "If you have to bar people from entering the city, why didn't the government declare today a public holiday and shut down all the offices?"

Police officer Mohammad Rafiqul Islam told The Daily Star, "We are checking passengers' luggage to ascertain if anybody is carrying any explosives."

Majedul Islam, an elderly person from Hemayetpur, being enraged by the harassment, verbally abused the government as he was forced to get off a Mohakhali-bound human hauler at Amin Bazar.

"They are not human beings at all, those who have caused sufferings to the public by their dirty politics. They should be slapped when they chant slogans about promising welfare for the public," he said.

Along with the police the leaders and activists of the ruling Awami League and its associate organisations also took part in the 'search' and harassed the passengers by stopping their vehicles in the name of looking for explosives.

"Our activists are conducting searches to find explosives or any kind of arms which can be used to create anarchy. They are doing it following an order from the central committee to assist the police," said SM Hanif, general secretary of Mirpur unit AL.

Passengers were seen waiting at different points from Gabtali to Shyamoli for vehicles hour after hour as no passenger buses save some CNG-run three-wheelers or human haulers were available.

Law enforcers, including Rapid Action Battalion, took positions at such main points as Shishu Mela, Shyamoli, Kalyanpur, Darussalam and Gabtali and searched passengers, killing their time further and adding to their sufferings.

SADARGHAT

For the second consecutive day, pro-AL riverine transport workers yesterday barred Dhaka-bound launches from anchoring at the Sadarghat launch terminal, the city's single outlet for riverine routes.

Popularly known as 'Lal Bahini', the group of workers forced two launches -- MV Redsun-2 and Tarika-7 from Shariatpur and Patuakhali respectively which arrived at Dhaka in between 5:45am to 7:00am early in the morning -- to anchor elsewhere.

In red shirts, the workers also stopped the movement of boats that carry people from Keraniganj to Sadarghat since morning. They beat up eight to 10 boatmen as they tried to ply boats at Ispahani Ghat at 8:45am.

The Lal Bahini was seen patrolling on the river on several trawlers and chanting the slogan "Joy Bangla, Joy Bangabandhu" with red-coloured sticks in their hands. They were also present in a large number at Keraniganj, on the opposite bank of the Buriganga.

In the absence of passengers, a bustling Sadarghat wore a barren look all day. Only two launches, MV Lamia and MV Moyur-2, left the terminal as of 6:00pm last evening.

Additional members from different law enforcement agencies were deployed to maintain law and order.

OTHER COMMUNICATION POINTS
Rail communications, how-

ever, appeared to be normal yesterday morning although almost all trains coming to the city arrived customarily late at the Kamalapur Railway Station.

Three trains -- Ekota Express from Dinajpur, Turna from Chittagong and Jamuna Express from the east side of the Bangabandhu Bridge -- arrived at the station between 7:35am and 9:50am.

Flocks of BNP activists arrived by each of the trains to join the rally.

Around three dozen Rab and police officials were posted at the station. While some Rab officials were seen performing routine patrols, the law enforcers did not inspect or impede anyone from entering or exiting the station.

At Shahjalal International Airport, no international flight was cancelled. Officials of local and foreign airlines said they did not find any passenger reporting missing scheduled flights.

Passenger flow at the domestic terminal was also fine, said Imran Asif, chief executive of Regent Airways.

"Everything is good so far," said a Biman official, adding, "We have got all passengers who booked tickets earlier on board."

However, passengers coming from abroad faced difficulties in going to their destinations due to the absence of CNG-autorickshaws, taxicabs and buses.

Awami League's moral defeat

FROM PAGE 1
blatant lies on television while the truth is clearly the opposite? When does a ruling party let loose its goons upon normal citizens on suspicion that they might attend the opposition rally? When does an elected government adopt the most oppressive measure to prevent the opposition from holding a public rally?

Only when it is unsure of itself. A party confident of its popular base, sure of its public support, certain of the efficacy of its policies and surefooted about its public record would never have done what the ruling Awami League did yesterday to prevent the BNP from holding its public rally. What the ruling party did over the last two days to prevent mass participation in the opposition rally reveals a political party frightened of the strength of the opposition and loath to allow it to show it. In its massive show of strength the Awami League looked its weakest.

A party that only three and half years ago came to power with a massive four fifths majority in parliament should today be so frightened of a discredited (in the last election) opposition that it uses all, save the military, coercive machinery of the state to prevent its mass rally. What is it, if not a moral defeat?

The tragedy for the AL is

that in attempting to suppress the opposition it has suppressed the citizens. Ordinary people were subjected to indescribable sufferings just to prevent the BNP from holding its rally. People who had nothing to do with the opposition's programme were searched, harassed, verbally abused and prevented from coming to Dhaka for their personal work on suspicion that they might join the rally. We have reports of job seekers scheduled to reach the Middle East not allowed to travel to Dhaka even after showing their tickets and passports. We have eyewitnesses to the fact that most launches were stopped at the point of origin and the few arriving at Sadarghat were prevented from reaching the shore and forced to go to far away jetties to let their passengers disembark, who then were stranded without any means of reaching their destinations. And we are not even talking of people arrested on suspicion and held in jails all over the country.

We published photographs of stick wielding ruling party goons attacking passengers of buses and launches in order to prevent them from reaching Dhaka. What mindset, what myopia, what perverted logic, what disregard for ordinary people could have allowed a government party to permit

its activists to attack ordinary passengers whose only "crime" was to want to come to Dhaka. Seldom can we find examples of such disrespect for the fundamental rights of the people. Is this the ruling party's example of democracy?

We also condemn the fact that the mass media, especially the electronic media, were prevented from fully carrying out their professional duties during yesterday's opposition programme. Several TV stations were barred from airing uninterrupted live coverage of the rally. A few channels that were covering stories of public sufferings during the course of the day were visited by intelligence people and told to tone down their coverage. In other cases the cable operators were partially prevailed upon to take some channels off the air during the peak hours of the opposition's rally. Such blatant interference in the media's function amounts to suppression of the freedom of the media and public's inalienable right to know.

The oppressive measures the ruling party resorted to in order to prevent the BNP rally has shocked us all. The use of police, the intelligence agencies, and late last night, the BGB stunned the ordinary citizens are to why such a massive show of

states repressive machinery was necessary. The government's apology of an explanation that it was only trying to prevent the opposition from creating chaos was neither credible nor acceptable in the absence of any proof. The more the government leaders repeated this narrative the more they sounded hollow and more their real intention became clear.

The question today is not what BNP did or how big was its rally, but what the ruling Awami League did. It showed a most ugly repressive face. It demonstrated that it would not hesitate to take any measure, however harsh, use any coercive instrument of state, impose any amount of sufferings on ordinary people, tell their fibs regardless of what the truth is, impose needless restrictions on public movement to prevent the opposition from carrying out protest activities permitted in a democracy. It may not realize that by its actions of the last two days the AL's image as a party that believes in democracy stands seriously damaged and its claim that it wants the opposition to play its legitimate role stands questioned.

We are sorry that Khaleda Zia has called a hartal on the 29th of this month, which we are opposed to in principle. But the issue of some sort of

neutral body presiding over the election period and allowing the Election Commission to function freely is a legitimate question that AL cannot wish away. Here the opposition is right and the ruling party is wrong. The latter will have to concede on this point if it wants an election participated by all parties. Terming all BNP's actions as attempts to subvert the war crimes trial is a misconceived strategy and may have the opposite effect than intended. It is true that the BNP's position on the war crimes trial is condemnable (we will write separately on it) but its demand for an interim government for free and fair elections is justified.

We want to say in clear terms that the AL's policy towards the opposition, as exhibited in the last two days, is fundamentally undemocratic, legally untenable and practically unsustainable. What if the opposition calls for a similar programme a few months later? Will the government strangle the country again for days? Will the public accept such sufferings again and again? As a country that proudly tells the world of its democracy such behaviour from its ruling party is totally unacceptable. The quicker the AL learns it, the better it is for its prospects in the next polls.

Freedom Honour

FROM PAGE 20

President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will distribute medals, crests and citations among the distinguished awardees.

So far, around 30 recipients have confirmed their participation at the event and about 35 more would confirm soon, a foreign ministry official told The Daily Star.

Family members and close relatives of those posthumously awarded have been invited to receive the awards on their behalf.

If any ailing recipient cannot travel to Dhaka, the award will be handed over to him/her through the Bangladesh missions abroad.

The government will bear all the expenses including air travel and accommodation for the awardees.

The Indian awardees include Mother Teresa, former Tripura chief minister Sachindra Lal Singh, Sardar Swaran Singh, incumbent Tripura Chief Minister Manik Sarkar, Pandit Ravi Shankar, Ustad Ali Akbar Khan, Lata Mangeshkar, Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw and Lt Gen (ret'd) Jagjit Singh Aurora.

Senator Edward Kennedy, Archer Kent Blood, Father Evans, Senator Fred Roy Harris, Alan Ginsberg and Richard Taylor are among the American recipients of the award.

Besides, British nationals George Harrison, Harold Wilson, Peter Shore, Mark Tully and Simon Dring have made the list.

Pakistani citizens Kazi Faiz Mohammad, Nasima Akhter, Khan Abdul Gaffer Khan and Air Marshal (ret'd)

Asghar Khan will also be honoured.

International Committee of the Red Cross, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Oxfam, World Peace Council (India), British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and Akashvani are among the institutional honourees.

The first such award was conferred posthumously on former Indian premier Indira Gandhi on July 24 last year. Sonia Gandhi, president of Indian Congress, had received the award on behalf of her mother-in-law.

A special committee has so far listed 550 foreigners for "Bangladesh Freedom Honour."

The process of honouring the foreigners is expected to be complete by next year.

REQUIRE FACTORY SPACE

@ EPZ - CHITTAGONG

(80000-120000 SQFT RENT / BUY)

Shahi Exports Pvt Ltd - India's largest apparel manufacturer requires industrial building with or without a running garment factory on rent / buy.

Please contact-

kapil.mitra@shahi.co.in +88 01766109924, +88 02 8810176

sanjay.tandon@shahi.co.in +919818199550

Invitation To Bid (ITB)

Procurement of Digital Photo Camera, Tripod & Light Stand



UNDP Bangladesh seeks bids from interested and well qualified vendors to supply of Camera, Tripod & Light Stand including delivery mentioned in the ITB. All interested firms may request the Bidding documents (ITB) from md.asfezzaman@undp.org by a formal request to UNDP that will register bidders into participants list, so any correspondence, questions regarding the bidding documents and respective answers can be sent to all bidders.

Submission of Quotation: The envelope should state "Procurement of Digital Photo Camera, Tripod & Light Stand for UNDP" and should be addressed to the UNDP Procurement Unit, IDB Bhaban (12th Floor), Begum Rokeya Sharani, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207. The bid should be submitted in the bid box placed in the 12th Floor of IDB Bhaban.

The deadline for submission of Bid is **March 27, 2012, 04.30PM.**



ASHUGANJ POWER STATION COMPANY LTD.

(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

Ashuganj, B.Baria-3402, Bangladesh

Fax: +88-08528-74014, 74044

E-mail: apscl@apscl.com, apsclbd@yahoo.com, Website: www.apscl.com

সূত্র নং-এপিএসসিএল/প্রকিউরমেন্ট-০২/২০১২/৩৪১

তারিখ-১১/০৩/২০১২ইং

"দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি"

০১)	মন্ত্রণালয় / বিভাগ	ঃ বিদ্যুৎ, জ্বালানী ও খনিজ সম্পদ মন্ত্রণালয় / বিদ্যুৎ বিভাগ
০২)	এজেন্সী / প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম	ঃ আতপাড়া পাওয়ার স্টেশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড (এপিএসসিএল)
০৩)	প্রকিউরমেন্ট মেথড	ঃ খোলা দরপত্র
০৪)	ফাউন্ডার উদ্দেশ্য	ঃ আতপাড়া পাওয়ার স্টেশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড -এর নিজস্ব কাজ
০৫)	দরপত্র আহ্বানের তারিখ	ঃ ১১/০৩/২০১২ইং
০৬)	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ ২৮/০৩/২০১২ইং তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত
০৭)	দরপত্র দাখিলের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ ২৮/০৩/২০১২ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২ঃ০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত
০৮)	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ ২৯/০৩/২০১২ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২ঃ১৫ ঘটিকা
০৯)	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের স্থান	ঃ ক) সরকারী প্রধান প্রকৌশলী (উপাদান), বিউএল, গুয়াপাড়া ভবন (২য় তলা), মতিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা খ) ব্যবস্থাপক (অর্থ), আতপাড়া পাওয়ার স্টেশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড, আতপাড়া, বি-বাড়ীয়া
১০)	দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলার স্থান	ঃ ব্যবস্থাপক (প্রকিউরমেন্ট), এপিএসসিএল, আতপাড়া, বি-বাড়ীয়া
১১)	ঠিকাদানের যোগ্যতা	ঃ প্রকৃত ঠিকাদারী / সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান।
১২)		

ক্রমিক নং	বিষয় / কাজের নাম	দরপত্র সিডিউলে মূল্য	দরপত্র জামানতের পরিমাণ	কাজের সময়সীমা
(ক)	এপিএসসিএল -এর সমাজ কল্যাণ ভবনের দোতলায় প্রকল্প পরিচালক, ২২৫ মেগাওয়াট পাওয়ার প্রাইট দপ্তরের আসবাবপত্র ক্রয় করণ।	টঃ ২০০.০০ (অফেরতযোগ্য)	টঃ ৮,০০০.০০	চুক্তি স্বাক্ষরের তারিখ হইতে ২০ দিন (সিডিউলে বর্ণিত শর্তানুযায়ী)
(খ)	এপিএসসিএল -এর বিভিন্ন বিভাগে ব্যবহারের জন্য মনোহারী সামগ্রী সরবরাহ করণ।	টঃ ৩০০.০০ (অফেরতযোগ্য)	টঃ ১০,০০০.০০	চুক্তি স্বাক্ষরের তারিখ হইতে ২০ দিন (সিডিউলে বর্ণিত শর্তানুযায়ী)
(গ)	এপিএসসিএল -এর নেটওয়ার্ক কন্ট্রোল রুমের জন্য স্পিট টাইপ এলি সরবরাহ করণ।	টঃ ৩০০.০০ (অফেরতযোগ্য)	টঃ ৯,০০০.০০	চুক্তি স্বাক্ষরের তারিখ হইতে ২০ দিন (সিডিউলে বর্ণিত শর্তানুযায়ী)
(ঘ)	এপিএসসিএল -এর পুরণী-১/২, ৩/৪ এবং সুইজি-৪/৪নং ফ্রাউন্টের মেসার্স এবং সরবরাহ কাজ।	টঃ ২০০.০০ (অফেরতযোগ্য)	টঃ ৬,০০০.০০	চুক্তি স্বাক্ষরের তারিখ হইতে ৬০দিন (সিডিউলে বর্ণিত শর্তানুযায়ী)
(ঙ)	এপিএসসিএল -এর ফ্যারার ফাইটিং সিস্টেমের নতুন পাইপ লাইন সরবরাহ ও স্থাপন কাজ।	টঃ ৫০০.০০ (অফেরতযোগ্য)	টঃ ২০,৫০০.০০	চুক্তি স্বাক্ষরের তারিখ হইতে ৪৫দিন (সিডিউলে বর্ণিত শর্তানুযায়ী)
(চ)	এপিএসসিএল -এর করতোয়া ১নং ভবন হইতে ৫নং ভবন পর্যন্ত রাস্তার দুইপাশে ফুটপাথ তৈরী করণ (পুনঃ)।	টঃ ৩০০.০০ (অফেরতযোগ্য)	টঃ ৭,৮০০.০০	চুক্তি স্বাক্ষরের তারিখ হইতে ৯০ দিন (সিডিউলে বর্ণিত শর্তানুযায়ী)
(ছ)	এপিএসসিএল -এর মূল আবাসিক এলাকা ও সি-টাইপ এলাকার বাসা মেসার্স করণ।	টঃ ২০০.০০ (অফেরতযোগ্য)	টঃ ১,৪০০.০০	চুক্তি স্বাক্ষরের তারিখ হইতে ৪৫ দিন (সিডিউলে বর্ণিত শর্তানুযায়ী)
১৩)	দরপত্র আহবানকারীর নাম	ঃ মোঃ রফিকুলদৌল্লা		
১৪)	দরপত্র আহবানকারীর পদবী	ঃ ব্যবস্থাপক (প্রকিউরমেন্ট)		
১৫)	দরপত্র আহবানকারীর ঠিকানা	ঃ আতপাড়া পাওয়ার স্টেশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড, আতপাড়া, ব্রাহ্মবাড়ীয়া।		
১৬)	দরপত্র আহবানকারীর সহিত যোগাযোগ	ঃ টেলিফোনঃ ০৮৫২৮-৭৪০৩৩, ফ্যাক্সঃ ০৮৫২৮-৭৪০৪৪ E-mail: procurement@apscl.com , Website: www.apscl.com		
১৭)	বিশেষ শর্তাবলী	ক) দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য আতপাড়া পাওয়ার স্টেশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড, আতপাড়া, বি-বাড়ীয়া -এর অনুকূলে বাংলাদেশ য়ে কোন সিডিউল ব্যাংক হইতে ব্যাংক ড্রাকট / পে-অর্ডার আকারের মাধ্যমে পরিশোধ সাপেক্ষে ক্রয় করিতে হইবে। খ) কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই য়ে কোন অর্থনা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ / বাতিল, নসোপোন বা এডসক্যান্ডেড য়ে কোন সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।		

(মোঃ রফিকুলদৌল্লা)

ব্যবস্থাপক (প্রকিউরমেন্ট) (অতিরিক্ত সার্বিক)
এপিএসসিএল, আতপাড়া, বি-বাড়ীয়া।