

ACC sues two officials of dredging firm

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday sued two top officials of Bangladesh Dredging and Construction Company Limited for misappropriating loan of over Tk 1.4 crore from IFIC Bank.

The ACC Deputy Director Khan Mohammad Mizanul Islam filed the case with Motijheel Police Station accusing the company's Managing Director Sheikh Mohammad Nazrul Islam and Director Selina Islam, ACC sources said.

According to the case statement, the company got a work order of Tk 3.29 crore from the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh for constructing a runway of an airport in Sylhet.

But the two officials misappropriated over Tk 1.4 crore in the name of taking loan from the Federation Bhaban branch of the bank, Motijheel, in the capital.

They misappropriated the money in association with two high officials of the bank without completing any mortgage document against the loan sanctioned in 1993.

The case was filed under penal code and the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947.



BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia addresses a peace rally on Ukhia High School ground in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Teachers' strike delays admission test at IU

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushiya

The first year honours admission test for 2012-2013 session at Islamic University (IU) was postponed after teachers of the university went on an indefinite strike on Saturday demanding removal of the vice chancellor, pro-vice chancellor and treasurer.

Besides, teachers yesterday under the banner of Islamic University Teachers Association announced a series of agitation programmes if their demand was not met. Programmes include a human chain, press conference, rally and sit-in at the office of the VC.

According to campus sources, a total of 88,320 students are to sit for the test, which was scheduled to be held on November 17.

Ctg city buses illegally changing routes

Drivers blame dilapidated roads

SHAHENOOR AKTHER URMI, Ctg

An increasing number of buses in Chittagong city are changing routes without any prior permission from Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA), causing suffering to commuters every day.

Most passenger complaints were against buses which are supposed to ply Route 10.

The route runs from Patenga Sea Beach Road to Bahadderhat via areas of EPZ, Female Hostel, Customs, Fakirhaat, Berek Building, Agrabad, Chowmohoni, Tigerpass, Lal Khan Bazar, GEC Mor, Sholoshohor Number 2 Gate and Muradpur.

Commuters stated that the bus drivers whimsically take to other routes, especially Route 6 and 7.

Route 6 runs from Katgor near Patenga to Laldighi area via Agrabad, Tigerpass, Station Road and New Market while Route 7 runs from Colonel Hat to Laldighi area via Boro Pul, Agrabad and New Market.

The bus owners blamed traffic jams and dilapidated roads for the malpractice.

However, bus drivers held the

owners' high rent demands and the lack of passengers responsible for plying on alternative routes so as to make faster round trips.

"We can make only four round trips on Route 10 instead of the eight we are supposed to make," said one driver, Mohiuddin.

The absence of remedial measures from the authorities concerned causes a lack of buses on some routes and an excess in others.

"I miss the train to my university most of the time due to a shortage of buses on Route 10," said Eshita Chowdhury, a Chittagong University student.

A bank employee Abidur Rahman said reaching office was a battle as the search for alternative vehicles on the route cost him time, money and energy.

BRTA issued road permits for 76 buses and minibuses till 2012.

BRTA Deputy Director SK Biswas said, "We only issue the route permit. It is CMP's responsibility to check whether they are plying on their designated routes. If CMP's traffic department remains vigilant, the problem can be solved easily."

CMP Traffic Division Deputy Commissioner Kusum Dewan said following directions from Regional Transport Committee (RTC) before Eid-ul-Azha, they had found some buses to be involved in the malpractice.

"We monitor all public and mini buses at regular intervals. RTC serves show cause notices on offenders and afterwards we cancel the route permits or file cases," she said.

However, Gulam Rasul Babul, additional secretary general of Chittagong District Road Transport Owners' Group, denied the allegation of illegal route changes.

"Some drivers and owners changed routes with the authority's permission. The main reason is dilapidated roads which cause huge traffic jams on some routes," he said.

He said drivers found illegally changing routes would not be rented out vehicles.

He also said vehicle shortages were a result of some vehicles, too old and unsuitable for use, being sold off.

BRTA Transport Record Keeper Mohammad Harun said, "No application for change of routes was accepted in the last 18 months."

Tuku blames past govts for road sector chaos

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Home Shamsul Hoque Tuku yesterday blamed the previous governments for the existing indiscipline in the road traffic sector.

"If all the sectors in the country had been run in a proper, disciplined manner during the last forty years since Bangladesh's independence, road safety would have been automatically ensured by this time," he said.

Tuku was addressing as chief guest a seminar, "Fit driver, safe road", jointly organised by Community Care Service, Bondhu Protidin Chikishok Committee and Sandhani in Dhaka Reporters Unity.

Emphasising social awareness to reduce road accidents, he said the min-

istries of communication, home, shipping, and local government and rural development & co-operatives would jointly start raising public awareness from next month.

Safe political atmosphere and safe democracy are very essential for road safety, he said.

State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr Mozibur Rahman Fakir suggested annual check-ups for drivers be made mandatory and blamed corruption by Bangladesh Road Transport Authority for the sector's indiscipline.

Film actor Ilias Kanchan reiterated his demand for the government to declare October 22 as "National Road Safety Day".

Four killed in road accidents

METRO DESK

Four people were killed and five others injured in separate road accidents in Chapainawabganj, Netrakona, Sherpur and Sylhet on Saturday and yesterday.

Our Chapainawabganj correspondent reports, a school teacher was killed as a motorbike hit his bicycle on Chapainawabganj-Sonamasjid land port highway at Boltala in sadar upazila of Chapainawabganj yesterday noon.

The deceased Mokhlesur Rahman, 45, son of late Khosh Mohammad of Boltala village in Shibganj upazila, was a teacher of Krishnagobindapur Girls High School of the sadar upazila.

Police and locals said the speeding motorcycle rammed the bicycle at around 2:30pm, leaving Mokhlesur dead.

In Netrakona, a man was killed and five others were injured as a human hauler fell into a ditch beside Mohonganj-Ichhapur road near Chachrakhal Bazar in Khaliajuri upazila yesterday morning.

The deceased was Rashed Mia, 35, of village Ichhapur under Khaliajuri upazila. Police said the Ichhapur-bound

human hauler from Mohonganj plunged into the ditch as the driver lost his control over the steering, killing the passenger Rashed instantly and injuring five others.

Injured Abdul Motalab and Abu Mia were taken to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital while the others were admitted to the local health complex.

UNB from Sherpur reports, a woman was killed instantly when a bus hit a rickshaw carrying her on Sherpur-Dhaka highway in Kursha Badagoir area in Nakla yesterday.

The deceased was Nice Begum, 50, wife of Fazlur Rahman Tara Miah, deputy-assistant engineer of Sherpur LGED.

In Sylhet, a man died after a truck ran him over at Humayan Rashid Chattar under South Surma Police Station in the city on Saturday night.

The deceased was Ziaul Islam, 27, the trucker and son of Niamat Ali of Satkhira.

Witnesses said Ziaul fell down from the truck onto the road and was crushed to death under the wheels of the truck at around 9:00pm.



Participants at a science workshop organised by WorldFish in a hotel of the capital yesterday. Scientists at the workshop shared ongoing scientific works under Ganges Basin Development Challenges programme of CGIAR funded Challenge Program on Water and Food.

PHOTO: COURTESY

WATER, FOOD PROBLEMS

Scientific research must for solution

Say experts

METRO DESK

A scientific research based development strategy that promotes the policy of institutional and technological innovations is crucial for Bangladesh to enhance its water productivity and ecosystem services in an equitable and sustainable manner, said scientists yesterday.

They opined this at a science workshop on Ganges Basin Development Challenge (GBDC) organised by WorldFish, an international non-profit research organisation, at a hotel in the capital, said an official press release.

The discussion was focused on a range of issues, including land use plans, resource profiles, diversifying agriculture

and aquaculture systems, polder governance and water resources accessibility in coastal areas.

Speakers emphasised on scientific solutions to tackle the country's water and food problems and improve livelihood opportunities for people living in polders.

Scientists shared their ongoing scientific works under the GBDC programme of CGIAR funded Challenge Program on Water and Food.

Scientists from International Rice Research Institute; International Water Management Institute; WorldFish; and Institute of Water Modeling participated in the workshop alongside officials of Bangladesh Water Development Board; and Bangladesh Rice Research Institute.

Heartiest Welcome

Mr. Mikhail Myasnikov
His Excellency the Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus

Corona Group wishes great success of his valuable visit to Bangladesh which will usher in a new era of co-operation between the two brotherly countries.

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