

# RTI ACT BIWTC official fined for denying info

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Information Commission yesterday fined the designated information officer at the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) Tk 2,000 for denying information to a contractor seeking the details of an investigation on a construction project.

Nazrul Islam Misha has repeatedly ignored the application of Tarikul Islam Linkon, the contractor, said Mohammed Farooq, the chief information commissioner (CIC).

The commission penalised Misha after the final hearing yesterday on Linkon's complaint.

"We announced the verdict... following Article 27 of the Right to Information Act 2009. We want other people to learn from this verdict," said the CIC.

Talking to The Daily Star by phone, Mohammed Farooq said the commission had asked the BIWTC official to give the information by July 15 but he did not.

Linkon has constructed the roof of a BIWTC warehouse in Chittagong and done some extra work and demanded payment accordingly, said Misha.

But the corporation concluded through an investigation that he could not be paid for the additional work because the agreement did not ask him to do it, he told The Daily Star.

Claiming that he was fined unfairly, the official said he had given all this information but Linkon refused to accept it. "Linkon influenced the Information Commission by two of his relatives working there," he said.

According to the RTI Act, there is no option of filing an appeal or seeking review of the commission's verdict other than going to the High Court. Misha said he would challenge the verdict at the HC. Earlier, the commission fined two government officials for the same charge.

## Desperation grows

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some hard-core queue-sitters from even Sunday night. But tickets were available for only a few hours after sales started around 9:00am.

"I have come here at 6:00am. Nevertheless, I did not get tickets because many people were there before me," said Mahbulul Haque who plans on going to Khulna.

Coming on a visit, Railways Minister Mazibul Hoque said around 270 new coaches will be brought to service within the next six months.

He admitted that the process to sell advance tickets was slightly slow because of technical complications and lack of skilled manpower. It will be resolved, he said, adding that all advance tickets will be sold online in the future.

Train tickets for October 1, 2, 3 and 4 were distributed on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and yesterday respectively. Today's tickets are for October 5. The four-day Durga Puja starts today while Eid-ul-Azah is scheduled to be celebrated on October 6.

Those opting to ride buses are now eyeing smaller companies as the well-known ones have exhausted their stocks.

"I could not get tickets in companies like Hanif, Sohag or Shyamoli. Now, I have brought tickets of Ekota Paribahan," said Sarwar Titu, travelling to Bogra on October 3.

Shyamoli Paribahan Managing Director Romesh Chandra Ghosh said, "We have already sold out almost all the tickets for October 2-5. We reserved a few tickets for our friends or close persons for emergencies."

On waterways, the sale period of advance cabin tickets is not announced. "Launch owners do not announce any date for starting the sale. Rather they booked cabin tickets for VIPs. That is why, we do not get cabin tickets," said Razzak Ali while looking for a ticket to Barisal.



**Apollo Hospitals Dhaka brings out a procession to observe World Heart Day yesterday. The procession began and ended at the hospital after a 900-metre walk within Bashundhara to celebrate the day with the theme "Creating Heart-Healthy Environment".**

PHOTO: STAR

# Women benefit least from dev projects

## Say rights activists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women always benefit the least from any development project, said women's rights activists at a seminar yesterday.

Political parties make pledges and the government adopts policies, but the plight of women at grass roots level remains unchanged, they added.

The seminar titled "Women's Political Empowerment in Bangladesh: Prospects and Challenges" was held in Cirdap auditorium in the capital.

The event was organised by Steps Towards Development in association with Democracywatch, Prip Trust, and Khan Foundation.

Pointing out that female local government representatives enjoy very little administrative power, Rasheda K Chowdhury, executive director of Campaign for Popular Education, said political parties are not committed in developing women leadership at all levels.

Salma Islam Shifa, an upazila vice-

chairman from Sherpur, said, "Although the women upazila vice chairmen are democratically elected, all executive power of the upazila parishad are controlled by bureaucrats."

She added that there are no budgetary allocations for women representatives in the upazila parishad.

Maleka Banu, general secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, said female local government representatives are nominated by higher ups in the political parties.

"This practice needs to be democratic, if the parties want to develop women leadership at grass roots level," she added.

The speakers also expressed concern over the proposal of reducing the minimum age of girls and boys for marriage in the draft of the child marriage restraint act.

"It will not be possible to reduce the marriageable age of girls in the proposed act. The constitution states 18 as the age where adolescents reach adulthood, so the proposed act would contradict it and require an amendment to the constitution," said MP Moinuddin Khan Badal.

## Bangladesh lost sloth bears

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animal species (mammal, amphibian, reptile, bird and freshwater fish).

IUCN, Bangladesh is updating it, putting in the status of 1,700 animal species and including two animal species, crustacean (crab, shrimp, lobster and squid) and butterfly.

However, no significant data was revealed yesterday on the status of 239 species the project focused on in its first phase.

The experts revealed the names of two bird species, Black Eagle and Cylinder Billed Gull, which make their home in Bangladesh but were not officially recorded.

They also stated sighting, the last time being in Sylhet 132 years ago, a butterfly called Jungle Glory in Thanchi upazila of Bandarban district.

Yunus Ali, chief conservator of forest, Bangladesh Forest Department, was present as chief guest.

## Road crashes kill five

CITY DESK

Countrywide road accidents killed five people and injured one person yesterday and Sunday.

A correspondent from Ctg reports, two people died when a truck hit a bicycle and ran then over on Anwara-Borkol road in Anwara upazila of Chittagong.

The deceased were Jakir Hossain, 25, and Abdul Hamid, 18, of Banshkhali.

Our Netrakona correspondent report, Nirob, 4, son of Mozammel Haque of Nashibpur village died when an auto-rickshaw ran him over at Nashibpur intersection in Purbadhola upazila.

In Netrakona Sadar upazila, Ashish Kumar Saha, 23, of Aatpara upazila died when a truck rammed into his motorcycle at Challisha bazar.

Our Brahmanbaria correspondent adds Junayed Mia, 16 of Malihata village died and another was injured when bus hit them at Malihata bus stand near Dhaka-Sylhet highway in the district.

## Death anniversary

CITY DESK



Today is the 5th death anniversary of Shamsul Alam, former chief executive of Burma Eastern Ltd and Berger Paints Bangladesh Ltd.

Relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to pray for the departed soul, said a press release.

## 3 Hindu

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officials, adding that earlier both Diba and Matin had accused each other in two cases and two GDs over the land dispute. Police is investigating the matter.

## End inequalities

FROM PAGE 5

with 12 lakh government employees who work outside the Secretariat would launch a movement if the demands remain unfulfilled by October 30.

The demands include replacing the word "employee" in the designations of all class-III staff with "officer" and increasing their pay scale. For instance, the "administrative employees" should be renamed "administrative officers".

"The Secretariat employees get 100 percent grade selection, but we do not," Rezaul told The Daily Star, explaining that the grades of class-III and class-IV employees did not change automatically.

He explained that when class-III employees at the Secretariat got promoted, they became class-II officers and thus got a huge raise, but it happened only to a few employees outside.

He also demanded that the jobs of those appointed in development projects or temporarily be made permanent, and they receive the due facilities from their date of joining.

Another demand is that the current 20 grades in government job be converted into 10 grades and the pay scale be fixed at a 1:5 ratio, meaning that the salaries of the persons holding the lowest and highest posts should follow the proportion.

The other demands included increasing pension from 80 percent of basic pay to 100, gratuity from Tk 230 to Tk 300, providing financial benefits of all due leaves instead of just 12 months during Leave Preparatory to Retirement (LPR) and providing government land or a building in the capital's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar for the Parishad's office, said Mostafa.

If the demands remain unfulfilled by October 30, employees of the seven divisional towns would arrange a rally on November 2, wear black badges from November 16 to 18, carry out work stoppage from 10:00am to 12:00 noon from November 25 to 27, and send a memorandum to the prime minister through the district magistrate.

Finally, on December 10, the employees would gather at the Central Shaheed Minar in the capital and march towards the Prime Minister's Office with the memorandum.

## Cops shoot snatchers

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Station and then to an "unknown" bus station where they were shot in the legs.

He also said the two went to Dhanmondi to meet Abul, a chauffeur, and discuss some work. Abul took us in his car and at one point snatched a bag from a rickshaw passenger, Shaheed added. When the car hit the auto-rickshaws, Abul managed to escape, he said.

DC Baten said police also recovered a machete, a knife, two handbags, nine cell phones and Tk 56,560 from their possession. But Shaheed, claiming himself to be a jhut (garment waste) trader, said he was carrying the money to buy jhut at Mirpur.

A tea-stall owner at Shankar bus stand who witnessed the incident told this correspondent that he saw police taking them in a van in the morning but did not see or hear any gunshot.

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## TENDER NOTICE

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Sealed tenders are hereby invited by Prime Bank Limited from reputed and eligible Interior Decoration Contractor(s)/Architectural and/or Engineering firms for Interior Decoration & Furniture Works of our proposed Keranihat Branch, Satkania, Chittagong and Fenchuganj Branch, Sylhet as per following table:

Sl.	Name of Project as per Tender Document	Period of sale		Date of submission
		from	to	
1.	Interior, Exterior Decoration and Furniture work of proposed Keranihat Branch, Chittagong.	30.09.2014	21.10.2014	21.10.2014
2.	Interior, Exterior Decoration and Furniture work of proposed Fenchuganj, Sylhet.	30.09.2014	21.10.2014	21.10.2014

#### Eligibility and other conditions:

- Interested bidder-
  - Should have minimum experience of 5 years in similar work of Bank's Branch or Head Office or similar nature of job;
  - Must have experience of executing work of Tk.35.00 lac or above in a single tender.
  - Should have valid Registration, ownership document, VAT & TIN certificate up-to-date, Trade License and Bank Solvency Certificate.
- The interested bidder(s) shall submit an application addressing the undersigned for purchasing tender documents. The application should be accompanied by documentary evidence as per SL.1.
- The Tender Schedule shall be available from the office of the undersigned on payment of Tk.2,000.00 (Taka Two Thousand) only in the form of Payment Order (non-refundable) favoring Prime Bank Limited issued by any Schedule Bank during office hours (10:00 am to 4:00 pm) on all working days as per mentioned schedule.
- No tender schedule will be sold after last date of sale as mentioned above.
- The participated bidders shall have to attend a pre-bid meeting at the office of the undersigned at 3:00 pm on 19.10.2014.
- Each tender must be submitted in sealed envelope mentioning the name of work on top of the envelope. Earnest money (refundable) equivalent to 2.5% of the quoted amount in form of Payment Order in favor of Prime Bank Limited, issued by any Schedule Bank shall have to be submitted along with the tender document, without which the tender will be rejected outright.

Head Office, 29 Rajuk Avenue, (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)  
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By this training program 30 national resource persons will be developed and 20 of them will conduct a separate training program in their respective cluster areas taking another 10 Agro SMEs each. This will entail bringing 200 (20\*10) SMEs within direct intervention plan extending support on entrepreneurship as well as business development assistance.

- Cluster - 1: Dhaka-Savar-Gazipur
- Cluster - 2: Narayangang-Munshiganj
- Cluster - 3: Rajshahi-Bogra-Pabna-Natore
- Cluster - 4: Hill Tracts (tribal) and Chittagong

For details, please find the TOR in our website: [www.bapabd.org](http://www.bapabd.org)

#### APPLICATION PROCESS:

Application should be dropped to above address with the subject line: Application for TOT Program not later than 15/10/2014 at 4.00pm. The application must include the following documents:

- One page cover letter.
- Training proposal.
- CV of the lead trainer and others national resource personnel.
- Proposed budget for the whole assignment.

Those who applied earlier need not apply as their past submission will be considered or may submit afresh.

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IFT Ref. no. and Date	IFT/BRAC/BPD-TRANSPORT/14-22 28 September, 2014
Tender Name	Microbus (Brand New) Latest Model 2014
Time of Delivery	As Per Tender Documents
Price of the Tender Documents	BDT 1,000.00 (Taka One Thousand Only) non refundable
Tender Security	As Per Tender Documents
Tender Document Available	Accounts Department (8th floor) BRAC Centre, 75, Mohakhali, Dhaka
Date and Time for Selling Documents	2 October 2014 to 16 October 2014 between 09.00 am to 3:00 pm.
Tender Dropping Place, Date and Time	Tender Box-1, BRAC Procurement Department, Ground floor 19 October 2014 between 10.00 am to 3:00 pm.
Tender Opening Place, Date and Time	BRAC Staff Canteen (4th floor) BRAC Centre 19 October 2014 at 3:30 pm.

BRAC, BRAC Centre, 75 Mohakhali Dhaka-1212  
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