



PHOTO: STAR

Security men, allegedly following instruction from a syndicate, collect unauthorised toll from a trucker at Burimari land port in Patgram upazila under Lalmonirhat district. The malpractice has continued even after recent warning of stern action by Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan.

Syndicate extorts truckers at Burimari land port

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

A syndicate has continued forcing transport workers to pay huge illegal toll for loading and unloading imported and exported goods at Burimari land port in Patgram upazila under the district, despite the shipping minister's warning against the malpractice during his visit there on October 18.

anyone declines to meet the demand. The organised syndicate illegally collects about Tk 5 to 6 lakh from 200 to 220 trucks daily, and the money is shared by the toll collectors, transport leaders, and a section of people belonging to law enforcement agencies, customs department and land port authorities, said sources of Burimari land port. "I can load and unload goods in the land port only if I pay illegal toll to the syndicate," said Jahirul Islam, 44, a truck driver from Rangpur. "We hoped that we won't have to pay illegal toll after Shipping Minister

Shahjahan Khan ordered stern action against such malpractice during his visit here on October 18, but the situation has remained as before," said another truck driver Badiul Islam, 45, from Bogra. Mithu Islam, 40, an importer and exporter at the land port, said the illegal toll collection has led to increase in fare of vehicles for loading imported goods. On November 12, the matter of illegal toll collection from vehicles was discussed in the law and order committee meeting presided over by the deputy commissioner at his office. The meeting decided that the adminis-

tration would take necessary steps to stop the illegal toll collection. Seeking anonymity, a few security guards at the land port said they collect toll from transport workers as per the direction of their in-charge Ataur Rahman. The money goes to the syndicate and then it is shared among many people, they said. Asked about the matter, Ataur Rahman said, "We never demand illegal toll from any transport worker, we only receive what they give us willingly." Rezaul Karim, officer in charge of Patgram Police Station, declined to talk regarding the matter.

KALAPARA IN PATUAKHALI

Land grabbers force 2 Hindu families out of home

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Twelve people belonging to two Hindu families of Alipur village in Kalapara upazila under the district had to leave their houses following threat from alleged land grabbers who also kidnapped the head of one of the families on December 8. Members of the victim families, who are staying in Kalapara upazila town for the last three days, met the deputy commissioner (DC) of Patuakhali at his office on Sunday noon and submitted a complaint over the matter. "My father Jitendra Nath Bepari bought 3.53 acres of land of Latachplee mouja

at Alipur village from Rakhain people and later he sold 2.82 acres of land to some Abdul Mannan Khan. Now I and my brother Jotindra Nath Beparee own the remaining 71 decimals of land," goes the complaint signed by Jagodish Chandra Bepari. "But a section of local influential people led by Eusuf Musulli wanted to grab the land. As they threatened us to leave the land, I filed a civil suit with Patuakhali Joint District Judge's Court on November 25 accusing six people including Eusuf Musulli and the court summoned the accused," says the complaint submitted by

Jogodish's son Dijendra Nath Bepari on behalf of his father. "After knowing about the case, they gave us death threat on December 2 and I filed a GD with Kalapara Police Station in this regard. It made them angrier still. At about 10:30pm on December 8, one of the accused called Jotindra Nath and since then he has remained missing." "We went to Kalapara Police Station to file an abduction case but the OC declined to receive it. We had to leave our houses as the accused gave threat continuously," Dijendra said. Contacted, Eusuf Musulli

said, "We bought land from the father of Jogodish and Jitendra and their complaint is false. We didn't threaten them. I don't know who kidnapped Jitendra." Mohammad Azizur Rahman, OC of Kalapara Police Station, said, "Jogodish and his family members came to me and orally made the complaint. I suggested them to file a complaint in written but they did not come later." Patuakhali DC Amitav Sarker said after receiving the complaint, he has asked the upazila nirbahi officer of Kalapara to take immediate lawful step after proper investigation on the matter.



PHOTO: STAR

Members of two Hindu families, forced by land grabbers to leave their houses at Alipur village in Kalapara upazila in Patuakhali district, stand in front of the Patuakhali deputy commissioner's office where they lodged a complaint against the perpetrators on Sunday.

KUAKATA MUNICIPALITY

Poor civic amenities frustrate residents

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Over 15 thousand people of Kuakata municipality in Kalapara upazila under the district are deprived of basic civic amenities as the municipality set up five years ago has not seen any mentionable development in last five years. The municipality covering 9.40 square kilometres started functioning on December 15 in 2010 and Md Jahangir Alam, upazila nirbahi officer of Kalapara, is conducting its activities as 'administrator' from the beginning.

and sanitation system and we have to depend on tube-wells for drinking water, said Monju, a Rakhaine youth of Keranipara area. "We have to pay municipality tax but get no facilities," said Bulbul, another youth of the same area. "We have hardly any feeling of living in a municipality area as facilities are very poor. Most of the earthen roads become muddy during the rainy season. There is no metalled road at West Kuakata, Khajura, Keranipara,

Nabinpur, Kachchhopkhali and Fasipara although these areas are important to tourists," said Fatima Begum of Panjupara in the municipality. Lacho Matubbor, a Rakhaine women leader, said 25 households in their para have to suffer a lot in the rainy season as there is no metalled road. Awami League (AL) backed mayoral candidate Abdul Bareq Mollah, also president of the town unit of AL, said he will take steps to solve all the problems of

the municipality if he is elected mayor in the upcoming polls. BNP backed mayoral candidate Abdul Aziz Musulli also pledged to take step to ensure residents' amenities, if elected. Contacted, Md Hafizur Rahman, secretary of Kuakata municipality said, "We could not meet demand of local people as allocation was very poor and we have to still struggle with various problems including manpower crisis and operational problems."



PHOTO: STAR

Like this one at Khajura, most of the roads in Kuakata municipality in Kalapara upazila under Patuakhali district are earthen, much to the nuisance of local commuters as well as visitors to the picturesque tourist spot in the sea beach area.

JMB suspect held in Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) detained an alleged member of banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) in Bhaluka upazila of Mymensingh on Monday night. The detainee, Md Hafiz Uddin of Hobirbari Jibontala area in Bhaluka, is one of the members of the militant outfit, said Md Zobraj Hossain, assistant superintendent of police (operation) of Rab-14. The elite force members held Hafiz, son of late Noor Uddin Haider alias Nuru Munshi, from his grocery shop around 8:30pm yesterday and handed him over to Bhaluka Police Station in the afternoon, Rab sources said. Hafiz faces several charges, including those of killing and extortion, a Rab official said, adding that an arrest warrant was also issued against him in a case by a Mymensingh court.

Criminals cut down betel plants at Khasi village

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Unidentified criminals, numbering 70-80, cut over six hundred betel plants at Sahebtala punjee (village) in Kormodha union under Kulaura upazila of Moulvibazar district on Sunday night. Sahebtala punjee people told this correspondent over phone that the criminals cut betel plants (10 to 15 feet in height). Jenin Snal, head of Sahebtala punjee, said locals demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of the persons involved in such heinous act. However, he could not tell the exact reason behind cutting down of the plants. Father Joseph Gomes, central committee member of BAPA, confirmed the matter to The Daily Star. He added that the criminal leaf gardens were the only source of income of the Khasi people. The cutting is

also harmful for the environment, he added. Despite several attempts, this correspondent could not contact Kulaura Forest Officer Boloram Roy as his cellophane remained switched off. Contacted, Motiur Rahman, office-in-charge of Kulaura Police Station, said they have not heard about the matter yet. "If the victims inform us we will investigate the matter and take action against the culprits," he added.



PHOTO: STAR

Criminals destroy a betel plantation at Sahebtala punjee, inhabited by Khasis, in Kulaura upazila under Moulvibazar district on Sunday night.

তামাদি/অনিয়মিত পলিসি পুনর্বহালের বিশেষ সুযোগ

৩১ ডিসেম্বর, ২০১৫ পর্যন্ত

কর্পোরেশনের সম্মানিত বীমাগ্রাহকগণ তামাদি ও অনিয়মিত পলিসির প্রিমিয়াম সম্পূর্ণ বিলম্ব মাসুল (Late fee) ছাড়া আগামী ৩১ ডিসেম্বর, ২০১৫ তারিখ পর্যন্ত প্রদান করতে পারবেন।

এ সুবিধা নিম্নোক্ত শর্ত সাপেক্ষে প্রযোজ্য হবেঃ-

(ক) প্রিমিয়াম দেয় তারিখ ০১ জানুয়ারি, ২০১৬ হতে বর্তমান তারিখের মধ্যে হতে হবে।
 (খ) প্রয়োজনীয় ডাক্তারী চাহিদাদির ক্ষেত্রে ডিজিএইচ প্রদান করলে চলবে।
 (গ) সাধারণ ও বিশেষ পুনর্বহাল করা যাবে এবং উভয় ক্ষেত্রেই বিলম্ব মাসুল (Late fee) প্রদান করতে হবে না, তবে পুনর্বহালের ক্ষেত্রে বয়স বৃদ্ধিজনিত পার্থক্য প্রিমিয়াম প্রদান করতে হবে এবং বীমাযোগ্য বয়সের মধ্যে হতে হবে।