

Paturia-Daulatdia Situation worsens

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

The situation of Paturia and Daulatdia ferry terminals deteriorated as three more ferries went out of operation with engine problems yesterday.

Nine ferries out of 18 are in operation on Paturia-Daulatdia river route.

Due to disruption in ferry service, several hundred vehicles were seen stranded at Paturia in Manikganj and Daulatdia in Rajbari.

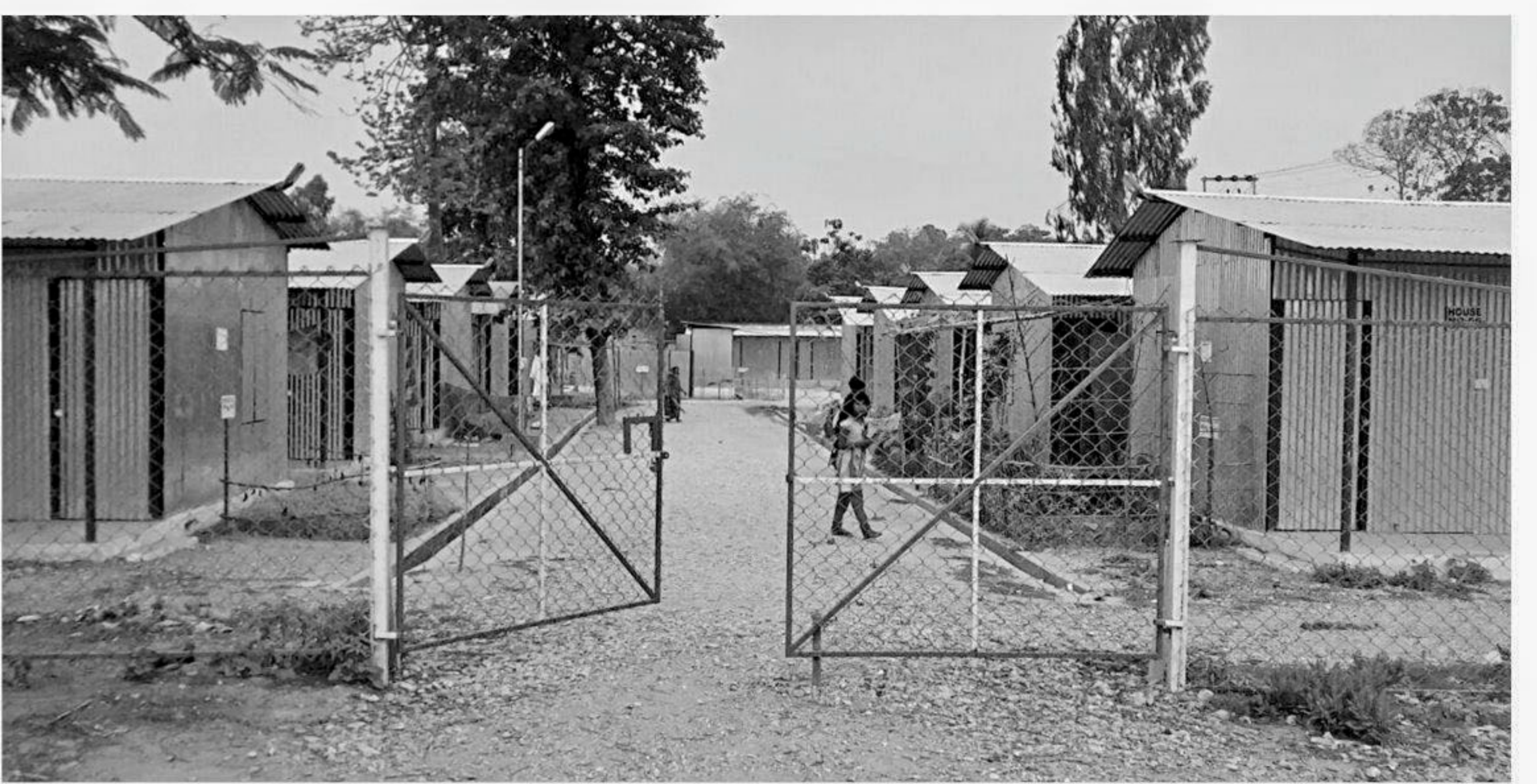
The passengers of 17 southern districts have been facing serious problems for the last 11 days.

Manager (commerce) of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) at Daulatdia office Shafikul Islam said landing station No 3 is now under threat of erosion. The landing stations No 4 and 2 remained closed on Friday.

Ro Ro ferries -- Amanat Shah and Khanjahan Ali were sent to Narayangaj Dockyard on July 29 for repairing while Bir Shreshtha Hamidur Rahman, Bir Shreshtha Motiur Rahman and Shah Mokhdum -- were anchored at Paturia ghat as they cannot move against strong current of Padma, said Mohiuddin Rassel, manager of BIWTC at Aricha.

Correction

A story titled "Faraaz, not militants, symbol of Bangladesh," was published yesterday on Page 13 of The Daily Star, where the name of late Sanjeeb Chowdhury was mistakenly mentioned as one of the singers at a programme organised by cultural organisation Nagarnat in Sylhet city on Friday. We regret the inadvertent error.



A camp for former Bangladesh enclave people at Hinhata in India.

PHOTO: STAR

Ex-Bangladesh enclave people in India lack basic needs

Many trying to return as they are still jobless

SUBRATA ACHARYA, Kolkata

Some 14,000 people of former Bangladeshi enclaves are still deprived of basic civic amenities although they got Indian citizenship one year ago following the official exchange of adversely possessed lands between Bangladesh and India.

Meanwhile, many of the dwellers of former Indian enclaves inside Bangladesh, who had opted for shifting to India, are now trying to return to Bangladesh as they did not get any employment.

Talking to this correspondent during the last few days, enclave dwellers narrated their plight in the changing circumstances.

"Earlier we faced problems with our nationality. Now we are facing problems with livelihood and land. Despite the government's announcement for compensation, we did not get anything in last one year," said Saddam Hossain, a resident of Moshaldanga, a former Bangladeshi enclave.

Osman Gani, a resident of Hinhata camp in India, is among 921 people who opted for going

to India after the enclave exchange deal.

"We are minority Muslims in this country. We celebrate the Eid festival after one month long Ramdan fasting. But we did not get even sugar or vermicelli from the government on the occasion of the Eid," he told this correspondent.

"I was a resident of No 1 Chhoto Goral Jhora enclave under Bhurungamari in Kurigram district inside Bangladesh. I earned Tk 10,000 to Tk 15,000 a month by running a medicine shop there.

"I came to Hinhata camp in India on November 22 last year but did not get any work here till today," he said.

Ashwini Kumar Roy, a resident at Haldibari camp in Cooch Behar district under India, said he got nothing from the government except 30 kg of rice, 5 kg of lentil, 5 litres of edible oil, 7 litre of kerosene, one kg of salt and one packet of powder milk.

Roy, who was an HSC student in Bangladesh, crossed Indian border recently to participate in the examinations. After staying inside Bangladesh for three months to sit for the exam-

inations, he returned to Indian camp.

Rajya Sabha member from West Bengal and CPI (M) leader Ritabrata Banerjee and Congress leader Pradip Bhattacharya recently became vocal in the Rajya Sabha following the allegations made by the residents of former enclaves.

"The union government did not keep its promises made to the 921 residents of former enclaves when they came to India. Many of them have returned to Bangladesh and some others are trying to go back as they did not get any work in West Bengal," Ritabrata Banerjee told The Daily Star.

Pradip Bhattacharya, former president of West Bengal chapter of Congress, said lack of coordination between the state government and the union government and corruption at local level are responsible for the plight of the residents of former enclaves.

Of the 921 people who came from Bangladesh, 486 people of 96 families of former Indian enclaves who came from Bangladesh have been staying at Haldibari camp, 245 of 58 families are living in Hinhata camp and the rest are living in Mekhliganj camp.

SNIPPETS

Tk 75 lakh sandalwood seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) seized 150 kilograms of sandalwood worth about Tk 75 lakh at Andulia Bazar in Chaugachha upazila of Jessore yesterday. Acting on a tip-off, the border guards raided the bazar and seized the sandalwood in abandoned condition. However, none was arrested in this connection, said Lt Col Jahangir Hossain, commanding officer of BGB-26 Battalion.

Woman gets life for murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

A court here yesterday sentenced a woman to life term imprisonment for killing her stepdaughter in 2010. The lifer is Morium Begum, 40, wife of Alamgir Hossain of Bishnukathi village in Nesarabad upazila. The court also fined her Tk 10,000. In default, she is to suffer another six months in jail. According to the prosecution, as Alamgir loved his seven-year-old daughter Afifa very much, Morium felt jealous of her. Over the issue, Morium drowned Afifa in a pond on June 23, 2010. The following day, Alamgir filed a case with Nesarabad Police Station, accusing Morium. After examining witnesses and evidence, District and Sessions Judge found her guilty and pronounced the verdict.

Fratricide

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A man was killed allegedly by his brother over a disputed land at Joyda village in Muktagacha upazila yesterday. The victim is Akhter Ali, 55, son of late Abdul Haque of the village. Police and family sources said there was a long-standing conflict between Akhter and his younger brother Akbar Ali, 50, over the land. Akbar stabbed Akhter, leaving him dead on the spot following an altercation over the issue. Police later arrested Akbar from the spot.

Man held with phensidyil

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested a man with 1,930 bottles of Phensidyil in Chapainawabganj on Saturday. The arrestee is Ayub Ali, 45, son of late Bashir Uddin, of village Baipur under Nachol upazila of Chapainawabganj. Acting on a tip-off, the elite force raided Ayub's home at night and arrested him with the phensidyil, said ASP Arafat Hossain of Joypurhat Rab.

2 drug peddlers jailed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A mobile court yesterday jailed two drug peddlers and fined another in Muktagacha upazila yesterday. The convicts are Delwar Hossain, 45, Shafiqul Islam, 24, and Monju Miah, 35. Of them, Delwar was sentenced to six months' imprisonment while Shafiqul to 15 days in prison. The court also fined Monju Tk 5,000. The three were arrested with hemp.



Indigenous 'chambol' needs protection

MD AMINUL ISLAM with ANDREW EAGLE

In Mymensingh's Rasulpur Forest the monsoon months of Ashar and Shraban were once a time to ramble; on random expeditions in search of 'chambol', the fruit of the indigenous chapalish tree. The chambol, renowned for a taste of sweet and sour, has long been considered a delicacy.

Also called the "forest jackfruit" in Mymensingh and a relative of the breadfruit, chambols were once familiar to all; but nowadays they're rare.

As atocarpus chaplasha, the chapalish tree, is generous in giving not only tasty fruit but also in providing timber suitable for fashionable furniture, many were felled over the years, and snatched away from the forest. Yet still a few chapalish trees remain.

According to local memory, the ripe chambols were a quintessential component of the lush and plentiful atmosphere donned by

the forest to mark each monsoon. In Muktagachha the chambol was, for visitors, a special attraction.

One who is aware of the chambol's virtues is Dr. Md Abdur Rahim, director of the Germ Plasm Centre at the nearby Bangladesh Agricultural University. "The fruit which is now endangered has good nutritional value," he says. "The sweet and sour taste is attractive and the seeds can be used for cooking." In recognition of its attributes and rarity, the university has planted chapalish trees on its campus.

But beyond nutrition and taster, the chambol served a social good as well. In years gone by, struggling families found daily survival in collecting the wild fruit at this time of the year, for local market sale.

Until the 1990s the trees were in good number but thereafter their prevalence declined, making vulnerable the tree's existence locally.

Moreover, since the decline of the chapalish and other indige-

nous trees, several forest animals, once commonplace in Rasulpur and Shantoshpur, and in adjacent areas of Madhupur Forest in Tangail, have largely or entirely vanished. Gone are the tigers and leopards, the deer and bears. Indeed the number of avian species is also fewer than before.

With indiscriminate logging the food supply for many species of fauna has dwindled. Even the hundreds of monkeys in Shantoshpur Forest of Phulbari upazila are nowadays hungry, a situation that has the forestry officials concerned.

"We have taken some steps to protect indigenous fruit and trees for better ecological balance," says divisional forest officer Gobinda Roy. "And in the coming fiscal year preservation of the chambol will get top priority."

"There's a need for new orchards of indigenous fruit trees including the chapalish to be planted in forest areas to ensure the survival of these species," he added.

Chuadanga bauls worried as attackers scot-free

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Police are yet to arrest any of the culprits involved in assaulting bauls and burning down their akhra at Gobindpur village in Damurhuda upazila of Chuadanga early Saturday.

Bauls from different areas gathered at the spot of burnt akhra yesterday to protest the incident.

They blamed lack of proper step by the law enforcers for repeated attacks on bauls.

"We are worried as the police have failed to bring to book the real offenders," Moniruzzaman aka Dhuru Baul, president of Baul Parishad of Chuadanga, told this correspondent over phone from the spot.

Attacks on bauls continue in different areas in pre-planned ways as vested groups do not like flourishing of the baul ideology, he said.

Meanwhile, Julmat Ali, a baul mentor of the burnt akhra, filed a case with Damurhuda Police Station on Saturday night accusing

nine unnamed people for the attack.

Rashidul Hasan, superintendent of police in Chuadanga, visited the akhra the same night and assured stern action against the criminals.

Earlier on July 17, unidentified criminals attacked a baul akhra at Ektarpur in Jiban Nagar upazila of the district, leaving four bauls, including two women, badly injured. The akhra was vandalised too.

Police arrested one Jamat Ali, a local activist of Jamaat-e-Islami, who often went to the akhra and followed the activities of the bauls there.

There are around 100 baul akhras in Chuadanga, Meherpur and Kushtia, the largest one being at Chheuria in Kushtia centring the grave of Fakir Lalon Shah.

Mohammad Shah, chief khadem (caretaker) of Lalon akhra in Kushtia, urged the administration to take necessary steps to protect the innocent bauls.

50 school kids fall sick

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

At least 50 students of Patuakhali Science and Technology University (PSTU)-run Shrijoni Biddhyanikaton yesterday fell sick due to hot weather.

They are Class V and VIII students suffering from respiratory problem, said MA Kuddus, acting principal of the institution. Of them, eight were admitted to Patuakhali Lutheran Health Care Centre and five to the university's health centre.

The school authorities suspended classes.

The students were affected by mass hysteria, a kind of mass psychogenic illness, said Dr ATM Nasir Uddin, chief medical officer of PSTU health centre.

Barapukuria road under water for 10 days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Residents of villages surrounding Barapukuria Coal Mining Company Ltd (BCMCL) in Parbatipur upazila of Dinajpur are suffering as their only road has been submerged due to torrential rain for the last few days.

The villages are Barapukuria, Patigram, Zigagari, Patrapara, Bhashpukur, Shivkrishnapur, Hamidpur, Dhulauldal, Kalupara and Polashbari under Hamidpur union.

Anwar Hossain, former chairman of Hamidpur union, said the road connected the villagers to Phulbari town, but half of it is under water.

Sadequul Islam, chairman of the union, said the mine officials have agreed to repair the road.

Md Aminuzzaman, managing director of BCMCL, said they would repair the road.

বাংলাদেশ টেলিযোগাযোগ নিয়ন্ত্রণ কমিশন
আইইবি ভবন, রমনা, ঢাকা-১০০০, বাংলাদেশ।

স্মারক নং- ১৪.৩২.০০০.০০৭.৫১.০০৪.১৫.১০১৩ তারিখঃ ৩১-০৭-২০১৬

PBTL (Citycell) এর গ্রাহকপদের উদ্দেশ্যে বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা Pacific Bangladesh Telecom Ltd (Citycell) এর গ্রাহকপদের উদ্দেশ্যে জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, বাংলাদেশ টেলিযোগাযোগ নিয়ন্ত্রণ কমিশন হতে ০৭-০৮-২০১২ তারিখে PBTL (Citycell) এর Cellular Mobile Phone Operator License সং ৮.৮২ মেগাহার্টজ তরঙ্গ নবায়ন করা হয়। উক্ত লাইসেন্সের শর্ত অনুযায়ী PBTL (Citycell) তরঙ্গ নবায়ন ফি এর ২য় ও ৩য় কিস্তির অর্থ নির্ধারিত সময় অতিবাহিত হওয়ার পরও অদ্যাবধি পরিশোধ করেনি। সর্বশেষ PBTL (Citycell) এর নিকট 2G Mobile Operator License সংশ্লিষ্ট Spectrum Renewal Fee এর ২য় ও ৩য় কিস্তি বাবদ ২২৯ কোটি টাকা, বার্ষিক লাইসেন্স ফি বাবদ ১০ কোটি টাকা, বার্ষিক স্পেকট্রাম ফি (২০১৩ থেকে ২০১৬ সাল) বাবদ প্রায় ২৭.১৪, ৩৭.১৩৩/- (সাতশ কোটি চৌদ্দ লক্ষ সাইম্পি হাজার একশত তেরিশ) টাকা, রেভিনিউ শেয়ারিং (২০১৪ থেকে ২০১৬ সাল) বাবদ আনুমানিক ২৭.৪৪, ৬২.৭২০/- (সাতশ কোটি চুয়াল্লিশ লক্ষ বাষাট্টি হাজার সাতশত বিশ) টাকা ও সামাজিক দায়বদ্ধতা তহবিল (২০১১ থেকে ২০১৬ সাল) বাবদ প্রায় ৮.৯২, ৩৭.৭৪২/- (আট কোটি বিরানব্বই লক্ষ সাইম্পি হাজার সাতশত বিয়াল্লিশ) টাকা এবং প্রযোজ্য ভ্যাট বাবদ প্রায় ৩৯.৯২ কোটি টাকা ও বিল্ডিং ফি বাবদ প্রায় ১৩৩.০৭ কোটি টাকা অর্থাৎ সর্বমোট প্রায় ৪৭৭.৫১ কোটি টাকা সরকারের রাজস্ব বকেয়া রয়েছে। লাইসেন্স নবায়নের পর হতে অদ্যাবধি বিভিন্ন সময়ে কমিশন হতে PBTL (Citycell) কে সরকারের বকেয়া রাজস্ব জমা প্রদানের নির্দেশনা প্রদান করে পূরণ করা হয়েছে এবং PBTL (Citycell) এর বিরুদ্ধে কেন আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে না মর্মে কারণ দর্শনোর নোটিশ প্রেরণ করা হয়েছে। এরপরও PBTL বিভিন্ন সময়ে বকেয়া অর্থ পরিশোধের অঙ্গীকার করা সত্ত্বেও অঙ্গীকার ভঙ্গ করে উক্ত বকেয়া পরিশোধ করা হতে বিরত রয়েছে। সরকারের প্রাপ্য রাজস্ব পরিশোধ না করে অপারেশনাল কার্যক্রম চালিয়ে যাওয়া লাইসেন্সের শর্তাবলীর পরিপন্থী এবং বাংলাদেশ টেলিযোগাযোগ নিয়ন্ত্রণ আইন, ২০০১ এর বিধানের সুস্পষ্ট লঙ্ঘন। বর্ণিত অবস্থায় বিটিআরসি PBTL (Citycell) এর Cellular Mobile Phone Operator License এবং Radio Communications Equipment License বাতিল করার এখতিয়ার রাখে। কাজেই বিটিআরসি যেকোন সময় PBTL (Citycell) এর তরঙ্গ বরাদ্দ বাতিল এবং অপারেশনাল কার্যক্রম বন্ধসহ প্রয়োজনীয় আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ সংক্রান্ত চূড়ান্ত সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণ করতে পারে। বর্ণিত অবস্থায়, PBTL (Citycell) এর গ্রাহকপদসহ সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলকে বিকল্প সেবা/ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণের জন্য আগামী ১৬-০৮-২০১৬ তারিখ পর্যন্ত সময় দেয়া হলো। সরকারের রাজস্ব, টেলিযোগাযোগ সেটের শুল্ক বাজায় রাখা ও জনস্বার্থ বিবেচনায় PBTL (Citycell) এর গ্রাহকপদসহ সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের এই অসুবিধার জন্য বিটিআরসি আন্তরিকভাবে দুঃখ প্রকাশ করছে।

(এম.এ. তালেব হোসেন)
পরিচালক (লাইসেন্সিং)
লীগ্যাল এন্ড লাইসেন্সিং বিভাগ
বাংলাদেশ টেলিযোগাযোগ নিয়ন্ত্রণ কমিশন

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