

# 40 Hindu families under threat in Patuakhali

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali**  
 Forty Hindu families in the district are living in fear as they continued receiving threat from a gang of extortionists since a case was filed against gang leader Amin Hira Babu among four people, on May 29.  
 Shyamol Chandra Mondol filed the case with Sadar Police Station after the extortionists tortured Shankar Hawlader, son-in-law of the plaintiff, on May 27, as he failed to give Tk 2 lakh. Shankar is now undergoing treatment at Patuakhali General Hospital.  
 According to the case statement, local cable TV operator Hira Babu had been demanding Tk 2 lakh from Shankar and his father-in-law Shyamol for several days, saying, 'you want to stay here peacefully, you have to pay the money'.

Hira Babu became angry at Shyamol and Shankar as they refused to give the money. Around 8:45 pm on May 27, Shyamol went to Hira Babu's shop at Sekahathi bazar with Shankar following Hira's call.  
 After confining Shankar to his shop, Hira and his men beat him with an iron rod keeping Shyamol out of the store.  
 Hearing hue and cry, locals rushed to the spot and rescued Shankar and sent him to Patuakhali General Hospital.  
 Later, Shyamol filed the case and since then Hira and his men continued threatening the members of the Hindu families.  
 Over the issue, Shyamol filed a general diary with the same police station on May 30.  
 'We can't move freely in the area as Hira Babu's men threaten us,' said local youth Sukdev.

At least 10 Hindu families, including beet leaf and fruit traders at Sekahathi bazar, can't open their shops since the incident, he said.  
 Students Joyanto, Sabita Rani and Liton can't go to their college following the threat, Shyamol said.  
 'We are very worried as the gang might attack us any time,' he said.  
 Ruphan Begum, a UP member of the area, said she heard that Hira tortured a Hindu man, Shankar.  
 Despite repeated calls, this correspondent could not reach Hira Babu for his comment on the issue as his cellphone remained switched off.  
 Officer-in-Charge Mostafizur Rahman of Sadar Police Station said they are raiding different areas to arrest Hira Babu and his men.



These people belonging to Hindu community at Sekahathi Sadar upazila are passing days in fear after a gang tortured one Shyamol Mondol for his failure to meet their demand for Tk 2 lakh as extortion. The perpetrators continued threatening the Hindus as Shyamol filed a case.



Rickshaw puller Abdul Samad Sheikh, locally well-known for his extraordinary arduous passion, receives a rickshaw and a program from Sheikh Mahatab Ali Mathu, mayor of Faridpur municipality, at a programme at Bhogandanga village under Faridpur Sadar upazila yesterday.

## The Daily Star's support for guardian of nature

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur**  
 Abdul Samad Sheikh, a rickshaw puller locally well-known for his extraordinary arduous passion, yesterday received a rickshaw and a cow at a programme at Bhogandanga village in Faridpur Sadar upazila.  
 Samad, hailing from Bhogandanga village, earlier got an award along with a cheque of Tk 1 lakh from The Daily Star on the occasion of its 26th founding anniversary at the capital's International Convention City Bahaudara on February 22 this year.

The rickshaw and the cow were bought for him with a portion of the award money.  
 The tree lover has continued planting at least a tree a day for the last 48 years, often buying plants with the money that he earns by pulling rickshaw.  
 Sheikh Mahatab Ali Mathu, mayor of Faridpur municipality, handed over the rickshaw and the cow to Abdul Samad Sheikh in presence of local elites at the programme.  
 'He has been doing a great job for the last 48 years. We should follow him,' said the mayor.

## '2 BNP men picked up by plainclothes police'

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kauldia**  
 Two Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) activists were picked up on May 19 allegedly by plainclothes policemen from a passenger bus at Lalon Shah Bridge police check-post here.  
 They are Liakat Ali, 47, son of Iman Ali and Saiful Islam, 40, son of late Daud Ali of Majdir village in Daulatpur upazila.  
 Liakat, joint general secretary of Maricha union unit BNP, was member of Maricha Union Parishad in 2003. BNP activist Saiful works at a private company in Dhaka.  
 The victims' family members alleged that the law enforcers were involved in the incident while police denied it, saying that both were arrested in drug cases.  
 Liakat's wife Kajal Redda said she went to Dhaka on April 23 for minister's stay at Saiful's mess. The plainclothes policemen picked them up from a night chok of Fatema Paribahan while they were returning home on May 19.  
 Kajal said she went to Fatema Paribahan counter on May 20 morning and came to know that Liakat and Saiful were picked up and handcuffed at Lalon Shah Bridge police check-point. Quoting a bus passenger, she said both were picked up in a police van near the check-point.  
 Sub-inspector Sahadat Ali, who was on duty at the check-point, however, denied that such an incident took place.  
 Both families went to Bheramara Police Station the same day to file cases in this regard, but police declined to receive any complaint.  
 'I came to lodge an allegation against police. How can I record it without any evidence?' Bheramara Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Noor Hossain Khondakar said.  
 The families then went to Daulatpur Police Station where police refused to accept the complaint, saying the incident happened under Bheramara Police Station and any allegation should be filed under there,' said Daulatpur OC Shah Dara Khan.

## Result lies in how govt spends

**FROM PAGE 3**  
 and expand telemedicine services at district and upazila levels where the shortage of health personnel is acute.  
 This health personnel shortage, along with non-communicable diseases, including cancer, heart diseases and diabetes, and the lack of urban primary healthcare facilities, especially for the poor, should be urgently addressed, said Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman.  
 The Power and Participation Research Centre's executive director also recommends strengthening the government's Essential Service Package, ensuring that all get access to essential primary healthcare, like drugs and

screening facilities for blood sugar and pressure and cancer, at unions and upazila levels, where the shortage of health personnel is acute.  
 He suggests providing medicine to chronically ill patients to lessen financial hardships.  
 WHO says non-communicable diseases account for 59 percent of deaths in Bangladesh and that there are 5.5 doctors and 2.1 nurses for every 10,000 people whereas it recommends the figures to be 10 and 30 respectively.  
 The situation is worse in upazila and district hospitals where government doctors often shirk responsibilities.  
 Dr Hossain stresses focusing on filling up vacant posts of doctors, nurses and healthcare technologists and training new ones, especially nurses.  
 He also suggests building infrastructures of rural areas such as upazila health complexes, union family and healthcare centres and community clinics.  
 Currently, an Urban Primary Health Project is run by the local government ministry, albeit with foreign funds, while non-government organisation activities focus only on mothers and children.  
 The urban poor, therefore, rely heavily on the expensive private sector and crowd tertiary hospitals like Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

## Mobile sets to get costlier

**FROM PAGE 3**  
 Finance Minister AMA Muthith proposed increasing the customs duty on the import of internet modem, 5 percent for using internet, to 10 percent from 5 percent.  
 Importers and mobile phone operators feared the new proposals would have a bad impact on the industry and the government's digitalisation programme.  
 T1M Nurul Kabir, secretary general of Association of Mobile Telephone Operators of Bangladesh (AMTOB), said the government's decision could create new hurdles to the country's economic growth and development.  
 Expressing frustration at the new taxation proposals, he said: 'Mobile phones

and internet modems are the main drivers for using internet and hiking their prices will have a negative impact on the government's digitalisation programme.'  
 Mobile phone operators said increased tax on handset imports would also affect their business growth.  
 According to Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC), there were 6.72 crore internet connections in the country, including 6.30 crore from mobile phones, as of February.  
 Around 3.10 crore mobile handsets were imported to the country last year, up by 11 percent year-on-year, at a cost of about Tk 8,000 crore. Of the amount, smartphone imports

users and hampering the digitalisation programme, said Jakaria Shahid, managing director of Edison Group.  
 BMPA President Manik welcomed the relaxation of tax on 34 raw materials and accessories required for assembling and manufacturing laptop and tablet computers and mobile handsets.  
 Edison Group, the parent company of the market leader mobile handset brand Symphony, said it was confused about the government's tax proposals.  
 The firm, which plans to set up a handset assembling unit, said it would take two to three years to build the plant, increasing customs duty on handset imports would mean penalising phone

necessary.  
 Masum Jamali, a mobile phone user, said he was thinking of buying a new handset, but he was doubtful about buying the phone through illegal channels.  
 However, local firm Indigo Group, who set up an assembling plant at the state-owned Telephone Shilpa Sangstha a few years ago, welcomed the government's tax proposals.  
 'Now we can compete in the market and increase the value of our country,' said Karz Zashimul Islam, president of Indigo Group, which mainly assembles low cost handsets.

## Minting money thru' banks

**FROM PAGE 2**  
 'Now, the rise in excise duty will make people more reluctant to keep money with banks,' he added.  
 Besides, intentionally or unintentionally not everyone has a TIN number, so they end up paying 15 percent income tax at source instead of 10 percent.  
 The other option available to small savers is savings instrument, but that too is looking less rewarding given that an interest rate cut on the investment tool is in the works.  
 So, where depositors will go?  
 'The tax burden on depositors will only create a deterrent, compelling people to keep money either under their pillows or launder money abroad,' said Bina Paksha Paul, former chief economist of the Bangladesh Bank.  
 The hike in excise duty will not only affect the

depositors, it will make the banking industry sicker.  
 'The real return from deposits has already been negative because the interest rate came below the inflation rate. Amid this situation the new excise duty is unrealistic,' he added.  
 The move will divert money to the capital market or the informal sector, said Golam Hafiz Ahmed, immediate past managing director of NCC Bank, said.  
 Cooperatives, NGOs, local merchants and non-banking financial institutions will get a chance to lure in savers by offering higher rates. But there will also be a risk of being cheated, he said.  
 According to the proposed budget, accounts with balance of up to Tk 1 lakh will remain exempt from the excise duty.  
 An excise duty of Tk 800

will be imposed on debit or credit balance exceeding Tk 1 lakh but less than Tk 10 lakh, up from Tk 500 at present.  
 For balance between Tk 10 lakh and Tk 1 crore, the excise duty would be Tk 2,500, about 67 percent higher than the current rate.  
 Some Tk 12,000 will be slapped on balance between Tk 1 crore and Tk 5 crore. It is now Tk 7,500.  
 And for balance exceeding Tk 5 crore, Tk 25,000 will be slapped on excise duty, up from Tk 15,000 now.  
 As of December 2016, about 83 lakh accounts stand to be affected by the proposed increase in excise duty next fiscal year.  
 Bank accounts are the largest contributor to excise duty. In the first eight months of the fiscal year, Tk 1,480 crore was collected as excise duty, up

## Trader murdered

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali**  
 A trader was hacked to death by unidentified criminals in Dumki upazila of the district on Wednesday.  
 The deceased, Forkan Mollah, 30, son of Abdul Barkat Mollah of Paschim Anargia village, was a small trader at Dumki Bazar.  
 Police said Forkan went out of his house after receiving a phone call around 10:00 pm on Wednesday and did not return home.  
 Locals spotted Forkan's body near a brick field yesterday, said Dibakar Chandra Das, officer-in-charge (OC) of Dumki Police Station.  
 The OC said criminals might have killed Forkan over previous emity.

**পাওয়ার গ্রীড কোম্পানী অব বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড**  
**POWER GRID COMPANY OF BANGLADESH LTD.**  
 (An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)  
 Institution of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB) Bhaban (New) 4th Floor, Ramna, Dhaka-1000  
 Web : www.pgccb.org.bd

IFB No: 001/PGCB/Sec/SS&OC/3423 Date: May 31, 2017

### INVITATION FOR BIDS

**Design, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of New 132/11kV Air Insulated Substation at Payra and extension of 132 kV bays at existing Patuakhali 132/33kV Substation on Turkey Basis**

- Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Ltd. ("the Employer") invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for Design, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of New 132/11kV Air Insulated Substation at Payra and extension of 132 kV bays at existing Patuakhali 132/33kV Substation on Turkey Basis (Contract No. PGCB/132kV/PP/SS) as defined in the bidding document (hereinafter referred to as "the Works").
- The scope of the Works is as below:  
 Design, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of New 132/11kV Air Insulated Substation at Payra and extension of 132 kV bays at existing Patuakhali 132/33kV Substation on Turkey Basis.
- The Works under this turkey contract shall have to be completed within 09 (nine) months from the effective date.
- International Competitive Bidding will be conducted in accordance with Single Stage Two-Envelope bidding procedure and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries. GoB and PCGB will allocate necessary funds towards the cost of the proposed works.
- Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect & acquire the bidding documents at the head office of the Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Ltd. (PGCB), Institution of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB) Bhaban (12<sup>th</sup> Floor), 8/A Ramna, Dhaka-1000, Tel: 880-2-9533663, 880-2-955014, 880-2-958054, Fax: 880-2-9582362; Email: [se-design@pgcb.org.bd](mailto:se-design@pgcb.org.bd), [belvelo20@yahoo.com](mailto:belvelo20@yahoo.com). The complete bidding documents are available at PGCB's website <http://www.pgccb.org.bd/>. In case of any discrepancy between the documents published by the prospective bidder and the Bid Documents (hard copy) of PGCB, the latter shall prevail.
- A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders on submission of a written application to the Company Secretary, PGCB, The Institute of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB) Bhaban (4th Floor), 8/A Ramna, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh; (Tel: +88 02 9553663, +88 02 955014, 9558054, Fax: +88 02 95 82362) upon payment of a non-refundable fee of US\$ 200.00 (United States Dollars two hundred) only or Tk. 15,000.00 (Taka fifteen thousand) only in the form of Pay Order/ Demand Draft in favor of Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Ltd. The document may also be sent through courier for an additional fee of Taka 1000.00 (for local delivery) or US\$ 120.00 (for overseas delivery). A PCGB bid not be responsible for any postal delay.
- A Pre-Bid meeting will be held at 11:00 Hours Local Time on 18 June, 2017 at the head office of the Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Limited (PGCB), Institute of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB) Bhaban (4th Floor), 8/A Ramna, Dhaka-1000.
- Bids must be delivered to the address mentioned above or before 11:00 hours Local Time (GMT+6 hours) on July 19, 2017 together with a Bid Security of USD 110,000 (USD one hundred ten thousand only), or an equivalent amount in freely convertible currency.
- The technical bids will be opened at 11:05 Hours Local Time (GMT+6 hours) on July 19, 2017 at the head office of Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Limited (PGCB), Institute of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB) Bhaban (13th Floor), 8/A Ramna, Dhaka-1000 in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- PGCB will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids including costs and expenses related to visits to the sites of installation of the Works.
- PGCB reserves the right to accept or reject any bids, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to Bidders.

**Mr. Ashraf Hossain**  
Company Secretary