

Extortion rampant

Syndicate at Burimari Land Port claims they take 'service charge' from Indian, Bhutanese truckers

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Collection of illegal toll from the drivers of imported goods-laden vehicles from India and Bhutan has become an open secret at Burimari Land Port in Patgram upazila under the district.

A six-member syndicate recruited by the Convener of Clearing and Forwarding Agents' Association is engaged in collecting the illegal toll in the name of association's welfare fund, alleged the stakeholders.

On an average, 400 trucks loaded with imported goods, mainly stones, from India and Bhutan enter into Bangladesh through the land port every day and illegal toll Tk 350 to Tk 450 is collected from each.

"We have to pay the illegal toll to the syndicate members to avoid harassment here," said Ramprasad Singh, a driver of an imported goods-loaded truck from India.

"If we decline to pay the illegal toll we face a lengthy and time wasting process for unloading the goods," said Khironath Das, another Indian truck driver at the land port.

"Illegal toll of Tk 350 is realised against a six-wheel truck and Tk 450 against a ten-wheel truck at the land port. It has continued for long, but we dare not protest against the malpractice in a foreign land," said Nandolal Singha, another India truck driver.

Saberul Islam, a Bangladeshi truck driver from Bogura, said he never pays illegal toll in Indian side when he goes there for delivering

export goods whereas illegal toll collection is a common affair in Bangladesh side.

Asadul Islam, a member of the illegal toll collectors' syndicate, said, "We never force any driver to pay the toll money. They pay it willingly for prompt service to complete unloading of goods. We deposit the collected amount to the C & F Agents' Association."

Another syndicate member Swadhin Islam said, "Customs officials and C & F Agents' Association authority know the matter well. We are just employees working for daily-basis payment."

Asked about the matter, Ruhul Amin Babul, convener of C & F Agents' Association, said, "Due to shortage of customs officials, I have recruited some people here for helping drivers to complete the official work related to unloading of goods in time."

"For this service, drivers make gifts of small amounts to the recruited people but it is not illegal toll," said Babul, also chairman of Patgram Upazila Parishad, and upazila unit secretary of Awami League.

Contacted, Assistant Commissioner of Customs at Burimari Land Port AKM Khairul Bashar said there no shortage of customs officials at the land port and he is not aware about the syndicate.

"We never allow anybody to check papers or collect illegal toll from foreign drivers. I will arrange vigilance and take prompt step against illegal toll collection here," he said.



Local people, especially school and college students, form a human chain near Moulvibazar's Sreemangal municipality yesterday urging the authorities concerned to remove the garbage that has been piled in front of three educational institutions in the town.

PHOTO: STAR



Activists of Save the River Movement Bangladesh, Mymensingh unit, bring out a procession in the district town on Friday, marking the World River Day, which is observed across the world on the fourth Sunday of September every year.

PHOTO: STAR

UP CHAIRMAN KILLING

32 sued, 5 arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhalakathi

Thirty-two identified and seven to eight unidentified people were sued on Saturday night in connection with killing of a union parishad chairman in Uzirpur upazila of Barishal.

Sukh Lal Halder, father of slain Jalla Union Parishad (UP) chairman Bishwajeet Halder Nantu, 42, filed the case.

Ex-UP member Pannu and Sayeed, PS to local lawmaker Talukder Mohammad Yunus, are the prime accused, said Shishir Kumar Paul, officer-in-charge (OC) of Uzirpur Police Station.

Police already arrested five accused, he said, adding that the arrestees were produced before a court that sent them to jail yesterday.

An additional superintendent and two assistant superintendents of police are investigating the case while two inspectors are working in the field to find the reasons behind the killing, said Md Saiful Islam, superintendent of police (SP) in Barishal.

"I think it was a contract killing by some professional killers," the SP said, adding that it is very difficult to identify the killers within a short time.

Meanwhile, supporters of the slain chairman staged demonstrations in the union yesterday, demanding justice for the killing.

Nantu, also the union Awami League president, was shot dead on Friday night when he was sitting in his shop at Kafra Bazar in Uzirpur.

Wrath on pregnant rape victim, not on rapist!

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A pregnant young woman from a tea worker family was tortured allegedly by a local Panchayet at Lakkatura Tea Estate in Sadar upazila on Friday morning.

The victim, aged 26, daughter of a tea worker, took treatment at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital and is now living away from her parents in fear of being attacked again.

The victim said she was in a relationship with Raju Goala, 50, president of Sylhet Valley unit of Bangladesh Tea Workers' Union, for the last two years and got pregnant recently.

"When I revealed my pregnancy to Raju, a married man, he reacted harshly and snapped all relations with me," she said.

On Friday morning local Panchayet leaders arranged arbitra-

tion at Head of Panchayet Situ Lohar's house in this regard, she said.

"During the arbitration the Panchayet leaders rejected my allegation of being pregnant by Raju and beat me with bamboo sticks," she said, adding that she later took treatment at the Sylhet hospital.

Dr Mohaiminul of Female Surgery Ward of the hospital said the woman had some minor injuries in her right leg and in the back.

Refuting the allegation, Raju said he never had any relationship with the woman and she is trying to tarnish his image by falsely implicating him in her pregnancy.

Situ Lohar, head of Lakkatura Tea Estate Panchayet, said the village Panchayet only warned her strongly as she was found guilty of falsely implicating Raju with her pregnancy.

Two siblings among 3 die in boat capsized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Two siblings among three children were killed in a boat capsized at Ibrahimpur in Belabo upazila of Narsingdi on Saturday.

The deceased were Nila Akter, daughter of Badal Mia of Jangua village in Belabo upazila and Tamim Mia, son of Saiful Islam of Banshari village of Bhaireb upazila under Kishoreganj district, and his sister Samia Akhter.

Officer-in-Charge of Belabo Police Station Javed Mahmud said Saiful's son and daughter went to visit a relative's house at Ibrahimpur village. Later, the duo and six other relatives went for a ride in the Brahmaputra river and the boat capsized.

At the time, five of them managed to swim ashore, but the three children drowned, said the OC.

Sesame growers all smiles

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Sesame cultivation is gaining popularity among Lalmonirhat farmers as the growers are earning handsome amounts of money from the cultivation.

The district's Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) officials said around 1895 bighas of land have been brought under sesame cultivation in the district this year while it was 900 bighas last year and 750 bighas in 2016.

Farmer Nazrul Islam of Haziganj village in Aditmari upazila said he earned Tk 84,000 by selling 21 maunds of sesame from three bighas of land last year. He had to spend only Tk 10,000 for the cultivation then.

He hopes that he will get 40 maunds of sesame from six bighas of land this year and get a good price as well.

Another farmer Azaharul Islam of the village said sesame has a high demand in the local markets.

A sesame grower of Karnapur village in Sadar upazila said if the weather remains favourable until harvesting sesame in November, they will get good production and fair price too this year.

Sesame trader Ashrafal Alam of Lalmonirhat town said a huge quantity of sesame has been sent to Dhaka and other places in the country. Even he paid in advance to the farmers for growing sesame.



A farmer works at a sesame field at Haziganj village in Lalmonirhat's Aditmari upazila. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

Girl kills self for school uniform in Dinajpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A 13-year-old schoolgirl allegedly committed suicide following an altercation with her mother over buying school uniform in Birampur upazila of the district on Saturday.

The deceased was Mousumi Akter, a Class VIII student of Ramchandrapur Girls' High School, and daughter of Shahidul Islam of the area.

On Saturday afternoon, the girl took her life by hanging herself from the ceiling of her room following an altercation with her mother over buying new school dress, said Nazir Hossain, chairman of Katla Union Parishad.

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No. 23.08.0000.006.29.004.17-2218, Date: 23 September 2018

e-Tender Notice No. 3/2018-19

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for procurement as follows:

Tender ID No.	Description	Tender document last selling date and time	Tender closing date and time	Tender opening date and time
225445	Electronic total station	10-10-2018; 17:00	11-10-2018; 11:15	11-10-2018; 11:15

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the e-GP Portal have to be deposited online through any branch of the bank's registered in the e-GP System. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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GD-2240

'Poverty behind human trafficking'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Poverty, unemployment and lack of awareness are the main reasons behind the human trafficking in the country, speakers said at a workshop here on Saturday.

Termining human trafficking a global problem, they emphasised alleviating poverty, creating jobs and building awareness in the society to prevent the menace.

Bangladesh Society for Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR) organised the workshop at Tangail Press Club.

The programme is funded by USAID and supported by Winrock International, a non-governmental organisation.

Brokers take the poor and uneducated people, including women and children, abroad promising better lives, they said.

The trafficked people at the destinations have to take jobs illegally and suffer sexual abuse. Ransom is also demanded for freeing them from confinement, the speakers said.

They emphasised concerted efforts by police, prosecution and judges, as well as their seriousness to punish the traffickers and ensure justice for the victims.

Tangail Special Judge Abul Mansur Miah spoke as the chief guest with Prof Mohammad Kamruzzaman, Tangail district president of BSEHR in the chair.

GD-2241

Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology
 Directorate of Planning and Development
 No. P&D/LP(S-2)-317/18/NAME-09/T.Tank 203 Date: 23 Sept 2018

e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concerned that the following tenders have been published through e-GP Portal.

e-Tender ID & Package No.	Name of goods	Last selling and closing date & time
Tender ID: 224028 Package No. BUET/ESMTC/GD-6/Lot-3	Supply and Installation of 10 Ton Double Girder Electric Overhead Travelling EOT Crane with rails and accessories for Establishment of Ship Model Testing Centre Towing Tank at BUET.	14/10/2018; 16:00 15/10/2018; 14:00
Tender ID: 222693 Package No. LP_S-2_316/NAME/T.Tank	Supply and Installation of Ship design software Rhinoceros and its plug-in & SIEMENS STAR CCM software latest version Marine Offshore Oil and Gas Industry Application for the project Establishment of Ship Model Testing Centre Towing Tank at BUET.	16/10/2018; 16:00 17/10/2018; 14:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Director
 Directorate of Planning and Development
 BUET, Dhaka

GD-2241