

Mindless garbage disposal brings woe to townspeople

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Garbage cans haphazardly placed across Lalmonirhat town have become a nuisance for its residents.

Most of the 80 cans were placed on footpaths some six months ago, much to the inconvenience of commuters, locals told this paper.

The bins were never cleaned on a daily basis since their instalment, said the locals, while the mayor of the city said the situation was a consequence of the ongoing movement of the employees of municipalities.

Several thousand employees of the municipalities from across the country are agitating for the third week in Dhaka demanding their salaries be paid from state funds.

Dyal Chandra Roy, who runs a tea stall on the Saptana Road in Lalmonirhat town, said his business had been down lately as customers hardly could stand at his place because of the foul smell oozing out of a garbage can placed right beside his stall.

"Commuters come across the cans every now and then while using the sidewalks. The overflowing bins have so many negative impacts on health and environment and are also an eyesore," said Mobarak Hossain, a resident of Thana Road.

"The mayor or other officials do not feel the impact as they travel by cars but we have to walk by these bins," said Mobarak, demanding the bins be managed duly to lessen the sufferings.

Sathira Akhter, a student of Lalmonirhat Girls' High School, said one bin have been placed on a footpath besides her school building.

"The bin remains full all the time. We get the bad smell while sitting inside our classroom," she told this correspondent.

Regarding the residents' complaints, Fazlul Haque, an executive engineer of the Lalmonirhat municipality, said the bins were setup following the mayor's order. "It was done to help the residents. The mayor's decision is the final decision," he said.

The official refused to make further comments on the situation.

When contacted, Lalmonirhat Municipality Mayor Reazul Islam Rintu said the town dwellers who were not using the bins properly. "They do not drop the wastes inside the bins and litter instead," he said.

Regarding the claim that the bins were never cleaned regularly, he said, "This is a recent phenomenon. It is happening because the workers have gone on a strike."

"I, along with an engineer, will visit the spots and address the concerns as soon as the workers' movement is over," said the mayor.



This photo taken couple of days ago shows a garbage can set up in Saptana area in Lalmonirhat town.

UNHCR talks to Rohingyas

FROM PAGE 1

many of the selected turned up for the engagement sessions conducted at makeshift tents close to the camp office.

Visiting the camp, many Rohingyas were found reading leaflets printed in Arakanese language, also known as Rakhine. The distribution of the leaflets started on Monday.

Detailing the content, Noor Bashar, a resident of the camp, said it said they would have to get the national verification card (NVC) first upon their return to Myanmar.

After that, they would be kept in Nakfura camp in Myanmar from where they would be shifted to another camp in the country for six months.

He, however, said that no Rohingya would be interested for voluntary return until they were given citizenship and the benefits the status would bring.

Badlul Islam, a Rohingya camp leader, said the leaflet mainly focused on providing NVC. "But the Rohingyas are still scared due to the bitter past when they were driven away in the name of being provided the NVC," said Islam.

Mohammed Riaz, one of the session attendees, said the UNHCR officials told him nothing new, adding that he would not return to Myanmar if their four-point demand was not met.

The Rohingyas' four-point demands are for holding accountable those who killed and tortured the Rohingyas and drove them out of their land; ensuring citizenship and security of the Rohingyas in Myanmar; giving back their land and properties; and protecting all fundamental rights of the Rohingyas in Myanmar's Rakhine State.

Rashid Amin, who also attended the session, told the reporters that the whole exercise was "nothing but an eyewash". He said the discussion of their voluntary return should have been done with Myanmar officials.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday said both Bangladesh and Myanmar were ready to resume the repatriation of Rohingyas to their homeland, but some Rohingya leaders and NGOs were discouraging the refugees from returning, reports UNB.

"We've heard some Rohingya leaders have emerged there. They don't want the return of any Rohingya [to their homeland]. They're trying to stop the returnees. Some INGOs [international non-governmental organisations] and NGOs are instigating them [Rohingyas]," he told a small group of reporters at his office in the afternoon.

He said Bangladesh wanted to see the refugees return to Rakhine State as soon as possible. The two countries would try to resume the repatriation in a small scale from tomorrow.

The much-awaited Rohingya repatriation is set to begin around 10 months after the first attempt failed as the refugees didn't choose to go back.

Bangladesh authorities have set up two transit camps -- one on the banks of the Naf river near Keruntali of Nayapara in Teknaf and the other near Ghumdhum border area of Naikkhanchhari in Bandarban.

The Rohingyas who agree to return will be first taken to the transit camp and then to Myanmar border, where the Myanmar authorities will receive them.

The first attempt of Rohingya repatriation was made on November 15, 2018, a year after Bangladesh and Myanmar signed a bilateral repatriation deal following the influx of nearly 750,000 Rohingya since a military crackdown by Myanmar began on August 25, 2017.

In June 2018, Myanmar signed a tripartite deal with the UNDP and UNHCR, allowing the agencies to undertake assessment work and propose and implement community-based projects to create conditions conducive to Rohingya repatriation.

Don't block

FROM PAGE 1

highways are often built obstructing the natural flow of water. If roads are to be built in such areas, there should be more culverts under the roads. However, engineers give little consideration to this, they said.

More than 1,000km of roads under the Roads and Highways Department were damaged by flood this year. Two floods had damaged 5,015km of roads in 2017.

Mannan said the PM asked the authorities to construct the required number of culverts to ensure free flow of water. She also directed them to build elevated roads in the country's haor areas so that water can flow under those.

Hasina asked them to plant trees along roads and embankments and include the expenditure of tree plantation in the project costs.

She directed the authorities to install all electricity cables underground. The planning minister said the work for laying the cables underground have already started and those will be completed in phases.

Yesterday, the Ecne approved 12 projects involving Tk 3,470 crore.

One man shame for judiciary

FROM PAGE 1

Apparently, the grisly attack was planned to kill Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, the then opposition leader, and her senior leaders present at a rally in front of the party's central office at the Bangabandhu Avenue.

Before submitting his report, Justice Joynul Abedin had talked to reporters about it but did not disclose the identity and the motive of the attack that killed 20 and injured over 300. The judge said he was not at liberty to make them public.

However, talking to The Daily Star in 2015, the retired Justice claimed that a neighbouring country had wanted to create anarchy in efforts to unseat the then BNP-led government through the grenade attack.

That country wanted to establish a puppet government in place of the four-party government for its own vested interest. It wanted the people to go against the BNP-Jamaat government following the incident, he said, citing "findings" of his inquiry.

He said his findings might have been different had the Awami League President and then opposition leader Sheikh Hasina and other senior leaders present during the incident cooperated with the probe.

The AL had outright rejected the judicial inquiry commission and questioned the government's sincerity to probe attack.

The party also did not allow the commission to inspect Hasina's SUV that had whisked her to safety immediately after the blasts.

Asked, Justice Abedin told The Daily Star he had found evidence that the spy agency of that country had a hand in the attack.

He also added that he did not get any "clear" evidence of involvement of then BNP-Jamaat government or any other officials of the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence, National Security Intelligence or Prime Minister's Office in the incident.

Justice Abedin, who was elevated to the Appellate Division in August 2006 and retired in December 2009, said he still believed his findings were complete and based on evidence.

Meanwhile, some senior investigating CID officials, presented a petty criminal, Joj Mia, as one of the attackers. They had Joj Mia make a confessional statement, in which he named several absconding criminals known to be hiding in India as his co-conspirators.

The whole story fell apart as the media did not take long to find holes in his story.

Further investigation revealed in 2012 that the heinous attack was an outcome of conspiracy among militant outfit Hujji and a section of senior officials of the home ministry, police, DGFI, NSI and PMO. Some influential leaders of the BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami were also alleged to have been involved in the planning, according to the investigation. They were indicted in the case and are now facing trial.

Asked about the judicial inquiry commission's findings in the light of those developments, Justice Abedin claimed his report was entirely based on evidence collected by the commission at the time.

The commission recorded statements of 123 people, including the injured victims and their doctors, AL leaders and activists present at the rally, explosives experts, journalists, and security men.

Referring to the ongoing trial process of August 21 grenade attack case, he said names of the attackers would be known after the judgment.

Abedin said he did not name any attackers in his probe. "We will have to wait and see who the attackers were," he added.

[This article was originally published in this paper on August 21, 2015.]

Testimony to terror

FROM PAGE 1

in my dreams," said Joj Mia, who was implicated in the sensational August 21 grenade attack case.

Another such victim, Shaibal Saha Partha, is in no better state.

He momentarily loses his grip on reality whenever he has flashbacks of the physical and mental torture police had inflicted on him.

Partha wants to rid himself of those memories.

"But I don't know whether I will be able to do it at all. The horrifying memories flash through my mind," he said.

Joj Mia and Partha talked to The Daily Star in 2015.

As part of a plan to save the actual culprits of the August 21 grenade attack on an Awami League rally in the capital in 2004, police arrested Joj Mia and Partha, and applied tricks to make them admit to crimes they had no knowledge of.

Joj Mia capitulated, and with the words put in his mouth by police, he made a confessional statement to a magistrate naming some top criminals in connection with the attack that left 24 people dead and more than 300 injured.

The then leader of the opposition, Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, who was addressing the rally, survived the attack but suffered injuries in her ears.

Joj Mia and Partha were accused in the grenade attack case. They were later acquitted of the charges after an investigation found that several top leaders of the then BNP government, some government officials and militants were involved in the deadly attack.

JOJ MIA

Raiding his Senbagh house in Noakhali, police arrested Joj Mia on June 10, 2005, as part of a clandestine plan to make him a scapegoat in the sensational case.

Joj Mia, who was initially clueless about the reason behind his arrest, was first taken to Senbagh Police Station.

Later, Criminal Investigation Department (CID) officials brought him to the capital and allegedly tortured him.

"You threw grenades at the Awami League rally," Joj Mia quoted CID official Abdur Rashid, the then investigating officer in the case, as saying.

Joj Mia, who was 20 when the incident took place, said he was surprised at the accusation of his involvement in the attack, and told the officer that he knew nothing about it.

"I was at my Senbagh home on the day of the incident. I saw it on television at a tea stall," he said.

Joj Mia was later placed on remand for days. "During the remand, CID officials tortured me and also lured me into

confessing to the crime.

"They told me that if I agreed to become an approver, I would be sent abroad, and they would bear all the expenses of my family," he said.

Police then started giving a small amount of money to his mother every month. As they stopped it after six months, Joj Mia's family disclosed the whole thing to the media, detailing how the CID tried to feed the media with a made-up story about the attack.

"CID officials threatened to kill me in 'crossfire' if I refused to follow their instructions," he said.

"I would have preferred to get killed in 'crossfire' if I had known that they were going to make me a scapegoat in such a sensational case," Joj Mia told this correspondent over the phone.

PARTHA

Police arrested Partha from his sister's Elephant Road house on August 26, four days after the attack, on suspicion of sending an email with threats to assassinate Hasina.

He was later implicated in two cases -- one for giving death threat and the other over the grenade attack. On March 15, 2005, the High Court granted him ad-interim bail in the cases.

Partha, who just returned home after completing MBA from an Indian university, went to Hearnnet Cyber Cafe on Elephant Road to submit his curriculum vitae to different organisations for a job a couple of days before his arrest.

"Police kept me blindfolded for seven consecutive days," he said.

"I still do not know where they had kept me.

"They poured water into my nose and mouth time and again. I felt my breathing would stop any moment and I would die," said Partha, who now works at a private organisation.

Police also lured him into making a confession, saying if he admitted to his involvement in the grenade attack, they would send him to a European country and arrange citizenship for him.

"I repeatedly told them that I knew nothing about it, but they tortured me even more.

"I wouldn't wish such terrible ordeal even on my worst enemy," said Partha.

On August 23, 2004, unknown persons sent an email to Bangla daily Prothom Alo threatening to assassinate Hasina. The CID arrested Partha on suspicion four days later.

He was produced before court on August 30, a day after the CID had filed a case over the death threat.

On September 14 that year, Partha was shown arrested in the case.

[This article was originally published in this paper on August 21, 2015.]

বাংলাদেশ মৎস্য উন্নয়ন কর্পোরেশন
বিএফডিসি ভবন, ২৩-২৪, কাওরান বাজার, তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২১৫।
পত্র নং-৩৩.০৩.০০০০.১০১.০৫.০০৯.১৭.২৩৫ তারিখঃ ১৯/০৮/২০১৯ খ্রি:
ভাড়া প্রদানের বিজ্ঞপ্তি
বাংলাদেশ মৎস্য উন্নয়ন কর্পোরেশনের মালিকানাধীন বিএফডিসি ভবন, ২৩-২৪, কাওরান বাজার, ঢাকা এর ৩য় ও ৪র্থ তলার ১১৩২৬ বর্গফুট জায়গা সরকারি, বেসরকারি, স্বনামধন্য ব্যাংক, বীমা/অন্যান্য আর্থিক ও বাণিজ্যিক প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট নির্ধারিত শর্তে ০১লা অক্টোবর ২০১৯ খ্রিঃ হতে ভাড়া দেয়া হবে। উক্ত জায়গা ভাড়া গ্রহণে আগ্রহী ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে আগামী ১৫ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০১৯ খ্রি: তারিখের মধ্যে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারী বরাবরে মাসিক প্রতি বর্গফুট হিসেবে ভাড়া/দর প্রস্তাবপূর্বক দরখাস্ত আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

(মুহাম্মদ হারুন অর রশীদ)
সচিব
GD-1382

Bangladesh Forest Industries Development Corporation (BFIDC)
Banshilpo Bhaban
73, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka
(Website: www.bfidc.gov.bd)
No. 22.03.0000.111.01.001.19-374 Date: 18/08/2019
Sealed tenders are hereby invited from Rubber Industries/Rubber Traders/Purchasers for sales of natural rubber produced by BFIDC during the month of August 2019 as follows:-
Tender No. Date and time of tender Submission date and time of tender Opening time of tender
Tender No. 03 22.08.2019 to 27.08.2019 27.08.2019
26.08.2019 (From 9:00am to 5:00pm in every working day) up to 12:00 noon at 12:15pm
Tender schedule, containing details terms & conditions, can be procured from (1) Cashier, Accounts Division, BFIDC, Head Office, 73, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka, (2) Office of the General Manager, BFIDC, Rubber Division, F/12, Chandgaon Residential Area, Chattogram, (3) Office of the General Manager, BFIDC, Rubber Division, Sreemangal, Moulavibazar and (4) Office of the General Manager, BFIDC, Rubber Division, Kakraid, Modhupur, Tangail on payment of Tk 200/- (two hundred) (non-refundable) in cash.
2.5% of the total quoted value to be submitted as earnest money in form of "DD/Pay Order" from any scheduled bank in favour of "BFIDC, Head Office, Dhaka" along with the tender. Tenderers will have to drop their tenders in the tender box kept in the (1) Office of the Director (Planning & Development), BFIDC, Head Office, 73, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka, (2) Office of the General Manager, BFIDC, Rubber Division, F/12, Chandgaon Residential Area, Chattogram and the tender box will be opened at 12:15pm on the same day in presence of the tenderer/tenderers (if any) in the respective offices mentioned above.
All rights are reserved by the authority to accept or reject tenders without assigning any reason.
Abu Md. Raihan
General Manager (Rubber) (Incharge)
Telephone: 9562252
GD-1381

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Northern Bangladesh Integrated Development Project
LGED Bhaban (Level-12), LGED
Agargaon, Dhaka-1207
www.lged.gov.bd
Request for Expressions of Interest (EOI)
For Selection of Individual Consultant (National)
Memo No: 46.02.0000.728.07.004.13.1816 Date: 19-08-2019
1 Ministry/division Local Government Division.
2 Agency Local Government Engineering Department.
3 Procuring entity name Project Director.
4 EOI Ref No. EOI No- 01 Date: 19-08-2019.
5 Procurement method Selection of Individual Consultant (Time Based).
6 Budget and source of fund JICA & GOB.
7 Name of the project Northern Bangladesh Integrated Development Project.
8 EOI closing date and time 18-09-2019 at 2:00pm.
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT:
Package No. Name of position No of post Qualification and experience Scope of services
SNOBI-LGED-OM-4(1) Project Monitoring and Reporting Support (PMRS) Consultant 01 (one) A qualified professional with a B.Sc Engineering (Civil) or its equivalent educational qualification with at least 12 (twelve) years of relevant work experience including experience in computer literacy. Candidate should assist in providing monitoring, reporting and technical expertise to the project by ensuring effective coordination. Respective ToR and agreement will detail out the responsibilities of the individuals.
The Project Director, Northern Bangladesh Integrated Development Project (NOBIDEP) now invites eligible applicant to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested applications are invited to provide information completing CV with other details as required as per the applications form in the Request for Application (RFA) to perform the services. A consultant will be selected using the selection sub methods in accordance with the Public Procurement Rules 2008, issued by the GoB. Services are expected to be commenced on November, 2019. Interested applicants may obtain further information and collect the Request for Application Documents/Forms by applying to the address below during office hours up to 04-09-2019.
Expressions of Interest (EOI) shall be submitted by the applications on or before 18-09-2019 on 2:00pm, in sealed envelope delivered to the undersigned and be clearly marked "Request for Expressions" of Interest for Selection of Individual Consultant along with the name of the post. Only short listed candidates will be invited for interview.
Abu Mohd. Shahriar
Project Director
Phone: 88-02-8181355
e-mail: pd.nobidep@lged.gov.bd
GD-1379