

Water tariff in Dhaka set to rise again

FROM PAGE 1
The Wasa MD has already given his consent to increase the price, said officials.
The move comes at a time when the people's income has been hit hard by the pandemic. The country is seeing a sharp spike in the Covid-19 infection rate for the last few weeks.

Wasa last year had increased the price of water by 25 percent. Before that hike, the prices of water were Tk 11.57 and Tk 37.04 per unit for residential and commercial uses respectively.

Last month, a study by South Asian Network on Economic Modelling (SANEM), a research organisation, found that the poverty rate in the country has doubled in two years.

The organisation interviewed 5,577 households across the country last year, and found that 42 percent of them were below the poverty line. The rate was 21.6 percent when the same group was interviewed in 2018.

There are allegations that residents of many city areas, including Jurain, are supplied with poor quality of tap water. Besides, many face acute shortage of drinking water and don't have access to sewerage network.

A group of residents of Jurain had staged a demonstration in front of the Wasa's Karwan Bazar headquarters on April 23, 2019, demanding supply of pure water.

The image of Mizanur Rahman, a resident carrying a jug full of dirty water as a sarcastic gift of "sherbet" for Wasa Managing Director Taqsem A Khan for saying "water supplied by Wasa was 100 percent safe" is still fresh in the minds of Dhaka residents.

'WASA PROPOSAL ILLOGICAL'
Terming the price hike proposal illogical, Chairman of Institute of Water and Environment M Inamul Haque said Dhaka Wasa increases the price of water and sewerage charges but the city dwellers are not getting better service.

He said the quality of tap water in many city areas did not improve, and many residents depend on private deep tube-wells for water.

Inamul said many areas of the capital still remain out of the coverage of Wasa's sewerage network.

Wasa Chairman Golam Mostafa said the company increases water price by five percent every year to adjust with inflation.

The board meeting would be held today and if it endorses the price hike proposal, the new price would be effective from July 1, he said.

About the coronavirus situation, Mostafa said they were not hiking the price much considering the pandemic although there was still a huge gap between the production cost and price of water.

"We only earn half of the production cost of water and we have to increase the price gradually to have a sustainable future for the company," he said.

Asked whether they would send the proposal to the LGRD ministry for approval, he said the Wasa board can approve proposals for hiking the price by up to five percent every year.

The Dhaka Wasa can increase the water tariff by five percent in consultation with the government as per section 22 of the Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority Act, 1996.

Wasa MD Taqsem said they want to hike the tariff by only five percent to adjust with inflation.

About increasing sewerage charges, he said they realise the charges only from clients in the city's 18 to 20 percent areas which are under coverage of sewerage network.

"We have a master plan to bring 100 percent of areas under the sewerage network. Once the plan is implemented, we will realise sewerage charges from clients across the city," he added.

She paddles rickshaw-van breaking free from decade of torture

KONGKON KARMAKER

Like any other women, Saptomi Rani Mungli, in her early life, used to dream of having a family filled with love and happiness. However, her dream was shattered as she had to undergo inhuman torture by her in-laws and her husband.

She finally parted with the torturous relationship eleven years of her tying the knot.

Leaving her husband's home, she took shelter at her emaciated parental home in Joypurhat's Akkelpur upazila.

But things became more complicated there as she did not have any means to feed her family members, including her elderly mother.

She never wanted to be a burden to her widowed mother.

Initially, she started selling betel leaves to generate income after returning to her parental home. However, the earnings were not enough to feed her family. With such low earnings, it was not possible to continue the studies of her three kids as well.

"I had become so distraught then", she said.

She had no savings to start any business in the area. Finally, Mungli had decided to grab the handle of a rickshaw in 2015 as profession. "The earning was relatively low for the first few months. Things started improving gradually.

"Now, I earn around Tk 500 per day", she said. Besides, other rickshaw pullers of the area are so helpful to her, said Mungli.

Mungli, the daughter of Bodha Mali, of Bishnupur village under Akkelpur Upazila of Joypurhat was born in an ultra-poor family. Her parents married her off to Bital Mali, son of Kashinath Mali, at Baman village under Kalai Upazila in 2002.

She was just 16 then. A bicycle, half tola gold and Tk 20,000 were given to Bital as dowry.

"I was taking time to adjust with everything at my new home", she said adding her in-laws and husband did not take time to start inflicting inhuman torture on her.

All the family members used to torture her almost every, she said while shedding drops of tears.

"They often beat me up with sticks. If I



Saptomi Rani Mungli pulling rickshaw-van on a road in in Joypurhat's Akkelpur upazila to manage food for her only daughter.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

protested, they would gag me," Mungli said.

"My husband even seared my skin with burning mosquito coil and cigarette. As the torture was unbearable, I would often come back to my parental home to get relief. But, they [her parents] forcibly sent her back to her in-law's house due their chronic poverty."

"They used to torture me more after my return", said Mungli.

She bore the traumatic relation for 11 years. In the meantime, she also became mother of three children.

Finally, Mungli left her husband forever in 2013, with her three children, to start a new life.

"I allowed her to stay here as I could not see her distress anymore", said Shepali Mali, the mother of Mungli.

Talking to The Daily Star, Mungli said

pulling a rickshaw-van is a pretty laborious job. Although her body ached much, she never quit.

These days, she is plying a battery-run rickshaw, which is a bit comfortable. "I ply it from morning to evening every day", she said adding "the money I get plying the rickshaw is enough to manage my family."

All her three children are studying now, she said. "It is my only dream to help my children grow with proper education," she said.

Selim Mahmud, chairman of Tilakpur UP, said that Mungli stays at a shabby house with her mother and children.

The UP administration is trying to allocate a house for them from the prime minister's special fund.

"She earns money through honesty that is an example to others", he said.

Covid cases, deaths climb

FROM PAGE 1
rise roughly every day, with experts speculating that a new variant -- probably the UK one, the South African or a locally mutated one -- is contributing to the rise.

Meanwhile, the health ministry yesterday issued a notice to five public hospitals in Dhaka to stay prepared to tackle the rising number of Covid-19 patients.

The hospitals are Lalkuthi Hospital in Mirpur, Dhaka Mohanagar Hospital, Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital, DNCC Corona Isolation Centre, and Sarkari Kormochari Hospital.

Yesterday, a total of 2,809 people tested positive for the highly transmissible virus in 24 hours till 8:00am. That number is also the highest in the last seven months.

On August 20, a total of 2,868 people tested positive.

The daily positivity rate also went up to 11.19 percent against a total of 25,111 tests. This rate is the highest in last two months.

The previous day, the positivity rate was 10.29 percent.

"The transmission trend is a steeply rising one. The transmission pattern suggests the

new variants -- locally mutated or imported ones -- may be contributing to it. I think we will see higher transmissions in the coming days," Prof Ridwanur Rahman, an infectious disease and medicine specialist, told The Daily Star yesterday.

With the latest count, the total number of novel coronavirus cases rose to 5,73,687 since the first three patients were detected in the country on March 8 last year.

Besides, the total number of deaths rose to 8,720.

"The number of tests is too few considering the level of transmission. The activities to curb the transmission is also not adequate, while people are also not maintaining health safety guidelines," Dr Mushtaq Hussain, consultant at the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), told this newspaper yesterday.

There is no alternative to increasing tests and isolating the detected cases, he opined.

Prof Ridwanur said, "Unless we go for rigorous activity to control the spread of the virus, the transmission will continue until 70 or 80 percent of the population become infected."

Policeman hurt in attack during half-day hartal in Shariatpur

STAR REPORT

A policeman was injured in an attack allegedly by a group of Awami League (AL) activists yesterday while the latter were observing a half-day hartal, expressing dissatisfaction over Sunday's judgement of a case filed for killing Public Prosecutor Habibur Rahman and his brother in Shariatpur in 2001.

Injured Bulbul Ahmed, a police constable, took treatment at Shariatpur Sadar Hospital.

"Some 25 to 30 protesters waylaid my motorcycle in front of Shariatpur Court around 9:30am while I was going to the court for official purpose," Bulbul told The Daily Star.

Although he introduced himself as a policeman, the protesters beat him up for defying the hartal, he added.

Officer in Charge (OC) of Palong Police Station Aslam Uddin said they detained Forhad Hossain Dhali and Sohail Rana Joy for their alleged involvement in the attack.

Shariatpur municipality Mayor Parvej Rahman John and his followers called a half-day hartal yesterday, said ANL Kumar Dey, general secretary of Shariatpur district unit AL. Meanwhile, John, son of slain Habibur Rahman, during a protest rally yesterday claimed that some key accused in the case were acquitted from the charges.

On Sunday, Shariatpur Additional District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Shawkat Hossain sentence six people to death, four others to life term imprisonment and another three to two-year imprisonment in the double murder case. Meanwhile, 39 other accused in the case were acquitted from as charges brought against them could not be proved, according to the verdict.

On October 5 in 2001, Public Prosecutor (PP) Habibur Rahman, also joint general secretary of district unit AL, and his brother Monir Hossain were shot to death at their residence in Shariatpur Sadar upazila.

The following day, slain Habibur's wife Jinnat Rahman filed a case with Palong Police Station in this connection.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Local Government Engineering Department
District: Pabna
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.7600.000.07.076.2020/758 Date: 21.03.21

e-Tender Notice: 26/2020-21 (OTM) [Works]

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of undermentioned work:

Sl No.	Name of work	Package No.	Tender ID No.	Tender security (Tk)	Time for completion
1	Rehabilitation of Satbaria-Khairan-Chinakhorra road (ID-176832003) (Ch. 0+000 - 12+175 Km.), Upazila: Sujanagar, District Pabna. [Salvage cost BDT 18,98,959.00]	PAB/AF-135	558902	27,50,000.00	547 days
2	Rehabilitation of Dashuria GCM - Atghoria Upazila H/Q (Ishwardi Part) road (ID-176392002) (Ch. 0+000 - 6+518 Km.), Upazila: Ishwardi, District Pabna.	PAB/AF-136	560399	20,00,000.00	450 days

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 (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches **17:00pm date: 21/05/2021 [OTM of e-PW3(D)]**.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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GD-575

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
অধিনায়কের কার্যালয়
র‍্যাপিড এ্যাকশন ব্যাটালিয়ন-১১
আদমজীনগর, নারায়ণগঞ্জ
উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

স্মারক নং-র‍্যাব-১১/৯৮২৯/০২৫৮১০৮/অন্যান্য ভবন ও স্থাপনা মেরামত ও সংরক্ষণ/হিসাব/১৮০ তারিখঃ ০৭ চৈত্র ১৪২৭
২১ মার্চ ২০২১

"The Public Procurement Regulation-2008" মোতাবেক চলতি ২০২০-২০২১ অর্থ বৎসরে র‍্যাব-১১, নারায়ণগঞ্জ ব্যাটালিয়ন সদরের সাব-স্টেশন বিভিন্ন মেরামত/পরিবর্তনকরণ কাজ বাস্তবায়নের জন্য প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশের ঠিকাদার/নির্মাণ প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হইতে সীলমোহরযুক্ত বামে প্রতিযোগিতামূলক দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছেঃ

১। মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	ঃ স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়।
২। সংস্থা	ঃ র‍্যাপিড এ্যাকশন ব্যাটালিয়ন (র‍্যাব)।
৩। সংগ্রহ সস্তার নাম	ঃ পরিচালক, র‍্যাব-১১, আদমজীনগর, নারায়ণগঞ্জ।
৪। সংগ্রাহক সস্তার জেলা	ঃ নারায়ণগঞ্জ।
৫। দরপত্রের বিষয়	ঃ মেরামত/পরিবর্তনকরণ।
৬। দরপত্রের সূত্র নম্বর	ঃ স্মারক নং র‍্যাব ফেঃ কোঃ ৫৯৬/উন্নয়ন/কন্ট্রোল/৪২০ তারিখ ১৪ মার্চ ২০২১।
৭। দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি	ঃ উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (OTM)।
৮। বাজেট ও বরাদ্দের উৎস	ঃ রাজস্ব বাজেটের আওতায় র‍্যাবের অনুকূলে বরাদ্দ।
৯। দরপত্র প্যাকেজ নং	ঃ উন্নয়ন ০২/২০২০-২০২১।
১০। দরপত্র সিডিউল সর্বশেষ প্রান্তির তারিখ	ঃ ০৫ মার্চ ২০২১ত্রিঃ সময় ১২৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১১। দরপত্র জমা প্রদানের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ ০৮ মার্চ ২০২১ত্রিঃ সময়ঃ ১২০০ ঘটিকা।
১২। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ ০৮ মার্চ ২০২১ত্রিঃ সময়ঃ ১২৩০ ঘটিকা।
১৩। দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারীর অফিস ও ঠিকানা	ঃ র‍্যাপিড এ্যাকশন ব্যাটালিয়ন-১১, আদমজীনগর, নারায়ণগঞ্জ।
১৪। দরপত্রের বিক্রয়ের স্থান	ঃ র‍্যাপিড এ্যাকশন ব্যাটালিয়ন-১১, আদমজীনগর, নারায়ণগঞ্জ।
১৫। দরপত্রের সাথে যে সমস্ত কাগজপত্র জমা প্রদান করতে হইবে	ঃ র‍্যাপিড এ্যাকশন ব্যাটালিয়ন-১১, আদমজীনগর, নারায়ণগঞ্জ। "The Public Procurement Regulation-2008" অনুযায়ী মেরামত/সংস্কার কাজের অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন সরকারি/স্বায়ত্তশাসিত সংস্থার তালিকাভুক্ত বৈধ ঠিকাদার। সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজ বাস্তবায়ন সংক্রান্ত ঠিকাদারী লাইসেন্স, ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, হালনাগাদ আয়কর সনদপত্র, ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদপত্র, দরপত্র জামানতের পে-অর্ডার এবং কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা সনদপত্র।

সিডি-৫৭৩	সিডি-৫৭৩	সিডি-৫৭৩	সিডি-৫৭৩	সিডি-৫৭৩
সিডি নং	কাজের বিবরণ	সিডিউলের মূল্য	দরপত্র জামানত	কাজ সমাপ্তির সময়
ক।	র‍্যাব-১১, নারায়ণগঞ্জ ব্যাটালিয়ন সদরের সাব-স্টেশন বিভিন্ন মেরামত/পরিবর্তনকরণ	৫০০.০০	১০,০০০.০০	কার্যদেশ প্রদানের তারিখ হতে ১০ দিন

১৭। দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম
১৮। দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী
১৯। দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা
২০। দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার সাথে যোগাযোগের মাধ্যম
২১। বিশেষ জ্ঞাতব্যঃ
ক। ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠানের স্বত্বাধিকারীর স্বাক্ষরযুক্ত প্যাডে আবেদনপূর্বক পরিচালক, র‍্যাব-১১, আদমজীনগর, নারায়ণগঞ্জ হইতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত দরপত্র সংগ্রহ করা যাইবে।
খ। দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য তথ্যাবলী দরপত্র সংগ্রহকালে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর কার্যালয় হইতে জানা যাইবে।
গ। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ হইতে দাখিলকৃত দরপত্র ৩০ দিন পর্যন্ত বলবৎ থাকিবে।
ঘ। অনুমোদিত বরাদ্দের আদ্যে কার্যদেশ প্রদান করা হইবে। এতদসংক্রান্ত কোন আপত্তি গ্রহণযোগ্য হইবে না।
ঙ। দরপত্রে উল্লেখিত সময়ের মধ্যে কার্য সম্পাদন করিতে হইবে।
চ। কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন অর্থবা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ কিংবা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করে।
ছ। কোন প্রকার কাটা ছেঁড়া, ঘষামাজা বা কারেকটিং ফ্রুইড ব্যবহার করা যাবে না।
জ। সিডিউল ক্রয়ের সময় অবশ্যই বাংলাদেশের তালিকাভুক্ত ঠিকাদার প্রতিষ্ঠানের লাইসেন্সের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি আনতে হবে।

খন্দকার সাইমুল আলম, পিবিজিএম, পিবিজিএমএস
লেঃ কর্ণেল
পরিচালক
র‍্যাব-১১, আদমজীনগর, নারায়ণগঞ্জ
ফোনঃ ৭৬৯৪৯৩৩

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