

Driving, not a child's play

Minor auto-rickshaw drivers run the show in Moulvibazar's Kulaura

MINTU DESHWARA

Children and teenagers are driving battery-powered auto-rickshaws in Kulaura of Moulvibazar due to a lack of surveillance from the authorities.

Aged between eight and 14, most of these child drivers are running auto-rickshaws at reckless speeds on the major roads of the town.

At times, they even have their headphones on, listening to music or talking to friends. Locals alleged that even traffic police turn a blind eye to this situation.

Though there's no exact number, locals say the number of minor drivers could exceed 100.

Sajeb Ahmed, a 12-year-old auto-rickshaw driver, said, "I get Tk 100 for working 8-9 hours in a hotel. If I drive an auto-rickshaw, I can easily earn Tk 400 to 500 per day, after renting it for Tk 300."

"My father used to drive a rickshaw. But since he fell sick, I took up this job six months ago," said Jibon (13).

This correspondent also spoke to many of the parents of these child drivers. They said due to their financial limitations, they are in a way forced to let their children engage in such risky work.

Auto-rickshaw driver Mohan Mia said, "These children are too young to realise the consequence of their reckless driving. Sometimes, they



overtake vehicles without being aware of its dangers."

Rajat Kanti Bhattacharya, former professor of Yakub Tajul Women's College, said, "Even though it's illegal to drive a vehicle without a licence, these minors are driving these battery-powered vehicles in broad daylight. Their driving often leads to accidents."

Contacted, Enamul Haque, in charge of Kulaura traffic police, said, "I've been in Kulaura for a few days now. We'll take the necessary steps to get to the bottom of this."

Kulaura UNO ATM Farhad Chowdhury said child labour is a punishable offence and in a monthly meeting of the Law and Order Committee, discussions were held to take effective steps in this regard.

Regarding the financial constraints of the parents, the official said they will look into the issue.

Md Moshahid Bakth Chowdhury, labour officer at Moulvibazar, said the labour policy states no one under the age of 18 can drive. If any transport organisation hires underage drivers, it won't be allowed to register its vehicles.

Md Dalim Uddin, assistant director of the BRTA office in Moulvibazar, said, "We don't give driving licence to children. It is the responsibility of the traffic police to monitor who are driving the vehicles."

Hasan Mohammad Naser Rikabder, additional superintendent of police in Moulvibazar, said, "We're working on the issue."

Not even

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rice was supplied from the district headquarters' warehouse before Eid," said Rafiqul Islam.

"The delay occurred due to the corruption of food warehouse officials," he alleged.

Ulipur Upazila Project Implementation Officer (PIO) Siraj Uddoula said the VGF rice was allotted five days before Eid.

"It was not possible to distribute the rice in some unions in time following some problems in the warehouse," said the PIO.

Ulipur food warehouse officer Shahinur Rahman declined to make any comments regarding the issue when this correspondent contacted him.

"Since Ulipur food warehouse had a rice shortage, we supplied rice from the district headquarters warehouse and the entire allocation was supplied on Saturday afternoon, a day before Eid," said Kurigram district food controller Abu Bakkar. He said allegations against warehouse officers are being investigated.

Argentina plans to open

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Worship of Argentina. He led a four-member delegation to Bangladesh on a three-day visit and held meetings with the State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahrir Alam, Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen and the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI).

During the visit, beginning Sunday, Bangladesh and Argentina signed a memorandum of understanding on the "Establishment of the Bilateral Consultations between Bangladesh and Argentina".

Shabbir Ahmad Chowdhury, secretary (West) at the foreign ministry and Claudio Javier, undersecretary of Argentinian foreign ministry signed the MoU at the state guest house

Padma yesterday.

Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen and Argentine Ambassador to Bangladesh (resident in New Delhi) Hugo Gobbi witnessed the MoU signing ceremony.

As Shahrir Alam emphasised on cooperation between the two countries in the field of agriculture, the Argentine undersecretary informed that Argentina is open to exporting soyabean, beef and fertiliser to Bangladesh.

Both the sides acknowledged that the current world-wide crisis in the supply of fertiliser and energy might hamper the agricultural production further.

The delegation also met Tapan Kanti Ghosh, senior secretary of the commerce ministry and additional secretary Ruhul

Amin Talukder from the agriculture ministry.

Javier also spoke of possibility of signing preferential trade agreement between Bangladesh and MERCOSUR or Southern Common Market a trade bloc of South America.

Claudio also said the two countries can have talks on football cooperation at technical levels as Bangladesh is a football enthusiast country.

Bangladesh's export to Argentina is about \$60 million, while import from Argentina is about \$700 million.

"As Bangladesh is graduating out of LDC, we are exploring our markets. We will need to further study the market as we go forward," Shabbir Ahmad Chowdhury told The Daily Star.

We're still deprived of justice

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a house during a wedding ceremony in Pallabi's Irani camp area and picked up Rocky and Jonny, who was 28 years old, on February 8, 2014.

Police informants Sumon and Russell called police after Jonny slapped Sumon for harassing women at a programme. Police brutally tortured the brothers at the station.

After Jonny fell sick the next day, he was admitted to a local clinic. Later, he was transferred to Suhrawardy Hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

On August 8, 2014, Rocky filed a case with Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka.

On September 9, 2020, Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of the court sentenced three former officers of

Pallabi Police Station to life imprisonment and two others to seven years in jail.

The three officers are former sub-inspector Zahidur Rahman, and former assistant sub-inspectors Qamruzzaman Mintu and Rashedul Islam. The two other convicts Sumon and Russell.

Besides, the court asked each of the officers to pay Tk 2 lakh to the plaintiff as compensation.

This was first verdict under the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act, 2013.

Mintu and Russell are on the run.

After the verdict, Zahidur, Rashedul and Sumon filed three separate appeals with the HC, challenging their conviction and sentences.

On November 14 last

year, the HC admitted Zahidur's appeal for hearing, and stayed the trial court's direction for compensation.

And so, the family still has not received any compensation, BLAST lawyer Md Rezaul Karim told The Daily Star.

Later, the HC admitted the appeals of Rashedul and Sumon for hearing. All three appeals are now pending with the HC.

Hearing will be held after the convicts' lawyers take initiative, Rezaul said.

Zahidur's lawyer Kondaker Gulzar Hossain earlier told this correspondent that they will not move the appeal before the HC after the "situation changes".

The lawyer refused to give any details about the issue.

Bagerhat welcomes Sreemangal's tourism

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correspondent witnessed the presence of a large number of visitors.

Law enforcers were seen on alert to ensure security for visitors.

Although Shat Gambuj Mosque draws visitors throughout the year, the number of tourists increases during Eid. Many visited the site to hang out with their families.

Besides, people were also seen visiting Khanjel Dighi, Shrine of Mohammad Taher, Shrine of Zindapir, single gambuj mosque, Pocha dighi, Chukhola Mosque and Singra Mosque.

Ayodhya Math, Barakpur Sundarbans Resort, Bagerbazar municipality park, Chulkathi, and Chandramahal park were

also buzzing with visitors.

Aslam Sheikh, a teacher of the capital's Dhaka College, and Manirul Islam, a trader from Chattogram, said they came to Shat Gambuj Mosque with their families, as travelling has become easy following the inauguration of Padma Bridge.

Zakir Hossain, manager of Barakpur Sundarbans Resort, hoped to recoup a part of the losses the businesses suffered due to the pandemic in the last two years.

Zayed, a custodian of Bagerhat Museum, attributed the greater arrival of tourists to the newly opened Padma Bridge.

Over 4,000 people visited Shat Gambuj Mosque on Monday, the second day of Eid, he said.

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Due to the floods, however, there were little to no tourists in these areas for the last three weeks.

Shamsul Haque, secretary of Sreemangal's Tourism Seba Sangstha, said every year, they wait for Eid holidays, as it is a profitable time for business.

"The ongoing floods have caused a lot of damage to tourism. For the last two years, our area's tourism has lagged behind due to the pandemic. And now, the floods have taken us further back," he said.

Tanvirul Arefin Lincoln, owner of Sreemangal Shantubari Eco Cottage, said most tourists queried when the flood waters would recede.

"No one wants to believe that Sreemangal hasn't been affected by the floods. Many cancelled their bookings, and my cottage has been empty for the last 20 days," he said.

Arman Khan, general manager of Grand Sultan Tea Resort and Golf, said, "There was no flood in Sreemangal, yet we're not getting any bookings. Sylhet doesn't mean

Sreemangal; it's a separate upazila."

Shahidul Islam, ranger of Moulvibazar Wildlife and Nature Conservation Department, said only 1,500 tourists have entered Lawachhara National Park in the last two days, whereas the numbers should've been around 7,000.

Selim Ahmed, owner of Grand Selim Resort, said there hadn't been a single booking for Eid so far.

Sreemangal Upazila Nirbahi Officer Ali Rajib Mahmud Mithun said there was no flood in Sreemangal. Tourists can come here and travel in comfort. Our upazila and police administration are ready for tourists' safety.

Moulvibazar Deputy Commissioner Mir Nahid Ahsan said Sreemangal is important for the country's tourism industry. The tourism hubs weren't flooded since they are in the highlands.

That is why there is no problem for tourists in those areas. But it is the tourists' misconception that has got them thinking that the entirety of Sylhet is flooded, he added.

Momen remembers

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in memory of Abe.

President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed deep shock at Abe's death.

People of Japan sincerely appreciated the condolence expressed by the government and people of Bangladesh, said the Japanese embassy in Dhaka.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Wage Earners' Welfare Board
Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare & Overseas Employment
Probashi Kallyan Bhaban
71-72, Eskaton Garden, Ramna, Dhaka-1000

Memo No. 49.04.0000.009.14.001.22-246 Date: 07-07-2022

e-Tender Notice (OTM)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of works as mentioned in the following table:

Tender ID No.	Name of work	Last selling date & time	Tender closing date and time
717530	Sand filling in low land area of Bangabandhu Wage Earners' Center under The Wage Earners' Welfare Board at Lonjoni Para, Boura, Khilkhet, Dhaka.	25-07-2022 5:00pm	26-07-2022 11:30am

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 Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches.

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

Musharrat Jebin
Director (Admin & Development)
Joint Secretary
Wage Earners' Welfare Board
E-mail: d.ad@wewb.gov.bd

GD-1369

RAK CERAMICS **RAK Ceramics (Bangladesh) Limited**
RAK Tower (7th, 8th & 9th Floor), Plot # 1/A, Jasimuddin Avenue, Sector # 3, Uttara Model Town, Dhaka-1230

NOTICE OF THE 9TH EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 9th Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) of RAK Ceramics (Bangladesh) Limited will be held on Thursday, August 04, 2022 at 11:00 am (Bangladesh Time). Pursuant to the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission's Order No. SEC/SRMIC/94-231/91 dated 31 March 2021, the EGM will be held virtually by using digital platform through the following link <https://meetbd.live/RAKegm2022> to transact the following businesses:

AGENDA

- To consider purchase of land for establishing new plant(s) from (1) Mr. SAK Ekramuzzaman, Managing Director, RAK Ceramics (Bangladesh) Limited, (2) Palli Properties Ltd. (in which Mr. SAK Ekramuzzaman is a Director and member) and (3) Mashram Agro Ltd. (in which Mr. SAK Ekramuzzaman is a Director and member).

Proposed Resolution:
"RESOLVED that the Company in order to establish new plant(s) shall purchase 33.91 acre (3391.32 decimals) of land at Bhutulia, District- Gazipur under Dhanua and Gazipur Mouja from (1) Mr. SAK Ekramuzzaman, Managing Director, RAK Ceramics (Bangladesh) Limited, (2) Palli Properties Ltd. (in which Mr. SAK Ekramuzzaman is a Director and member) and (3) Mashram Agro Ltd. (in which Mr. SAK Ekramuzzaman is a Director and member) at the price of BDT 185,000/- per decimal totaling to BDT 627,394,200/- only (Taka Six Hundred Twenty Seven Million Three Hundred Ninety Four Thousand Two Hundred) (excluding registration and other expenses) and the Company shall execute all documents, including but not limited to Agreement for Sale, Saf-Kabla Deed etc., in this regard."

QR code for EGM link

By order of the Board of Directors
Sd/-
(Muhammad Shahidul Islam FCS)
Company Secretary

Place: Dhaka
Date: July 12, 2022

Notes:

- The Members whose name appeared in the Share/Depository Register as on the 'Record Date' (i.e. July 04, 2022), are eligible to attend and vote in the meeting.
- In order to comply with the BSEC notification No. BSEC/CMRRCD/2009-193/10/Admin/118 dated March 22, 2021, the Board of Directors has recommended to obtain approval of the Members in the General Meeting of the Company in order to purchase 33.91 acre (3391.32 decimals) of land at Bhutulia, District- Gazipur under Dhanua and Gazipur Mouja from Mr. SAK Ekramuzzaman, (Managing Director of RAK Ceramics (Bangladesh) Limited), Palli Properties Ltd. and Mashram Agro Ltd. (Mr. SAK Ekramuzzaman is a Director and Member of both the Companies) at the price of BDT 185,000/- per decimal totaling to BDT 627,394,200/- only (excluding registration and other expenses).
- A Members entitled to attend and vote at the EGM may appoint a proxy to attend and vote in his/her behalf (such a proxy shall be a shareholder of the Company). The Proxy Form, duly filled, signed and stamped of BDT 20 must be sent through email to the Company sharedepartment.bgd@rakceramics.com not later than 48 hours before the time fixed for the meeting.
- The Members will be able to submit their questions/comments and vote electronically 24 hours before commencement of the EGM and during the EGM. For logging in to the system, the shareholders need to put their 16 digit Beneficial Owner (BO) ID number and other credential as proof of their identity by visiting the link <https://meetbd.live/RAKegm2022>
- Members are requested to log in to the system prior to the meeting start time of 11:00 am (Bangladesh Time) on August 04, 2022. The webcast will start at 10:45 am on August 04, 2022. Please contact +8801730058055 and +8801730055355 for any technical difficulties in accessing the virtual meeting.
- Detail log in process has been sent through email to respective member's mail ID available in their BO Account maintained with the Depository. The detailed procedures to participate in the virtual meeting along with link are also available in the Company's website www.rakceramics.com/bangladesh
- In case of non-receipt of the Notice of the 9th Extraordinary General Meeting sent through courier, Members may collect the same from the Registered Office of the Company within 01 August 2022.