

Sheba's fuel queue service draws mixed reactions

MAHMUDUL HASAN

On-demand service platform Sheba.xyz has launched a "Fuel Refuelling Driver Service" that allows customers to hire a driver to queue at a filling station on their behalf and refuel the vehicle. The move has drawn mixed reactions online as fuel shortages continue to grip Dhaka and other cities.

The company announced the service through its verified social media page, saying customers can book a driver via the Sheba app or a dedicated hotline. The driver will collect the vehicle, wait in the fuel queue, refuel it, and return it -- sparing users hours of waiting.

The service is priced at Tk 175 per hour during the day and Tk 225 per hour at night.

The launch comes as motorists across the country have been forced to wait several hours at pumps or leave without fuel, following supply disruptions linked to escalating tensions stemming from the US-Israel war on Iran.

The announcement received a mixed reception on social media. Supporters called it a practical workaround.

"This is called entrepreneurship.



Motorists across the country have been forced to wait several hours at pumps or leave without fuel following supply disruptions.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Wonderful," commented Facebook user Arzan Hosen on Sheba's post.

Another user, Md Jahidul Islam, said time was more valuable than money, while others described the idea as "unique."

Facebook user Itekkhar Uddin questioned the value proposition, noting that if fuel worth Tk 1,000 takes three to

four hours to obtain, the total cost under the service would rise to Tk 1,525 to Tk 1,700 during the day and Tk 1,675 to Tk 1,900 at night.

He argued that service charges could exceed the cost of fuel itself during long waits, and added that high-volume vehicle owners typically have personal drivers

who handle such tasks at no extra cost.

Adnan Imtiaz Halim, chief executive officer of Sheba, said the service grew directly out of customer feedback.

"We began receiving calls and messages from our existing customers, especially those who already use our 'On-Demand Driver service,'" he said.

"Someone shared that he had to take leave from work just to stand in line for fuel. Another mentioned that his driver spent the entire night at a pump and then had to drive during the day without proper rest."

"This service is not designed to compete with fuel pricing; it is about saving time, reducing stress, and offering an option to those who cannot afford to wait in long lines," he said, acknowledging the cost concern.

"For someone who has the time and flexibility, the queue may be manageable. But for many working professionals and families, it isn't."

On safety, Halim said all drivers had been verified and trained, with tracking and support systems in place. He described the service as temporary.

"We are optimistic that the fuel supply situation will stabilise soon, and this need will naturally go away," he said.

Dollar pushes to one-week high

REUTERS, Singapore/Tokyo

The US dollar rose to its highest level in a week against major currencies on Monday before paring gains as renewed US-Iran tensions and fading hopes for a Middle East peace deal sent investors toward safe havens.

The United States said on Sunday that it had seized an Iranian cargo ship that tried to run its blockade, while Iran said it would retaliate, stoking fears about a resumption of hostilities.

Tehran also said it would not participate in a second round of negotiations that the US had hoped to kick off before its two-week ceasefire with Iran expires on Tuesday.

"The weekend escalation revives the geopolitical risk premium just as markets had started pricing a peace dividend," said Charu Chanana, chief investment strategist at Saxo, adding that higher oil "is not just an energy story, it is a growth-and-rates story."

The euro was last down 0.05 percent at \$1.1754 after hitting a one-week low of \$1.1729 earlier in the session, while sterling was 0.15 percent lower at \$1.3497. The risk-sensitive Australian dollar fell 0.3 percent to \$0.7145.

The dollar index, which measures the US currency against six peers, recouped some of its recent losses to rise to its highest in a week at 98.47, before dipping to trade at 98.34.

The index is down 1.55 percent in April. It had surged 2.3 percent in March on haven demand after the war broke out.

Midland Bank signs MoU with Axentec to adopt tier-4 cloud technology

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Midland Bank PLC has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Axentec PLC, a connectivity, cloud and technology solutions company and a subsidiary of Robi Axiata PLC, to adopt advanced cloud technology for its data centre and computing needs.

Imtiaz U Ahmed, managing director and CEO of the bank, and Md Adil Hossain Noble, managing director and CEO of the technology solutions company, signed the MoU at the bank's head office in Gulshan-2, Dhaka recently, according to a press release.

Axentec recently launched the country's first locally hosted tier-4 cloud platform, titled "Axentec Cloud", marking a milestone in Bangladesh's

digital infrastructure landscape.

Under the agreement, Midland Bank will use the platform to enhance operational efficiency, data security and the scalability of its technology

infrastructure. Axentec will also support the bank's computing and cloud service needs, helping accelerate its digital transformation and improve customer services.



Md Adil Hossain Noble, managing director and CEO of Axentec PLC, and Imtiaz U Ahmed, managing director and CEO of Midland Bank PLC, pose for a photograph after signing the memorandum of understanding at the bank's head office in Gulshan-2, Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: MIDLAND BANK

ICDs raise charges

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"With the latest ICD hike, the cost of import and export business will rise sharply," said Khairul Alam Suzan, former vice-president of the Bangladesh Freight Forwarders Association (BAFFA), pointing to earlier increases in charges and tariffs in December last year.

Shipping agents have echoed similar concerns, warning that the higher costs could weigh on external trade performance.

The Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) has criticised the decision as unilateral, calling for a government-led committee to assess the actual cost impact before any tariff adjustments are made.

SM Abu Tayyab, director of the BGMEA, said the combined pressure of higher port tariffs, ICD charges and rising freight costs would hit the already struggling readymade garment sector hard.

Bangladesh's merchandise exports, heavily dependent on apparel, have recorded eight consecutive months of decline as of March. Exports fell by more than 18 percent year-on-year,

dropping to \$3.48 billion last month from \$4.25 billion a year earlier.

The dual increase in logistics and handling costs is likely to squeeze profit margins further, particularly in low-margin sectors.

"With exports already on a softer trend, this will push exporters further onto the back foot," said Riad Mahmud, managing director of industrial manufacturing company National Polymer Group.

He said truck fares rose by 6 percent to 7 percent within hours of the fuel hike announcement and are likely to settle 18 percent to 20 percent higher. "These are cumulative pressures," he said. "Transport costs are rising, and ICD handling charges are also going up. All of this directly increases export costs."

He added that exporters are especially exposed because most orders are agreed in advance. "We cannot revise prices after contracts are signed. The additional costs must be absorbed by exporters."

Salauddin Sikder, general manager (export) at RFL, said the impact is particularly severe for exporters of non-traditional goods such as

plastics, doors and luggage, where shipments are smaller and fixed costs per document are higher.

He said the total cost per container has risen from around Tk 14,000 to about Tk 23,000, an increase of nearly 70 percent to 80 percent.

"Exporters are facing a double burden. Raw material prices have surged due to global geopolitical tensions, while local charges have also increased, leaving little room to absorb costs," said Sikder.

"If our prices rise disproportionately compared with competitors like China or Vietnam, we risk losing orders," he added.

Meanwhile, businesses are bracing for further changes as the Department of Shipping is due to meet stakeholders in Dhaka tomorrow to discuss cost adjustments for lighter vessels.

Shafiq Ahmed, convener of the Bangladesh Water Transport Coordination Cell, said a lighter vessel currently consumes around 3,500 litres of diesel on a round trip between Chattogram and Dhaka. Freight for transporting cement clinker stands at Tk 550 per tonne.

Farmers

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"Even after standing in line at the pump, fuel is not available. Diesel price has also increased. We were compelled to raise the machine rent," he said.

"In a few more days, when the full season of rice and maize harvesting begins, pressure will increase further."

Maize thresher operator Rafiqul Islam from Kurigram, another northern district, has started charging Tk 200 to Tk 300 more than last year.

More than four litres of fuel are needed to thresh maize grown on one bigha of land, he said.

"Diesel price has gone up. There are labour costs too. This is also resulting in arguments with farmers."

Farmer Ranju Mia of Kharjani Char in Gaibandha sadar upazila cultivated maize on 12 bighas of land, investing Tk 250,000.

Due to fertiliser and fuel shortages, the yield has been poor this year. Again, because of the sudden rise in fuel prices, threshing and transportation costs have increased, he said, fearing losses.

"There is no electricity in the char area, and the soil does not retain water. Frequent irrigation is needed. The amount of paddy we will get will not even cover the expenses," said Ruhul Amin, another grower from Rasulpur Char in the Fulchhari upazila.

US trade bodies urge

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The association urged the USTR to avoid any action that would further increase tariffs on these goods.

It also said the broad, multi-country investigation appears to be aimed at a pre-determined outcome rather than a focused review of specific practices.

The AFAA added that the investigation may be used to recreate tariff rates and structures that existed under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA).

It also cited Treasury Secretary Bessent, who said, "We will get back to the same tariff level for the countries. It will be just in a less direct and slightly more convoluted manner."

The association warned that this approach could weaken the government's ability to properly investigate and address specific foreign trade barriers.

In conclusion, the letter said the industry should not face unintended negative impacts from these investigations. It warned against further tariffs on an already heavily taxed sector, saying such measures would raise costs for American families while doing little to boost domestic production due to existing capacity and investment limits.

BANGLADESH EXPORTS SHOW STRONG GROWTH IN US MARKET

For example, in 2025, clothing exports -- accounting for 86 percent of Bangladesh's total exports to the

US -- rose by 12.36 percent to 266.15 crore square metre equivalents (SME). In value terms, exports increased by 11.75 percent to \$8.20 billion compared with 2024, according to the USTR.

Footwear exports from Bangladesh reached 1.78 crore pairs, a rise of 76.43 percent in 2025 compared with 2024. In value terms, footwear exports grew by 52.67 percent to \$391.77 million.

Travel goods exports increased by 26.32 percent to 2.15 crore pieces in 2025. Their value also rose by 35.44 percent to \$12.37 million, the USTR said.

In another letter, the Forced Labor Working Group (FLWG) of the AFAA, along with 17 other trade organisations, urged the USTR not to impose tariffs linked to forced labour investigations.

They said companies that have invested heavily in compliance systems and are working to eliminate forced labour in supply chains should not be penalised through broad tariff measures that do not distinguish between responsible firms and bad actors.

The letter added that, under Agreements on Reciprocal Trade (ART) and related framework negotiations with the US, several economies -- including some covered by the investigation -- have already committed to protecting labour rights and banning imports made with forced labour.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Police
Office of the Police Commissioner
Rangpur Metropolitan Police
www.rmpm.gov.bd

Memo No. RPMP/053/Ration Date: 20 April 2026

e-Tender Notice

e-Tenders are hereby invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of the following goods for Ration Supply of Rangpur Metropolitan Police for the 4th Quarter of FY 2025-2026.

| Sl. No. | Tender ID | Name of procurement | Last selling | Closing date |
|---------|-----------|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. | 1261465 | Procurement of Soybean Oil | 29-Apr-2026 16:00 | 30-Apr-2026 16:00 |

Important Instructions:

- ▶ This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal.
- ▶ To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal 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 bank branch.
- ▶ Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from the e-GP help desk.

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GD-868

গাজীপুর উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ
গাজীপুর

স্মারক নং: ২৫.১২.৩৩০০.০০০.০০১.০০.০০০১.২৪-১৮১ তারিখ: ০৭ বৈশাখ ১৪৩৩
২০ এপ্রিল ২০২৬

পেশাজীবী প্রকৌশলী ও স্থপতি হিসেবে তালিকাভুক্তির লক্ষ্যে বিজ্ঞপ্তি

গাজীপুর উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষের আওতাভুক্ত এলাকার মধ্যে ভবন/হিয়ারত নির্মাণের লক্ষ্যে জনসাধারণ হতে যেসকল আবেদন (নকশা) অত্র দপ্তরে জমা দেওয়া হয়, ঐ সকল নকশায় প্রকৌশলী ও স্থপতি স্বাক্ষর করে থাকেন। স্বাক্ষরকারী প্রকৌশলী ও স্থপতিগণ গাজীপুর উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষের তালিকাভুক্ত হওয়ার প্রয়োজনীয়তা রয়েছে। এমতাবস্থায়, গাজীপুর উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষে প্রকৌশলী ও স্থপতি হিসেবে তালিকাভুক্তির লক্ষ্যে আগামী ১২ মে ২০২৬খ্রিঃ তারিখের মধ্যে নিম্নোক্ত শর্তে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা হচ্ছে।

শর্তাবলিঃ

1. IEB/IAB/IDEB পেশাজীবী সংগঠন এর তালিকাভুক্ত প্রকৌশলী ও স্থপতি হতে হবে।
2. আবেদনপত্রে আবেদনকারীর নাম, পিতার নাম, মাতা/স্বামীর নাম, স্থায়ী ঠিকানা, বর্তমান ঠিকানা, বয়স ও অভিজ্ঞতা ইত্যাদি উল্লেখপূর্বক পূর্ণাঙ্গ জীবন বৃত্তান্ত দিতে হবে।
3. আবেদনের সঙ্গে সদ্য তোলা ০২ (দুই) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি এবং NID কার্ডের ফটোকপি সংযুক্ত করে দিতে হবে।
4. একাডেমিক সার্টিফিকেট (বি.এস.সি ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং/এম.এস.সি/পি.এইচ.ডি) যুক্ত করতে হবে।
5. প্রফেশনাল সার্টিফিকেট PEng, DMINB, SEng, MIAB সংযুক্ত করতে হবে এবং
6. এতদসংক্রান্ত কোনো অভিজ্ঞতা থাকলে অভিজ্ঞতার ডকুমেন্টস বা বিস্তারিত বিবরণ সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।

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