

## Fishing in sea becomes risky

5,000 trawlers lack life-saving accessories

**MUAZZEM HOSSAIN SHAKIL,**  
*Cox's Bazar*

Over one lakh fishermen risk their lives while fishing in the Bay of Bengal in inclement weather by about 5,000 trawlers having no life-saving equipment.

This results in death of many fishermen during natural calamities.

Fishermen have complained that trawler owners do not supply life jacket or buoy to them despite repeated reminders. Even many owners expressed their inability to distribute radio at a nominal price to know precautionary signals of weather. The Fisheries Department also do not take effective measures to mitigate sufferings of the fishermen.

Sources in Cox's Bazar Fisheries Department said there

are about 7,000 small or big fishing trawlers in various places of the district. Of them, at least 5,000 trawlers lack life jacket or buoy. Most of the trawlers lack radios required for learning the weather forecast. Trawler owners are least bothered at the death of scores of fishermen in accidents.

Cox's Bazar Boat Owners' Association president Mujibur Rahman Chairman admitted to the fact saying many trawlers sunk in different places of the district in the recent storms in sea. Hundreds of fishermen died due to lack of life jacket or buoy, he said. Mahmudul Huq Company of Tekpara echoed similar view.

Cox's Bazar District Fishing Boat Workers' Union president Abdul Quader said although boat owners invest lakhs of taka for

boats and nets, but they are reluctant to give life saving jacket, buoy, fire extinguisher, radio and other necessary things. If the owners supplied it once, but they do not supply it for second time if it is damaged. As a result, trawlers remain unprotected.

Local office of Bangladesh Inter Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) realised fine from over 50 trawlers in the Fishery Ghat area here for lack of important documents and accessories. BIWTA sources acknowledged that most of the trawlers lack necessary accessories.

Cox's Bazar Deputy Commissioner (DC) Mohammad Aminul Islam said each trawler should keep life jacket or buoy for protection of fishermen's lives. Action will be taken against the defaulters, he said.

## AL-BNP clash leaves 50 hurt in Khagrachhari

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari**

At least 50 people were injured as BNP and Awami league activists clashed each other in different areas in the district yesterday and day before.

Police and locals said, BNP and AL cadres attacked each others in Comilla Tilla, Amtail, Sabujbug areas in the town to take the control of the areas in the early morning yesterday.

Earlier, men of both the parties clashed each other to establish superiority in Dewan Bazar, Ramsira and Tabalchhari areas in Matiranga upazila day before yesterday.

Critically injured AL leaders and activists are District Sramik League Vice President Mohammad Saiful Islam, wife Monowara Begum, Jubo League leaders Mohammad Saiful

Islam, Mohammad Marfat Ali, Belal Hossain, Sechchhasebak League leader Saiful Islam and activists Belal, Tota Mia, Rokeya Begum and Moriom Begum.

Seriously injured BNP leaders and activists were Zillur Rahman, Bellal, Nurzahan, Zahir, Abu Baker, Shahazan, Kalam, Kader, Amir Ali, Mohammad Ali Mizan and Monsur Ali.

Of the injured 25 were admitted to Khagrachhari Adunik Sadar Hospital, 15 to Matiranga Upazia Health Complex, seven to private clinics and three to Chittagong Medical College Hospital, police and party men said.

In Khagrachhari town, many houses were damaged in attack by men of both the parties.

District leaders of both the parties blamed each other for the clash and demanded arrest of the attackers.

## Ziaur Rahman hospital yet to operate in full swing

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra**

The 500-bed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital built here at a cost of Tk 235 crore is yet to be operated in full swing due to various problems.

The ministry concerned is yet to take initiative to resolve the prob-

lems, hospital sources said.

Hospital director Dr Mainul Hossain Sadik said most of the departments like surgery, eye, orthopaedic and gynecology are ready to function, but non-cooperation of the concerned project director (PD) and equip-

ment suppliers is hindering smooth functioning of his hospital.

However, project director Dr Moudud Hossain Alamgir refuted the allegations saying they already supplied necessary equipment to the hospital authorities much before its inauguration. Citing an example, he said they supplied Tk 45 crore equipment to surgery and other departments.

But the costly equipment are yet to be operated allegedly due to the shortage of accessories like four-point plug pin and socket.

An official of the hospital said some autoclave machines are remain unused for want of four-point plug socket.

A senior hospital official said Tk 19 cr X-ray machines imported from abroad are yet to be operated due to lack of skilled operator.

Similarly, a modern ultrasound machine is lying idle due to lack of trained operator. Surgery and other departments are now running short of trained manpower.

However, Dr Sadik said medicine wards are running well since inauguration of the hospital on August 31.

## 'Corrupt' judge's removal demanded

**OUR CORRESPONDENT,**  
*Netrakona*

Netrakona District Bar Association members yesterday handed over a memorandum to District Judge ASM Salauddin Khan demanding removal of Joint District Judge Atikur Rahaman for his alleged corruption.

The bar members brought allegations against the judge for taking bribe from both the parties of different cases.

They held a protest meeting and adopted a resolution demanding immediate removal of the 'corrupt' judge.

## 'Reopen railway branch line thru' Kulaura'

**RAJAT KANTI GOSWAMI,**  
*Moulvibazar*

People under the banner of Sylhet Bibhag Unnyan Parishad, a committee for development Sylhet division, were demanding for a long time for revival of lost glory of Kulaura Railway Junction by reopening the Kulaura- Shabajpur railway branch line.

The railway authorities stopped the line on July 7 in 2002. Their lame excuse was that the line was not technically fit for plying trains.

Railway station sources said since establishment of Kulaura railway station in 1885, a large number of people were linked with the adjacent upazilas by train.

People of the then Assam used to travel through the line to Kolkata (formerly Calcutta) as the line was connected with the then Assam Bengal Railway. The railway line started functioning from Badarpur junction (now in Assam province in India) and ended at Chandpur in Bangladesh.

At that time, train communication was a very popular mode of communication due to lack of improved road communication system.

Kulaura got the status of junction because of the Kulaura-Sylhet branch line.

After partition of India in 1947, the 43-kilometre railway line from Badarpur junction to Shabajpur on Badarpur - Kulaura main route was discontinued and Shabajpur- Kulaura line was turned into a branch line of former Pakistan Railway while Kulaura-Sylhet branch line became the main line.

The Kulaura- Shabajpur branch line was stopped on July 7 in 2002. Following the decision, six stations named Juri, Dakshnbhag, Kathaltoli, Baralekha, Muraul and

Shahbajpur became inoperative resulting in immense sufferings of thousands of railway passengers. Train fare from Kulaura station to Shahbajpur station was Tk 12 only whereas its bus fare is Tk 60.

However, the railway authorities renovated Kulaura station building recently at a cost of Tk 4 crore without reopening the aforesaid branch line.

On contact, a railway official told this correspondent on condition of anonymity the line can be resumed by spending only Tk 2 crore as the line is still in good shape. He said it is possible only by replacing slippers and bringing stones from nearby areas.

Meanwhile, Kulaura station master Mohammed Ali said the inter-lock signaling system will start operation in his station within a few weeks. It will reduce the risk of accident to a great extent, he said. He said that the railway earnings will increase by reopening the branch line.

Eastern Railway engineer Mahbulul Haque Bakshi said the Aforementioned branch line was not closed but suspended. There is no problem in its restarting, he said adding, the railway authorities are waiting for a ministerial decision to reopen the line, he said.

Kulaura Poursabha chairman Kamal Ahmed said the Kulaura-Shahbajpur branch line was a profitable one. He demanded its reopening and revival of Kulaura station as a junction.

Kulaura unit president of Sylhet Bibhag Unnyan

Parishad (Sylhet Division Development Council) Mukim Uddin Ahmed said his organisation is agitation for a long period for reopening of the line. The agitation will continue until realisation of demand, he said.

## 2 top outlaws killed in Pabna

**A CORRESPONDENT, Pabna**

At least two leaders of Lal Pataka faction of the outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) were killed by party rivals at Nandanpur village of Charadangi in Ataikula Thursday midnight.

The dead are Abdul Based alias Tikka, 35, son of Kudrat Ali Sheikh of Bonogram village and Baki Billah alias Baki, 27, son of Iaz Mollah of Raghunathpur village in Ataikula.

Police and locals said activists of the PBCP faction were holding a meeting at the remote Nandanpur Charadangi village when the Janajudhdha cadres attacked the meeting venue at about 11 pm and killed Tikka and Baki on the spot.

Being informed, Ataikula police rushed to the spot and sent the bodies to Pabna General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Ataikula Police Station officer-in-charge (OC) SM Shamsul Haque said the dead were accused of several cases including murder.

PBCP Janajudhdha faction claimed responsibility of the killing.

## New jute mill in pvt sector

**RU CORRESPONDENT**

A new jute mill started operation in private sector in Rajshahi at a time when most of the state-run jute mills across the country are incurring losses.

Rahman Jute Mill started operation at Alipur village under Paba Police Station, Rajshahi on Thursday.

Rajshahi Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu opened the mill as chief guest.