

BARISHAL RIVER PORT

Damaged pontoon puts passengers at risk

SUSHANTA GHOSH

Several potholes that have developed on the pontoon at Barishal river port is putting the thousands of passengers rushing across it every day at risk of accidents.

During a recent visit to the spot, this correspondent found the surface of the pontoon has been damaged at several spots, leading to creation of potholes up to one foot long and five feet deep.

The authorities allegedly have turned a blind eye to it, despite complaints.

Amid such circumstances, port insiders and citizens have demanded immediate action from authorities concerned.

Zakir Hossain, supervisor of the Sundarban Navigation Company, said authorities have not repaired the pits in the last three months.

"We have complained to the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) several times, but they have not taken any action," Zakir said.

Ganesh Dutta, an entrepreneur who

frequently travels on the Dhaka-Barishal route, said, "I had reported to the authorities immediately after first coming across the holes a month ago, but I'm yet to see any improvement."

"Leaving unrepaired potholes on the pontoon may lead to accidents any time, even fatal ones," said Shah Sajeda, president of Sacheton Nagorik Committee.

"We demand immediate repairing of the pontoon and making the port more passenger-friendly."

Rafiqul Alam, Barishal district unit secretary of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa), added that obstacles like the potholes are disproportionately dangerous for the differently abled, sick, elderly, and children.

Mostafijur Rahman, Joint Director of BIWTA and Port Officer of Barishal River Port, told the Daily Star he only joined the office a few days ago.

However, the matter is under his notice and he is committed to repairing it soon, he told this newspaper.



Several spots on Barishal river port's pontoon has been damaged, leading to the creation of potholes. This creates huge risks for passengers -- especially for those with movement handicaps -- who use the area to board Dhaka-Barishal river route launches. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Five arrested for gang rape of teenager

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Police arrested five people in Narayanganj on Friday night in connection with gang rape of a teenage girl.

Ujjal Rana (20), Tajel Islam (18), Jalal (21), Abdul Aziz alias Mintu Hawlader (55) and his wife Bilkis Hawlader (42) were held at Kadamtali after the girl's family filed a case, said Siddhirganj Police Station Inspector Sharif Ahmed.

Quoting the case statement, he said Ujjal and Tajel raped her on April 24 with help from the others.

The girl's mother sued the five after the teenager recently fell sick and was found to be pregnant, said the officer.

Narayanganj Senior Judicial Magistrate Kawser Alam recorded the girl's statement, said Asaduzzaman, inspector of Narayanganj district court.

35th span of Padma Bridge installed

Fourth in October; 5.25km of the structure now visible

A CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

The 35th span of the much-anticipated Padma Bridge was installed yesterday, bringing a total of 5.25 kilometres of the structure into view.

The span was installed successfully between pillars 8 and 9 at Mawa end in Munshiganj around 2:43pm, said Dewan Md Abdul Kader, project manager (main bridge).

With the span installment, total 5.25km of the structure is now visible, he said.

With this, a total of four spans have been placed on the bridge in October.

The authorities tried to install the span on Friday but they failed to fix it due to poor navigability in the river, especially near the pillars.

The span was placed after increasing navigability through dredging, Abdul Kader added.

The 6.15km-long bridge will have a total of 41 spans.

The project authorities have plans to complete installation of all spans of the country's most anticipated bridge within this year.

SI assaults, handcuffs inspector in port city

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A police Inspector of Chattogram Metropolitan Police (CMP) was assaulted by a sub-inspector and later handcuffed in the port city's Riazuddin Bazar area.

The incident occurred on October 25 evening at Hotel Paramount City, when SI Robiul Islam of Kotwali Police Station beat up Inspector Aftab Hossain of Counter Terrorism (CT) Unit of CMP.

On Thursday night, inspector Aftab lodged a written complaint to CMP Commissioner against SI Robiul in this connection.

Accused Robiul is the in-charge of CRB Police Outpost under Kotwali Police Station, said police sources, adding that the incident took place over a misunderstanding while investigations for another complaint was ongoing.

On October 22, an entrepreneur named Nur Mohammed (65) was allegedly mugged of Tk 2.90 lakh by men disguised as Detective Branch (DB) of police officials from the port city's Kadamtali area.

The victim filed a complaint with Kotwali Police Station and SI Robiul was asked to investigate the matter.

On October 25, Nur Mohammed and his sons called SI Robiul over the phone saying they spotted the muggers on the ground floor of Paramount City, said police sources.

Robiul, along with ASIs Anup and Rubel and a few constables rushed to the spot where Nur Mohammed and his sons pointed out Inspector Aftab and one Hasan as the muggers.

Without asking anything, Robiul handcuffed Aftab. When Aftab resisted, SI Robiul punched him in the face, added the sources.

After Aftab identified himself and showed his wireless set and ID card, the SI removed the handcuff and later took Aftab and Hasan to Kotwali Police Station, witnesses said.

CMP Commissioner Saleh Mohammed Tanvir told The Daily Star, "After investigation, we confirmed that Inspector Aftab was not involved with the incident, and he was in his house at the time of the alleged mugging."

Bus burns down after collision with van

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

A bus of Green Line Paribahan was burnt to ashes after it had caught fire following a collision with a covered-van on Dhaka-Chattogram highway in Cumilla early yesterday.

The incident happened at Jhagurjhuli in Sadar upazila around 2:20am when the covered-van hit the rear side of the air conditioned bus from behind, Mainamati Highway Police Station Officer-in-Charge Safayet Hossain told The Daily Star.

The collision caused an explosion and fire in the engine while the bus was going towards Chattogram from Dhaka, said the OC.

However, no casualty was reported as all the passengers managed to immediately get off the vehicle, said the police officer.

The number of passengers and whether they were able to take their luggage could not be known immediately.

Fire service doused the blaze, which also spread to the covered van to some extent, in half an hour, said officials.

Ali Azam, senior station officer at Cumilla fire service, said, "Two firefighting units worked to control the blaze."

A witness named Sajol said the fire fighters and highway police removed the wreckage from the road and communication became normal after half an hour.

Dreams of

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building the rooms, adding that there was furniture worth Tk 3 lakh at the shop, which were also bought by taking loan.

Kohinur's elder daughter Yasmin Begum, said she was staying at a room with her three daughters when the fire engulfed the slum.

"It spread within a moment. The cans of body spray were busting one after another at a nearby scrap shop. When I was about to come out from the room, my younger daughter's dress caught on fire. Luckily, we were able to douse it," she said, describing the horrifying ordeal they went through.

"But we couldn't save any valuables including the TV and fridge," Yasmin said.

At least 70 shanties and 12 shops were gutted in Friday's fire, while at least four people were injured.

Of the families affected, the anxiety over what the future may hold is shared by almost every one of them.

Prof Yusuf Mahbubul joins IUB as dean

CITY DESK

Renowned scholar and educationist Prof Yusuf Mahbubul Islam has joined Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) as dean of School of Engineering, Technology and Sciences.

Prof Islam served as vice chancellor of Daffodil International University from 2015 to 2020, says a press release.

He has 39 years of teaching and research experience with various reputed institutions in Bangladesh, the UK and Malaysia.

Earlier, he was associate professor of CSE at Brac University. He wrote several research papers, scientific and technical articles, and his works have been published in international journals and conferences.

Prof Islam acted as consultant for many projects of the government, and reputed local and foreign private companies.

In this connection, a programme was organised at IUB on Tuesday to welcome Prof Islam, who received charge from the outgoing dean, Prof Mohammed Anwar.

A Matin Chowdhury, chairperson of IUB trustee board; Javed Hussain, chairperson of finance committee; Prof Milan Pagon, acting vice chancellor; deans and faculty members spoke on the occasion.



CID set

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"We have found negligence of Titas Gas authorities, DPDC (Dhaka Power Distribution Company Limited) and the mosque committee behind the explosion," said Nasir Uddin.

That is why eight officials and employees of Titas, three of DPDC and the mosque management committee president were arrested, he added.

Earlier on Friday night, CID arrested Abdul Gafur (62), president of Baitus Salat Jame Mosque, from Talla Railgate area in the city. He had been absconding since the explosion.

He was arrested on charge of negligence in duty. Later, he was produced before a court that sent him to jail yesterday, said the CID officer.

Online classes

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emotional crisis during the pandemic took expert advice. Women were found more reluctant in seeking services than men.

MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam, in her speech of special guest, said issues of the youth should be over-emphasised in Covid-19 because our future depends on how we are going to manage them.

Mentioning poor internet infrastructure, she said online education is new in our perspective and the government is trying its best. "We cannot expect a hundred percent achievement as we have limitations and the remote students lack smart technology and devices," she added.

Regarding employment, she said, "Employment crisis was there and now it has become more evident and challenging. We have to revive our economy and it will create job opportunities as well as entrepreneurs," she said.

Shaheen Anam also stressed on the importance of counselling for students, as they are staying home and are not being able to make face to contact with their peers and share their problems.

Deputy education minister Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury, chief guest at the webinar, urged the youth to achieve technical, vocational as well as life skills to flourish. The current government has opted out of the age barrier for receiving technical and vocational education, he said.

Tina F Zabeen, managing director and CEO of Startup Bangladesh Limited also spoke at the event, moderated by Ejaj Amed, president and founder of BYLC.



Street vendor Amzad Hossain comes to this area in Kotwali to sit with his makeshift fruit store everyday. But with business down for the last six to seven months, he now spends most of his time reading the daily newspaper front to back. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

Advertisement for 'বাণিজ্যিক ফ্লোর ভাড়া হবে' (Commercial floor for rent) with contact information.

Advertisement for 'কমার্শিয়াল প্রুট বিক্রয়' (Commercial profit sale) with details.

Table with 2 columns: 'গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার' (Government) and 'দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি' (Notice). It lists various items and their prices.

First nat'l

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"This initiative is very timely as nature of the threats nowadays has become sophisticated. As this was our first time and we participated in a short notice, I believe our team have done a good job. Of course, we have scopes of improvement and we will work on that."

NCC Bank, which had its fair share of experience dealing with a hacking attempt in 2019, was better equipped in dealing with this kind of scenario, according to Kazi Jonayed-Un-Naby, senior assistant vice president of the bank and the team leader at the drill.

"We need more of these drills in order to better equip ourselves. The industry is lacking in skilled manpower and most of the organisations are suffering for it," he said.

Cyber security expert Sumon Ahmed Sabir, executive council member of APNIC and CTO of Fiber @ Home Ltd, sees these drills as a welcome move in such a perilous time.

"CIRT has done a great job hosting such a drill for the first time. The results rightly indicate what lacking we have in terms of defensive cyber capability. We need more coordinate measures to protect our digital space and we need to invest more in our digital ecosystem," he said.

According to Barkatullah, "This is just the start. Even technologically advanced countries like Israel hosted their first national cyber drill in 2016. So we are not necessarily far behind. On December 12, Digital Bangladesh Day, we are planning to host a drill on a national level with even more stakeholders."

Mohammadpur

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to shanties, said Shuvotara Akter, daughter of Nannu Moral, the shop's owner.

Anwar and Akter were admitted to Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery with more than 50 percent burns. Their condition was stated to be critical.

Nannu's wife Rubiya Begum and two others jumped off the top floor of the tin-shed structure to escape the fire and got injured, locals said.

More than 50 shanties were gutted in the fire before nine units of fire-fighters brought the blaze under control around 11:10pm, fire officials and locals said.

Mirpur fire service station leader Manik fell sick while dousing the blaze.

NGO Forum for Public Health

Central Office, 4/6 Block - E, Lalmatia, Dhaka - 1207

TENDER INVITATION FOR SUPPLYING OF LAB EQUIPMENT

Date: 31-10-2020

NGO Forum for Public Health (NGOF) is a national level NGO hereby invites sealed quotation from the bonafide dealers / suppliers / sole distributors / agents for Supplying of "Lab Equipment" under "PARSU" project. Tender schedule will be available at free of cost at the reception desk of NGO Forum for Public Health, 4/6 Block - E, Lalmatia, Dhaka - 1207 within 05 November, 2020 during office hours. Sealed tender containing technical and financial proposals in 2 separate envelopes must be submitted within 08 November, 2020 by 12 pm. NGO Forum for Public Health will follow the terms & condition of the tender schedule as well as the rules and procedure of procurement policy of its own and the participating dealers / suppliers / sole distributors / agents should obey the same including the security deposit issue for delivery of "Lab Equipment". This circular and associated tender schedule will be treated as the integral part of the tender documents and the authority is not bound to award work order to the lowest bidder as the evaluation will be done as per the manuals of NGO Forum for Public Health. The decision of the authority of NGO Forum for Public Health will be treated as final binding and no entity will be entitled to solicit any legal action against it. The authority also reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders or can cancel the total tender process without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Procurement Department, NGO Forum