

Alarming low flow from the Ganges

You can now just walk through the Jamuna'

Railway ferry services in Siraganj-Jagannathanj route remained disrupted for long as the mighty river Jamuna has now lost flow and become almost 'dead', reports UNB.

More than 500 big shoals have emerged in the channel due to heavy siltation and an alarming low flow from the Ganges, making ferry movement totally impossible over the last three months.

"You can just walk through the river," railway sources said.

The number of passengers in the important east-west railway line connecting Rajshahi region with capital Dhaka, port city Chittagong and other eastern and southern parts of the country has drastically dropped, the sources said.

Because, the travellers have to cross the river at their own risk and cost in country boats both during day and night journeys.

At least 15 dacoities have been committed on the route in the last three months, robbing the passengers of their all, official sources admitted.

Passengers alleged repeated appeal to the authorities for remedy had gone in vain.

The water level is falling by about 7 centimetre a day, officials said, due to unrelenting control of the Ganges flow at the Farakka barrage and heavy withdrawal by pums at this peak of the dry season.

Water development Board sources said water level at Paksey-Hardinge Bridge was 4.70 metre in February and 3 metre in March. In the corresponding period last year, it was 7.11 metre at the same point.

The North Bengal Paper Mills at Paksey may have to be closed due to lack of water which is pumped into it from the nearby Padma.

The Mill Manager told UNB the authorities in the meantime had invested Tk.62 lakh since last August till February for dredging the channel that brings water from the river into the mill. The mill requires 1100 tons of water daily.

In the wake of water scarcity, the mill authorities are thinking about sinking deep tubewells (DTW) as an alternative. But it's too big project for the management to afford as, he said, it would cost an estimated Tk. 2.5 crore.

The water crisis, mainly blamed on siltation and the absence of any agreement between India and Bangladesh for the last three years for release of due share of water through Farakka, has also seriously hit the Ganges-Kobadak (GK) Project, the largest irrigation project in Asia, stretching over four districts.

Official sources said the total area of irrigated farm land under the GK Project had squeezed by about 40 per cent due to shortage of water supply.

Project officials informed that 5,400 cusec water used to be supplied daily to the 3.5 lakh irrigated field in 11 upazilas of Kushtia, Magura, Jhenidah and Chuadanga districts. Only 60 per cent water is now being managed with great difficulties, irrigating 2.1 lakh acres of land.

They said four dredgers had been engaged for dredging the Padma to continue the project at a cost of Taka one crore.

The officials cautioned that the project might have to be closed in future, if water level decreases at the current rate.

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Stranded Pakistanis brought out a procession in the city on Thursday demanding their early repatriation. —Star photo

Govt urged to help recover \$ 900m assets in Kuwait

by Staff Correspondent

Members of Kuwait-Repatriated Engineers Association including Md. Mujibur Rahman, its convener, met the State Minister for Labour and Manpower Rafiqul Islam in Dhaka on April 2 and urged him to help recover all assets left in Kuwait. They also pleaded for steps for their early return.

They discussed problems facing the engineers to return

to Kuwait particularly the engineers employed in the Private Sector and their possible employment in the government sector, recovery of the left-out assets, that is, car, household items and money in the Kuwaiti banks, utilization of the expertise of the engineers who will stay in the country by either direct employment in Govt. Semi-Govt. Corporations, NGO, UNDP and

similar Organisations for the benefit of the country or to provide interest and equity free loan under self employment schemes.

The Minister gave a patient hearing and briefly told that Bangladesh was in constant touch with the Kuwaiti counterpart and various steps have taken up to ensure return of all the repatriated Bangladeshis to Kuwait step by step. The Minister further said that present requirement of Kuwait is highly skilled engineers and technicians of very specialised jobs like mine clearing, telecommunication etc.

According to official sources Bangladeshis have left behind assets worth 900 million US dollars in Kuwait.

A meeting of the repatriated engineers will be held on April 8 at 3.15 p.m. at the premises of Institution of Engineers.

Classes will resume on April 22, officials said.



Mrs. Amina Mahmud, wife of late Habibur Rahman, a former I. G. of police, handing over a cheque of Tk. 1 lakh 20 thousand to Professor M. Maniruzzaman Miah, Vice-Chancellor, University of Dhaka to institute 'Habibur Rahman and Amina Mahmud Memorial Trust Fund' at the University.

DU Ramzan holiday begins today

Dhaka University will remain closed on account of Holy Ramadan and Eid-ul-Fitr for 17 days beginning today, reports UNB.

Classes will resume on April 22, officials said.

Dateline Chittagong

Terrorism in Rauzan alleged

CHITTAGONG, Apr 4: National Democratic Party (NDP) leader Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury, MP, Wednesday called upon all sections of people to cooperate in restoring law and order in Rauzan Upazila, reports BSS.

In a statement here, he said NDP workers Abdul Latif, Osman, Alamgir and Mansur were killed by rivals recently and that terrorist group was at large in the area taking the advantage of what he called inactivity of the law enforcing agencies.

Chowdhury demanded stern police action in Rauzan Upazila to root out terrorist group saying activities of the terrorists had created a hell for the peace-loving people in the area. He blamed Awami League workers for deteriorating law and order situation in Rauzan.

pended for five and a half hours following a brawl between members of BDR and transport workers at Ramu Katalbagan area Wednesday morning, Cox's Bazar police said.

A BDR Jawan and employees of a Chittagong bound express coach came to scuffle when driver of the coach allegedly defied signal to stop for a routine check up. The drivers and employees of other vehicles, including buses and trucks, created road blockade with their vehicles near Ramu. Playing of all vehicles remained suspended as a result of the scuffle from 10 am to 3-30 pm.

Later, high officials of BDR, police and district administration intervened and appeased the transport workers by assuring them of necessary action.

The driver of the coach said he could not follow the stop signal of the BDR man.

Nor'wester kills 3
Three persons, including

two boys, were killed when a nor'wester hit Chittagong and adjoining upazilas Wednesday, police said Thursday.

One Yusuf Ali (7) was drowned in a drain at Trunk Lane of Madarbari Wednesday afternoon when he fell into it during the storm. His body was recovered two hours later.

Another boy was killed when a mud wall of a house collapsed at Khalifapara of Satkania Upazila. One Chittaranjan (38) died when he was struck by lightning at Mekhal under Hathazari Upazila.

Road communications suspended

Direct road communications between Chittagong and Cox's Bazar remained suspended.

Dateline Khulna

27 held on various charges

KHULNA, Apr 4: Khalishpur police arrested at least 27 persons on various charges during the last five days, reports BSS.

A special drive led by the officer-in-charge of the Khalishpur police station was launched against alleged criminals in different areas. The 27 arrested persons included three women.

Representatives from Jessore, Kushtia, Iswardi, Saidpur, Rangpur, Khalishpur, Chittagong and Dhaka attended the supreme council meeting.

The meeting was also addressed, among others, by Messrs S. M. Manzurul Alam, S. M. A. Hashmat, Mohammad Ilyas Quarashi, Masudul Marim, Mohammad Selim, Khurshid Anwar, Gulzar Ahmed and M. Khalil.

Speaking on the occasion, Ejaj Ahmed Siddiqui expressed the hope that the present representative government led by Begum Khaleda Zia would come forward for the solution of the problems facing the stranded Pakistanis awaiting repatriation.

The meeting also unanimously decided to hold a three-day international conference in Dhaka in July 21 to apprise the necessity of immediate repatriation of the stranded Pakistanis and solve their problems on humanitarian grounds with immediate effect.

Dr Kamal urges MPs to back Nov declaration

Outgoing President of Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association Dr Kamal Hossain today welcomed the Jatya Sangsad session due to begin today (Friday), reports UNB.

Speaking at the installation ceremony of the newly elected committee of the Association he described the new Sangsad as a fruit of the struggle of the entire nation.

Dr. Rafiqur Rahman and Mesbah Uddin were recently elected President and General Secretary of the Association respectively.

Kamal, who is also a Prestidium member of the Awami League, said that the

lawyers expressed their solidarity with the masses in their united movement which culminated in the downfall of an autocratic government.

He called upon all parliament members, irrespective of their party affiliation, to uphold the 'historic November Declaration' which aimed at establishing the people's government.

"The joint declaration of the three Alliances on November 19 pledged to transfer power to a sovereign parliament and establish a government answerable to the people," Kamal said.

Re-imposition of 2 pc port surcharge urged

CHITTAGONG, Apr 4: The Executive Committee of Greater Chittagong Development Movement at a meeting at its Court Road office here today called upon Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to take necessary steps to develop the port city as a commercial capital of the country in accordance with her election pledge, a Movement Press release said, reports BSS.

The meeting presided over by the former member of Jatya Sangsad, Nazrul Islam, pointed out that the ousted government of HM Ershad neglected the port city depriving it of its due share in development programmes and that two per cent port surcharge allocated for upliftment of the city was withdrawn by that government. It called for reallocation of two per cent port surcharge for development of Chittagong city.

The meeting also urged all MPs from greater Chittagong to extend their cooperation in this regard.

The meeting later in a resolution expressed deep grief at the death of Dainik Naya Bangla Editor Abdullah Al Sagor and prominent industrialist and former Minister Abul Kasem Khan and sympathised with the members of the bereaved families.

Special steamer services for Eid

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) has arranged 13 special steamer services on different water ways of the country to facilitate the movement of the passengers during the Eid-ul-Fitr, a corporation press release said Thursday, reports BSS.

According to the arrangements, three special steamers will play on Dhaka-Chandpur-Barisal route on April 11, 12 and 13, leaving Sadarghat (Dhaka) at 4-30 p.m., 5-45 p.m. and 4-30 p.m.

Similarly three special steamers will leave Barisal for Dhaka enroute to Chandpur on April 12, 13 and 14, each at 6-30 p.m.

One special steamer will leave Dhaka at 5.45 p.m. for Hularhat enroute to Barisal and Chandpur. Another special steamer will leave Hularhat for Dhaka via Barisal and Chandpur at 12 noon on April 19.

A steamer will leave Barisal for Chittagong at 8-30 p.m. on April 11.

Two special steamer services will ply on Chittagong-Sandwip-Hatya route between April 12 and 15.

Habibur Rahman Trust Fund in DU instituted

Mrs. Amina Mahmud, wife of late Mr. Habibur Rahman, handed over a cheque of taka one lakh twenty thousand to Professor M. Maniruzzaman Miah, Vice-Chancellor, University of Dhaka on Thursday at a simple ceremony held at the latter's office, says a press release.

The amount has been donated to institute a Trust Fund, namely "Muhammad Habibur Rahman and Amina Mahmud Memorial Trust Fund" at the University. The interest accruing from the donation will be spent for giving two scholarships to students of the Department of Economics.

While accepting the donation, the Vice-Chancellor thanked Amina Mahmud for this donation and said that the university would be looking forward for more such donations from the philanthropists to encourage higher studies and research in the premier University of the country.

Habibur Rahman, a former I.O. of Police and chairman of BRTC, Petro-Bangla, BJMC and BADC, died of cardiac attack on November 7, 1989.

Tender Notice (2nd time)

Tender is hereby invited from PDB enlisted contractor & bonafide suppliers for supply of Hardware materials in the store of Ashuganj Power Station Complex, PDB, Ashuganj.

Detail schedule/Tender documents are obtainable at a cost of Tk. 70/= (Seventy) only (Non refundable) from the office of the Chief Engineer (Generation) PDB, Wapda Bldg. Dhaka & the Manager, Janata Bank, Ashuganj Branch, B-Baria, till 21-4-91 Eng & 7.1.98 Bengali, a day before opening the tender documents.

Executive Engineer (Boiler) Ashuganj Power Station Complex PDB, Ashuganj, B-Baria. Biddut/Jan/1133(3) 90-91 DFP(BA) 2799-1/4 G-49

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL, BANGLADESH AGRICULTURE INSTITUTE, DHAKA-1207.

(Memo No: L/2-2837 Date: 21.3.91)

TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF DRESS

Tenders are hereby invited from bonafide Cloth Traders/Suppliers for the supply of winter-dress for Fourth Class employees of Bangladesh Agriculture Institute. Tender schedule containing terms and conditions of tender may be purchased upto 12-30 p.m on 11.04.1991 during office hour from the office of President, Purchase Committee on payment of Tk. 100/- (Taka one hundred) (non refundable). The Tender Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason.

Principal, Bangladesh Agriculture Institute, Dhaka-1207

DFP (G)-3734-2/4 G-50

DIRECTORATE GENERAL DEFENCE PURCHASE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE NEW AIRPORT ROAD TEJGAON, DHAKA-1215

TENDER NOTICE

1. Sealed tenders in local currency are invited from bonafide Manufacturers (Not necessarily enlisted with this Directorate General) for supply of:

A. Socks Worsted Black Size — 2, 3 & 4, Quantity 3,64,800 pairs for Army.

2. Tender schedule with detailed specification will be available on payment of Taka 100.00 (One hundred) (not refundable) from 06 April '91 to 21 April '91 on any working day between 0800 hours and 1200 hours. The tender will be opened on 22 April '91 at 1000 hours in presence of all present tenderers.

ISPR-37 (Misc) 91/385 DFP(G) 3732-2/4 G-47

Major for Director General

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, MAULVI BAZAR (REVENUE DEPARTMENT)

TENDER NOTICE NO-1/90-91

Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 are invited for the undermentioned works from 1st class contractors. 2% (per cent) of the Estimated Cost as Earnest Money will have to be deposited with the tender in the form of Bank Draft in favour of Deputy Commissioner, Maulvi Bazar. Tender documents may be collected during office time upto 9-04-91 on payment of Taka 200 (Taka two hundred only) (non-refundable) from the office of the undersigned.

Tenders will be received on 10-04-91 upto 1 p. m. in the Tender Box kept at the office of the undersigned and opened the same day at 1.30 p. m. in presence of tenderers or their representatives (if any). The authority reserves the right to reject all or any or accept any or all tenders without showing any reason.

Group No	Title of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time limit of work
(A)	Erection of Kaminiganj union land office under Kulaura Upazila	3,00,000/=	7,500/=	45 days
(B)	Construction work of boundary wall of Srimangal Upazila land office	3,58,362/=	9,000/=	do

Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Maulvi Bazar

DFP (G)-3746-2/4 G-51

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