

# 18 launches sank last 15 years in S-dists

From Aroop Talukdar

BARISAL, May 31: At least 18 passenger launches, both small and double decker, sank in different rivers of southern districts under Barisal division during the last 15 years.

Sources said, more than one thousand and two hundred people drowned and wealth, engines, merchandise goods including cash money of about 20 crore taka were lost in these incidents.

It may be recalled here the two major incidents of vessel capsizing, MV Sonia, in 1987, near Mehendiganj and MV Atlas Star in 1989 in Meghna river. Both vessels were steel body double decker passenger launches and were on way to Dhaka.

A similar widebody launch MV Samia, a Dhaka-Bhola route passenger launch sank in the Kalabadar river near Malavirhat of Barisal two years ago.

According to official and unofficial sources, these incidents left more than seven hundred passengers dead and wealth of several lac taka lost.

According to a survey report, major incidents took place in the rivers of Kirtonkhola of Barisal, Paira, Tetulia, Lohalia of Patuakhali, Sandhya and Sugandha of Jhalakathi, Bishkhali and Agnumukha of Bar-guna, Kalabadar and Meghna of

Bhola during the last decade. Reasons of these disastrous incidents occurred, according to Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), Launch Owners and local people, due to negligence of not providing necessary life saving equipment in the passenger vessels, absence of regular survey and repair and above all, absence of skilled 'master' and well-trained launch staff in the big passenger carrier marine vessels, plying in domestic routes.

The southern region of the country is the riverine routes where rivers are widely used as the largest communication system.

It may be stated here that enquiry teams were formed following major boat capsizing incidents in which many people died, huge amount of properties were lost but eventually the enquiry reports helped very little to check occurrence of such tragic incidents.

An example may be cited as the 'Queen of Patuakhali', a passenger launch that sank thrice earlier in different times in different rivers leaving many people killed.

Furthermore, the same passenger vessel was renamed and very unlawfully kept on plying in other routes without any permission. Many vessels, both

passenger and cargo carriers do not have their survey and other certificates renewed, it is alleged.

Vessels are classified in four categories, oceangoing ships sailing on international routes, passenger-cum-cargo vessels in the coastal areas, inland passenger carrier steamers and fishing boats and trawlers used particularly for fishing by fishermen in the rivers and Bay of Bengal almost throughout the year.

Number of these passenger and cargo carriers are about two thousand while different kinds of registered marine vessels are more than six thousands. Those normally ply in domestic routes.

There are many vessels plying in different rivers having no valid papers.

On the other hand, thousands of emerging shoals in the big riverbeds are not less important than the other causes of riverine accidents, said experts. As a result, it is very risky to cross river in Meghna and other big rivers in the dark.

Informed sources said, to solve these problems dredging is necessary to make the rivers navigable, but the BIWTA and the other concerned authorities are not paying any heed to the suggestion.

# Drought in Kushtia

From Our Correspondent

MEHERPUR, May 31: Continued drought for the last five months at Meherpur and its adjoining areas has caused widespread damage to standing crops and vegetables.

It did not rain in the aforesaid areas since December last year. As a result ponds, canals, beels and other water bodies in the district have almost dried up.

Meanwhile, the production target of IRRI-Boro paddy has not been achieved. Twenty-five per cent of standing crops have been damaged due to persisting drought. The ground water level has fallen sharply. Acute scarcity of water has been prevailing in affected areas. Fifty per cent tubewells have become inoperative.

The mango production has also come down abnormally. Navigation and riverine communications have become difficult due to prevailing drought in the district.

# Fertilizer worth Tk 16 lakh seized

CHANDPUR, May 31: Police seized a huge quantity of fertilizers worth about Tk 16 lakh from a godown of the district recently, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the godown of M/s Shahjalal Traders where the fertilizers were kept stored. The staff of the godown failed to show any valid document in favour of the consignment which was allegedly purchased by one Sagir Haji, a local fertilizer businessman.

Police also raided the cargo MV Asad II, reached here from Ashuganj loaded with four tons of urea fertilizer.

Police arrested the master and Sukani of the cargo Shamsuddin and Abdul Mannan and godown staff Mohammad Shafiqullah in this connection.

Haji Sagir Mia remained absconding. A case has been registered with the local police under Special Powers Act.

# 24 arrested from Daulatpur

KUHSTIA, May 31: Police in a drive led by Superintendent of Kushtia range Malik Khasru on Thursday arrested 24 persons from Daulatpur thana on charges of various crimes, reports BSS.

Police said nine persons were arrested on charge of a murder case. Police also recovered some lethal weapons including one shutter gun.

# New building of pry school opens

From Our Correspondent

MEHERPUR, May 31: The construction works of a new building of local Shaheed Captain Ashrafur Hafiz Khan Primary School has been completed with the active cooperation of local Jubo League activists recently.

The Facilities Department of Education Ministry took up the project at a cost of Tk 16 lakh. Accordingly the concerned contractor began the construction works of the school. But at a certain stage the building works came to a halt due to alleged harassment of some toll collectors. Afterwards a few members of Jubo League came to know about the harassment by some extortionists. They assured the contractor to finish his works as per schedule. Later on the contractor finished his works as per schedule with the active cooperation of Jubo League workers.

Following completion of construction works the new building of Shaheed Captain Ashrafur Hafiz Khan Primary School was opened in a formal ceremony recently.

Abdul Hamid Khan, a retired Police Superintendent (SP) opened the school building. The inaugural function was presided over by Munshi Mozammel Huq, president of the school managing committee, while it was addressed among others, by the Headmaster of the school Md Abdul Hannan, Md Ramjan Ali, Assistant Thana Primary Education Officer, Elias Hossain, a member of the school managing committee.

# Smuggling across Jessore-Jhenidah border increases

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, May 31: Smuggling is rampant along the border areas of Jessore and Jhenidah districts for quite some time.

Contrabands including saree, sugar, salt, cattle, phnisdyl syrup, electronics, cycle and cycle parts are being smuggled in from across the border in massive quantity.

According to sources, opening of new routes and recruitment of fresh batches of ghatmali reportedly by border security force, have sparked tremendous increase in volume of smuggling.

It is reported that Goga, Putkhali, Daulatpur, Boro Achra, Benapol, Bahadurpur, Konna Daha, Laksmannpur, Salkona, Kashipur of Shersha, Kabila Mashila, Purapra of Chaugacha in Jenne Jadabpur, Samanta Bhalsaba, Juhannagar, Samker of Moheshpur thana in Jhenidah, are now busiest routes for smuggling, it widely alleged.

Reports also said that Baganchara, Navaran Sharsha of Sharsha thana, Godkhali, Jhinkergacha, Chintipur and Kagenkala of Jhikergacha, Purapra, Dhanliani, Chowgacha of Chowgacha, Mohashpur Khalishpur of Moheshpur thana, Kotchandpur, Kaliganj of Jhenidah thana have turned into

transit centre for these contrabands.

Recently a group of local pressmen visited some border areas of Sharsha and Chowgacha in the district.

While passing through the Salkona border under Dihl union of Sharsha, it was witnessed that vans were being loaded with smuggled Indian goods for transportation inside the local markets and there was none from border security force to check it.

Another teams of pressmen in Arsingra-Pukuria border under Sukupuria union of

# 10 girls rescued from brothel

MYMENSINGH, May 31: Police have rescued ten girls on Wednesday from Gangnarpar red light area of the town, reports UNB.

The rescued girls told police that they were brought to the brothel by miscreants against their will. They said, they were victimised in various ways and sold to the red light area.

Police forces led by a Magistrate conducted the raid. But no one was arrested in this connection.

Chowgacha witnessed that labourers on head-loading and by-cycle were carrying Indian goods in groups from across the border. They were entering Bangladesh after making payment of so-called 'taxes' to BDR who were reportedly sitting in makeshifts set up for the 'tax' collection.

When the habilder was asked by one of the journalists whether they were facing any trouble in smooth running of their 'business', he said that so long as local people were cooperating there was nothing to be afraid of. During this conversa-

# Two youths kidnapped

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, May 31: Armed terrorists have abducted two young persons and demanded a good amount money as ransom from their parents in Mirpur thana on May 22.

Md. Yar Chand, 25, of village Beninagar under Chatian union was kidnapped from his house at night. On the same night Md Hossain Ali, 26, of village Vashajpur under Chatian union was also picked up by the armed terrorists from his father-in-law's house at village Miton under Amla union.

tion the local union member and two other elites who accompanied the pressman, were present.

It was also found that a group of Indian smugglers were waiting to collect their share of money from local traders.

When some teachers, public representatives, social workers were asked who they think were engaged in this smuggling and what tempted them to continue it. In reply they said, "The disadvantaged women, children and young uneducated and unemployed youths are engaged in smuggling. Poverty is the main reason behind it."

It was clear from their reply that the women were carrying saree, salt, and sugar in smaller quantity to earn their livelihood.

The children were carrying salt, sugar, phnisdyl syrup and sometimes other drugs.

The youths were engaged in heavy transaction. It varied from cycle, motor parts to various valuable contrabands. It was also learnt from them that most Indian cycles including Hero, Avon, Hercules are on open sale in various markets of these two districts.

In Jessore and Jhenidah district towns, the bi-cycles are being sold openly without any protest from any corner.

# Seven lakh affected by bronchitis in N-dists

PABNA, May 31: Bronchitis disease has broken out in an alarming proportion in the northern region of the country, reports UNB.

Nearly seven lakh people have been affected by the disease in the recent years, according to a survey conducted by a

non-government organisation.

Huge number of patients are rushing to the hospitals, but facilities for the treatment of the disease are very limited. The number of patients have doubled, mainly in Nilphamari, Thakurgaon and Rangpur districts.

Of the eight hospitals in Rangpur-Dinajpur region, there is only one hospital at Tajerhat in Rangpur for the bronchitis disease. Even in many district-level hospitals there is no separate unit for the bronchitis patients.

Local people said there are no facilities for treatment of bronchitis disease in the thana-level health centres. As a result, patients rush to the district level hospitals.

It has been reported that separate arrangements for bronchitis disease have been made in only six hospitals of the 16 hospitals of the region. Many patients complained that some medicines for the disease are not available in the region.

District-wise number of patients are: Chapainawabganj-46300, Rajshahi-40500, Naogaon-45700, Sirajganj-48700, Natore-49400, Pabna-45200, Joypurhat-34100, Bogra-50600, Gaibandha-67300, Kurigram-59700, Lalmonirhat-59700, Rangpur-54400, Nilphamari-34100, Dinajpur-47200, Thakurgaon-35300 and Panchagarh-32100.

Hospital sources said unhygienic lifestyle and malnutrition are the main reasons behind the outbreak of the disease.

# Crops worth Tk20cr damaged by cyclone in S-dists

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, May 31: Crops worth Tk 20 crore have been damaged in cyclonic storm that lashed in southern part of the country recently.

Official sources, however, admitted a loss to the tune of Taka 12 crore. Agricultural Extension Department, Khulna division has appealed to the authorities concerned for free supply of seeds and fertiliser among the affected farmers.

# 2 killed in Feni road accident

FENI, May 31: Two people were killed and four others injured when a passenger bus rammmed a tempo on the Feni-Chhagalnaiya road Wednesday night, reports UNB.

Police said the road accident occurred as the Feni-bound bus hit the Chhagalnaiya-bound tempo in front of the Engineering College at Feni at about 9 pm.

One Jahangir Alam, 27, of Sudharampur of Noakhali district and Mohammad Bashir, 32, of Andarmanik in Chhagalnaiya died on the spot. Two seriously injured people were sent to Dhaka Medical Hospital and two others admitted to Sadar Hospital.



JESSORE: A van being loaded with smuggled Indian goods at a point along Salkona border under Dihl union of Sharsha thana in the district recently. — Star photo

# Law, order situation worsens in Khulna

KHULNA, May 31: Criminal and terrorist activities have gone up in the last few months marking deterioration in the law and order situation in the division, reports UNB.

Police sources said armed extortionists and terrorists belonging to outlawed 'bahinis' have been increasing, resulting to murder, abduction, extortion and dacoity under the protection of influential quarters.

Declaration of general amnesty by the government and call for surrender of arms went

in vain. They said police arrested about 8,000 alleged terrorists and recovered 650 weapons which include SMGs, rifles, guns, revolvers, pistols and pipe-guns from 10 districts of the division during last four and a half months.

During the period, police also nabbed some leaders and members of the outlawed Purbia Banglar Communist Party along with lethal weapons.

Of the arrested people, 1,050 are from Khulna, 1,200 from

Bagerhat, 1200 from Satkhira, 725 from Jhenidah, 450 from Magura, 450 from Narail, 650 from Kushtia, 350 from Chuadanga and 150 from Meherpur district.

Local leaders apprehended that the list of terrorists in the division being prepared by police might not include the notorious few.

They urged the authorities concerned to take immediate steps to arrest the real terrorists and free the society from terrorism.

# School wins national award for afforestation plan

CHITTAGONG, May 31: Fatehabad Model High School, a century-old educational institution of Hathazari thana, bagged the coveted Prime Minister's National Award-1995 for afforestation, reports UNB.

The school, established alongside the Chittagong-Rangamati in 1894, won the first prize for planting 10,000 trees on 12 acres of land in its compound.

"The prize is in recognition of tree plantation in its effort to maintaining ecological balance," the Ministry of Forest and Environment mentioned in its letter dated May 17.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to hand over the award at a ceremony in the capital on June 15 on the occasion of the National Tree Plantation Day.

According to the school authorities, the afforestation programme is being conducted with

the fund raised from the school children, grant from local thana administration and from its own resources. Every student pays Tk five for practical agriculture every year.

"Head Master A K M Fazlul Huq is the unsung hero behind this success. He has encouraged the students to make the school compound green with trees," said Kazi Enamul Huq, vice-chairman of the school managing committee.

In the first phase, some 5,000 saplings were planted on the unutilised land in 1995 and 5,000 more planted the following year, turning it into a "sanctuary" for birds.

"When we took up the afforestation programme we never thought of any award, but we got it," said beaming Fazlul Huq, who was also adjudged the best Head Master at thana level for the years 1994 and 1996.

# 'Evict vendors from Jamalpur rly station'

JAMALPUR, May 31: Hawkers and vendors have occupied the platform of Jamalpur railway station under protection of some extortionists causing difficulties to passengers, reports UNB.

Jamalpur railway station is an important junction for communication with northern districts. A number of trains including four inter-district trains and four mail trains move through this station.

A huge number of passengers wait at the platform for trains to their destinations, but unauthorised shops create obstacles and other problems, which the railway police are unable to remove.

Railway sources said the authorities were afraid of the maastans who are supported by influential quarters.

Sale of cigarette and betel leaf on the platform, though strictly prohibited, have been

going on freely and openly in the presence of government railway police (GRP).

The unauthorised shops in the platform are damaging the environment. Anti-social activities and pick-pockets are daily occurrence. Women passengers are harassed in the crowd.

# Train mishap kills one

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, May 31: One unidentified person was run over by a running train at Bheramara in the district on Tuesday last.

The accident occurred near the outer signal of Bheramara station. A local train from Parbatipur bound for Khulna ran over the victim. His post-mortem was done from Kushtia General Hospital on Thursday.



JHENIDAH: Sajeda Chowdhury, Minister for Forestry and Environment planting a tree at Shelaidah Kuthibari premises under Kumarkhali thana during her recent visit in the district. — Star photo

**Government of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Executive Engineer (RHD)  
Cox's Bazar Road Division  
**Notice Inviting Tender**

- Tender Notice No 31 of EE RHD, Cox's Bazar Road Division during the year 1996-97.
- Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No 2911 & in attached contract document along with requisite earnest money are hereby invited from enlisted contractors of RHD, eligible as per their financial limits & jurisdiction of enlistment.

Gr No	Name of work	Estimated cost (In Tk)	Earnest money (In Tk)	Category of contractor to purchase tender	Price of tender document (In Tk)	Time for completion from the date of W/O
1.	Construction of spar in 1 point at Bakhali river to protect the road embankment at 144 KM of Ctg-Cox's Bazar road under Cox's Bazar Road Divn. during the year 1996-97.	6,44,238/-	12,900/-	'A' to 'E' general category	In/c BD Form No 2911 525/-	15 (fifteen) days
2.	-do- do- at 139 KM -do- do-	4,50,967/-	9,100/-	-do- do-	-do- do-	15 (fifteen) days
3.	Name of the offices from where tender documents can be purchased	1. Executive Engineer (RHD), Road Division, Cox's Bazar/Bandarban/Dohazari. 2. Executive Engineer (RHD), Planning (R&B) Division, Dhaka/Planning & Design Division, Chittagong. 3. Sub-Divisional Engineer (RHD), Road Sub-Division, Cox's Bazar-I/II/Chakaria, Cox's Bazar.				
4.	Name of offices where tender will be received	1. Superintending Engineer (RHD), South Chittagong, Road Circle, Chandanaish, Chittagong. 2. Superintending Engineer (RHD), Monitoring & Eval Circle, Dhaka. 3. Executive Engineer (RHD), Monitoring & Eval Division, Chittagong (on behalf of ACE Chittagong). 4. Executive Engineer (RHD), Cox's Bazar Road Division.				
5.	Last date of purchase of tender document (during office hours)	07-6-97.				
6.	Last date and time for receiving tender	08-6-97 up to 12-30 PM.				
7.	Date and time of opening of tender	1-6-97 at 12-45 PM				
8.	Date of lottery (if necessary)	12-6-97 at 11-00 AM.				
9.	Chargeable to	168 maintenance.				
10.	Estimate approving authority	Superintending Engineer, RHD, South Ctg Road Circle, Chandanaish, Chittagong vide his Memo No 842 dt 14-5-97.				

NB: The undersigned reserves the right whether the work order will be issued or not to the lowest tenderer. Bill will be paid on the availability of fund.

**A F M Sirajul Islam**  
Executive Engineer (RHD)  
Cox's Bazar Road Division  
Cox's Bazar.

DFF-12611-26/5  
G-1538

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Ministry of Establishment Administration-4 Section Tender Notice**

No-ME (A-4)-Car Purchase-84/97

Tenders on the undermentioned terms & conditions are invited for purchase 1 (one) car for Public Administration Reform Commission under the Ministry of Establishment.

Description of car	Company
(A) 1300 CC	(A) Toyota
(B) Water Cool	(B) Mitsubishi
(C) 4 Cylinder Petrol Engine	(C) Nissan
(D) 4-Door	(D) Honda
(E) 5-Seat with Seal Belt	(E) Hyundai
	(F) Proton Saga

**Terms & conditions:**

- Schedule should be purchased from Administration-4 Section of this Ministry within 7-6-97 by depositing Tk 400/= (four hundred) only (non-refundable) to Bangladesh Bank through challan underhead "65-Miscellaneous Non-Tax Revenue."
- Tender should be submitted in the tender box kept at the Administration-4 Section (Building No-3, Room No-114) of the Ministry of Establishment within 12:30 PM of 8-6-97, and the tenders will be opened on the same day at 1:00 PM in presence of the tenderers (if any) present.
- Actual description of car should be stated as mentioned above and rate quoted separately.
- Price should be mentioned with and without registration.
- Validity period for the price quoted should be stated.
- Body colour of the car should be white.
- The car should be right-hand-drive one.
- Time within which it would be possible to deliver the car with registration should be mentioned.
- Seats of the car should be front facing.
- Horse Power and CC of the car should be mentioned in the tender. Standard tool-box should be supplied with the car and other accompanying facilities should be mentioned.
- Whether the tendering firm has the car in ready stock should be mentioned in the tender.
- Price of car will be paid on passing of the bill from the Chief Accounts Officer (Civil Secretariat) after supply of the car.
- 2.5% of the quoted price as earnest money should be submitted with the tender through Bank Draft/Pay Order in favour of the Senior Assistant Secretary (Administration-4), which is refundable later on. Earnest money of the successful firm will be treated as security money.
- The abovementioned terms & conditions should be fulfilled properly. Otherwise the tender will not be brought under consideration.
- The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender.

**Towhidur Rahman Khan**  
Senior Assistant Secretary  
Ministry of Establishment

DFF-13058-28/5  
G-1536