

Chandpur steamer ghat beset with problems

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Feb 29: Chandpur steamer ghat, or jetty, is now beset with manifold problems, causing inconveniences to hundreds of passengers.

The make shift ghat near launch terminal lacks various amenities, much to the chagrin of passengers.

The Inland Water Transport Authority (IWTA) originally constructed the steamer terminal here in 1964, but it became inoperative following siltation in the river Dakatia. Later the ghat was shifted to launch ghat area temporarily.

There is no waiting room in the terminal for passengers. There is no toilet also, causing sufferings to passengers, especially women.

Besides, the ticket counter is situated outside the main terminal.

Moreover, the wooden bridge in the steamer ghat is in dilapidated condition. Passengers said the bridge might collapse any time. Passengers, particularly women and children, pass the bridge at night, risking their lives.

The passengers alleged that they were often harassed by coolies in the ghat. The coolies charge abnormally high and sometimes force passengers to take their services. There is no chart of fees for coolies. The authorities have no control over coolies, who sometimes quarrel over carrying passenger luggage.

Local people have urged the authorities concerned to take immediate steps to construct a new steamer terminal to mitigate the sufferings of passengers.

Thousands visit Siddheswari Monastery every year

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, Feb. 29: Thousands of devotees every year visit the 400-year-old Hindu monastery at village Atharokhada, three km northwest from the district town.

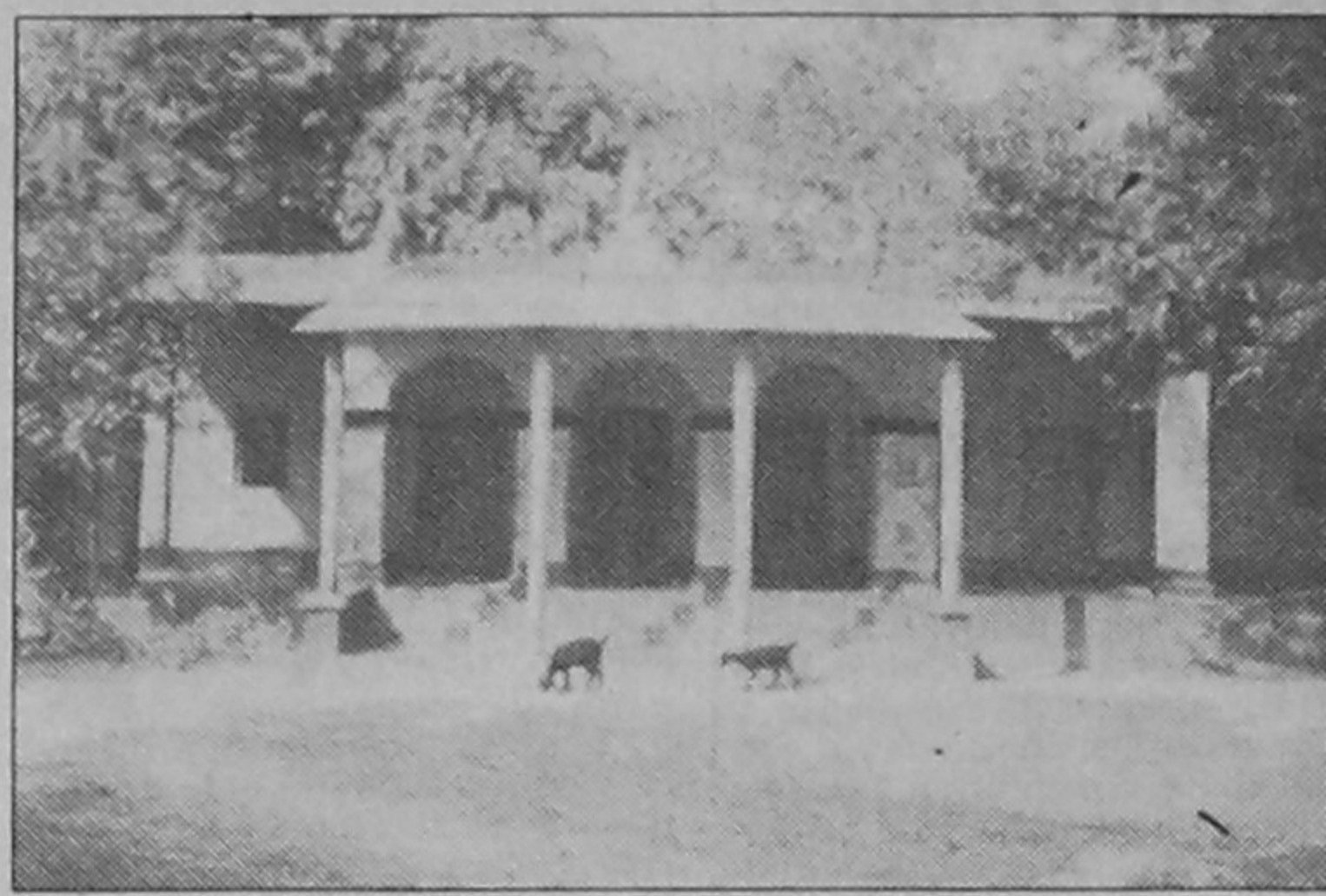
The Siddheswari Monastery was established by Sreemanta Dev Roy. Sreemanta was titled as Dev Roy in 1603 AD by Mingsingh, the commander of Mughul force of emperor Akbar. Mingsingh directed Sreemanta to establish the monastery.

In 1656 AD king of Naldanga Indranarayan placed a statue of goddess Kali at the request of saint Brahmanandagiri. But after the death of the saint king of Naldanga showed less interest about the monastery. Later it remained almost abandoned for years.

In 1913 the monastery resumed its activities with the help of some local people and continued uninterrupted until 1945.

After partition of the sub-continent in 1947 the monastery remained abandoned again.

In 1962 one Kartik Chandra Chattarjee was appointed the priest of the monastery and its



Front view of the 400-year-old Siddheswari Monastery at village Atharokhada under Magura district. —Star photo

activities resumed.

During the War of Liberation Pakistani soldiers destroyed the buildings of the monastery.

After the liberation of the country in 1972 the monastery resumed its activities with the help of Dipok Roy Chowdhury and Dulal Chandra Adhikary of Magura town.

Ershad Shikder had no AK-47 rifle: Jamai Faruk

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Feb 29: Jamai Faruk said Ershad Shikder had ten or 15 firearms, but he had no AK-47 rifle.

All the firearms were handed over to Ayub Munshi, another armed cadre of Shikder, he said during interrogation at Khalishpur police station on Saturday night. Ershad did not have any AK-47 rifle, rather most of his arms were pipe guns, Faruk said.

Nasir Khan, on the other hand, expressed his willingness to be an approver. He said his father was also one of the victims of brutal murders committed by Ershad Shikder. This was the only reason why Ershad never confided in me about his arms, Nasir added.

"I will pray for being an approver to divulge all criminal acts of Shikder. But for God's sake, I don't know anything about his firearms", Nasir said during interrogation at Daulatpur police station on Saturday night.

Separate incidents claim 32 lives in dists

Thirty-two persons died in separate incidents in nine districts recently, report agencies.

In Jamalpur, a youth was crushed under the wheels of a truck at Megharbari on Mehladah-Islampur road on Monday.

The dead was identified as Khokan Chandra Das of Mouza Zailla village in Islampur thana.

Police said the accident occurred when a truck loaded with goods hit the bicycle of the youth from behind. He died on way to the hospital.

A case was filed with the police.

In Pabna, Shilpi Khatun, a 13-year old student of Class VI, kidnapped from her study room in village Char Rooppur by unknown gangsters late Monday evening, was strangled to death after raping her.

The body of Shilpi was recovered on Tuesday evening from a wheat field near the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant.

Her family sources said Shilpi was forcibly picked up from the house when others were taking dinner in a separate house. Her father died years ago.

The incident created sensation in the area. A case was registered with the police but none was arrested till Thursday evening.

In Satkhira, an old man was allegedly beaten to death at Kullah under Assasuni thana recently.

The victim was identified as Norendra Nath Biswas, 60, of village Kullah under Assasuni thana.

According to police, Biswas was beaten mercilessly by Dilip Kumar and his mother Aruna Ray, both of them residing at village Kullah. As a result, he died on the spot.

Family feud might be the reason behind the killing, police said.

Police arrested Aruna Ray and a case was filed with Assasuni thana in this connection.

Another report from Pabna says: Moazzen of a mosque near Iswardi bus terminal was hacked to death by unknown assailants on Tuesday night.

Body of Billal Hossain, 25, was found lying in a pool of blood inside the mosque early in the morning. There was no 'azan' for the Fajr prayer in the mosque in the morning for which Musallis became curious.

They found the body in utter surprise when they came to the mosque for Fajr prayer.

Billal was a clean, honest and devoted young man working as Moazzen of the mosque for the last 8 years, neighbours said. As usual he slept inside the mosque after the Esha prayer on Tuesday night.

Police Super who visited the spot said they were looking for the youths reportedly visiting the mosque in the evening for the last few days.

The murder of young Billal created sensation in the area.

In Munshiganj, a construction worker died when a hanging balcony roof of an under-construction market building collapsed in the premises of the Old Collectorate here recently.

Police and eyewitnesses said the accident occurred when the bamboo props supporting the hanging roof, laid four days back, were being removed at around 8:30 am.

Nirab Hussain, 22, who was working under the roof, sustained serious injuries when chunks of concrete crashed down on him. Nirab died on way to sadar hospital here.

An unnatural death (UD) case was filed with sadar thana in this connection.

In Jhenidab, twenty-three people faced an unnatural death last month.

Of them, 15 died in road accidents and 8, including a journalist, killed by armed assailants.

Meer Ilyas Hossain Dilip, 42, Editor of local daily 'Dainik Bir Darpan' and coordinator of arms surrender process in South-western region was shot dead by unidentified assailants on January 15.

Separate cases have been filed with police in connection with the killings.

In Rangamati, a student of Chittagong College drowned in Kaptal lake recently.

Witnesses said Sunan, 18, an HSC candidate from the college, drowned while swimming under Tourism Bridge of the lake.

Firefighters rushed to the spot, but could not trace the body even after five hours of hectic efforts.

Navy divers were called in to recover the body.

In Patuakhali, a local businessman was stabbed to death by unknown miscreants in Dumki thana on Baufal-Ledukhali road recently.

Police and witnesses said the assailants swooped on Ajit Shah, 25, at 8 pm while he was returning home at Ledukhali in a bicycle.

On information, local people and father of the victim rushed to the spot and took Ajit to Luthan Hospital where the attending physicians pronounced him dead.

Motive behind the killing could not be known. Police sent the body to hospital morgue for autopsy.

In Chandpur, a police constable of sadar thana drowned while taking bath in a pond near the police station recently.

Police said constable Rezul Karim, 50, hauling form Noakhali, drowned in the pond at about 6:30 pm.

Firefighters recovered the body from the pond one hour after the drowning.

In Narayanganj, a man died and nine others fell sick after taking diluted liquor at Kathalia village in Arahazur thana recently.

Ayub Khan, 40, died and nine of his associates fell sick after taking the liquor in the house of Ismail at night.

Those who fell ill were admitted to different clinics and hospitals. They are house-owner Ismail, Ibrahim, 30, Johor, 32, Abdur Rashid, 35, Rup Miah, 35, Selim, 30, Siraj, 45 and an unidentified man.

When contacted police could not confirm the report.

News snaps

Scout campaign concludes

NARSINGDI, Feb 29: A four-day scout campaign under Sadar thana concluded here at Satirpara KK Institute premises on Sunday, reports BSS.

A total of 10 scout-teams from different schools of the Sadar thana participated in the campaign. The concluding ceremony was presided over by Sadar Thana Scout Commissioner Abu Hanif. Sadar Thana Nirbahi Officer Nurul Islam attended the ceremony as the chief guest and distributed certificates among the participants.

Rain damages crops

NETRAKONA, Feb 29: Incessant downpour for three days ending Monday have caused extensive damage to winter crops, reports UNB.

Officials said Sadar, Kendua, Atpara, Madan, Mohonganj, Kaliazuri, Barhatta, Durgapur, Kalmakanda and Purbadhala thanas experienced heavy rainfall for three days since Saturday. They said the heavy fall has damaged potato, chilli, wheat, sweet potato, mustard and other vegetables in the thanas. Some areas in Sadar, Kendua, Atpara, Madan and Kaliazuri thanas were affected most. Wheat, potato, garlic and onion fields here went under rainwater. Huge unbaked bricks were also damaged in many brickfields here due to the rain.

Plan to construct bridges

PATUAKHALI, Feb 29: The government is planning to construct four bridges on Barisal-Patuakhali-Kuakata road to make road communication to southern region, particularly the Kuakata sea beach easier, reports UNB.

Officials said a feasibility study was being conducted to construct the bridges over Lebukhali Paira, Andarmanik, Sonatoli and Khaprabbanga rivers. The study, undertaken following a demand by civil society members during a meeting with the communications minister, is expected to be completed by March next. On construction of the proposed bridges, it will take only two hours to reach Kuakata from Barisal by road.

Uplift projects in Rangamati

RANGAMATI, Feb 29: Eleven infrastructure development projects will be implemented in Rangamati Municipality this fiscal at a cost of Tk 56.64 lakh, reports UNB.

Officials said the projects would be implemented under Secondary Municipal Infrastructure Development Project with financial assistance from Asian Development Bank (ADB). Under the projects, a number of roads and drains in the town will be reconstructed. A total of Tk 33.27 lakh will be spent for development of the roads while Tk 23.27 lakh for the drains, the officials said.

Urs concludes

BRAHMANBARIA, Feb 29: A two-day Urs Sharif of Hazrat Syed Abdul Bari Shah (RA) concluded here at Kazipara Bari Shah Darbar Sharif under Sadar thana here recently, reports BSS.

Maulana Syed Mohammad Noor-e-Azam offered the concluding *munajat*. The programme of the Urs included *Guraan Khwani* *waz mahfil*, *milad mahfil* and *zikir-azkar*.



Mayor of Rajshahi Mizanur Rahman Minu addressing a press conference, organised by All-Party Action Committee, Rajshahi unit, in the city recently. —Star photo

Mosque survey in the final stage

JAMALPUR, Feb 29: State Minister for Religious Affairs Maulana Mohammad Nurul Islam on Sunday said that the government has taken up the countrywide survey of mosque and it is now in the final stage, reports BSS.

The government is trying to strengthen Islamic activities in the country," he said addressing an Islamic conference at Char Horipur under Sharishabari thana here. The minister said the government has taken the initiative for conducting the survey, which was not done during the previous governments. The countrywide survey of mosque proves that the government is always ready to gear up the Islamic activities in the country, he said.

Discussion

KHULNA, Feb 29: A discussion was held here on the occasion of the third founding anniversary of Paikgacha Municipality, the only municipality in the district at its office premises recently, reports BSS.

It was presided over by municipality Chairman S M Mahabubur Rahman. Advocate Nurul Haq, MP, attended the discussion as the chief guest while Additional District Magistrate Mohammad Imdadul Haq and TNO S M Faysal as special guests. It was addressed, among others, by freedom fighter S K Belaluddin Bilu and Mostafa Kamal Jahangir. The discussion was followed by a cultural function.

Training programme

COMILLA, Feb 29: A five-day training on Institution Management and Curriculum System in secondary schools organised by the District Education Office under Secondary Education Development Project was held here in the hall room of Zilla School recently, reports BSS.

Principal Subir Kumar Chakrabarty and Secretary of District Education Board Prof Ali Asgar were present as guests of honour in the inaugural session. A total of 81 heads of different secondary schools in 12 thanas participated there.

Land tax realised

PIROJPUR, Feb 29: Land development tax amounting to Tk 21.96 lakh was realised from six thanas here in first six months of the current fiscal, reports UNB.

Revenue Department through its 51 offices has collected the tax, officials said. Of the amount, Tk 3.80 lakh were collected from Nazirpur thana, Tk 2.77 lakh from Nesarabad, 4.40 lakh from Sadar, Tk 2.25 lakh from Bhandaria and Tk 7.84 lakh from Mathbaria thanas.

Agri-fair concludes

CHUADANGA, Feb 29: A three-day fair organised by the Sadar Thana Agriculture Department here concluded at Sadar Upazilla Parishad premises recently, reports BSS.

On the concluding day the deputy director of the District Agriculture Extension Department was present as the chief guest. At least 20 stalls of various agriculture products were opened at the fair.



Director General of Directorate of Environment AR Khan addressing a seminar on environment management in Khagrachhari on Saturday. —FEJB photo

Baghabari Oil Depot Development work to begin soon

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Feb 29: Development work at a cost of Taka ten crore at Baghabari Oil Depot here will begin soon.

The decision in this regard was taken at high-profile meeting held last week, sources said.

Anwar Hussain, Chairman of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation; AFM Saiful Islam, Deputy Commissioner of Sirajganj; Mostafizur Rahman, Superintendent of Police; Shahjada Anwarul Kadir, President of Rajshahi Division Tank Lorry Owners' Association; Shimul Biswas, President of North Bengal Transport Workers Association; and Shahjahan Siraj, General Secretary of North Bengal Tank Lorry Workers' Union attended the meeting, which was presided over by Nurul Amin Khan, GM of Jamuna Oil Company.

Property, valuables worth Tk 33 lakh gutted in 2 dists

Property and valuables worth Taka 33 lakh were gutted in Rangamati and Habiganj in two fire incidents recently, reports agency.

In Rangamati, ten houses were gutted in a devastating fire at DSB colony in Sadar thana on Sunday.

Witnesses said the flame originated from a house at night and soon raged through the adjacent houses, burning down property worth about Tk eight lakh.

Firefighters with the help of local people put out the blaze. Meanwhile, the municipality authorities have distributed relief materials among the fire-affected families.

In Habiganj, six shops were gutted in a fire at Tinkona Pukur Parh in the town on Wednesday night destroying valuables worth about Tk 25 lakh.

Witnesses said the fire originated from an electric short circuit at about 12:45 am.

Firefighters with the help of local people put out the flame.



A new cultural organisation named Ananda Kantha was floated through a function at Bogra Zilla Parishad auditorium recently. Photo shows artistes of the new organisation rendering songs on the occasion.

Bangladesh Power Development Board

বাক ১১টা থেকে ভোর ৬টার মধ্যে সেচ পাশ চালান

BPDB's Local Tender Notice

1. Local sealed tenders are invited by Bangladesh Power Development Board from renowned local Manufacturers/Suppliers for the procurement of Conductor, Pole, Insulator, NCCB, DOFC, Lightning Arrester, Pole Fittings, CT & PT as stated below:

Sl No	Tender enquiry No & date	Description of Equipment/Materials	Qty	Cost of tender document	Tender receiving date
1.	Pur-208/2000/Rev dt 22.2.2000	ACSR "DOG" Conductor ACSR "KABBIT" Conductor ACSR "MARLIN" Conductor AAC "ANT" Conductor	100 MT 200 MT 50 MT 500 KM	Tk 5000/-	20.3.2000
2.	Pur-209/2000/Rev dt 22.2.2000	11 Meter Steel Pole (with fittings) 9 Meter Steel Pole (with fittings)	1000 Nos 700 Nos	2,000/-	20.3.2000
3.	Pur-210/2000/Rev dt 22.2.2000	11 KV Pin Insulator with Pin 33 KV Pin Insulator with Pin 11 KV Disc Insulator with Bonded Fittings 33 KV Disc Insulator with Bonded Fittings 11 KV Disc Insulator Fittings 33 KV DISC Insulator Fittings Shackle Insulator	5000 Nos 2000 Nos 3000 Nos 2000 Nos 15000 Nos 1000 Nos 20000 Nos	Tk 3000/-	22.3.2000
4.	Pur-211/2000/Rev dt 22.2.2000	MCCB 200 AMPS MCCB 100 AMPS	500 Nos 500 Nos	Tk 1000/-	22.3.2000
5.	Pur-212/2000/Rev	11 KV Drop out fuse cutout (25 AMPS, 40 AF-IP with fuse) 11 KV Lightning Arrester	2000 Nos 2000 Nos	Tk 2000/-	28.3.2000
6.	Pur-214/2000/Rev	11 Meter SPC/PC Poles Fittings 9 Meter SPC/PC Poles Fittings Guy Assembly	5000 Nos 8000 Nos 2000 Nos	Tk 3000/-	29.3.2000

2. A complete set of tender documents may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of written application and upon payment of non-refundable fee of Taka as mentioned in column-5 each as above against this tender in the shape of Bank Draft/Pay Order in favour of Director, Purchase, BPDB, Dhaka.

3. A bid bond equivalent to 2.5% of the offered price shall be submitted with tender.

4. Tender will be received up to 11.00 AM and will be opened at 11.30 AM in the prescribed date as mentioned in Column-6 each as above in presence of the intending bidders or their representatives, if any. Tender shall neither be sent by post nor it will be sold on the opening day. Offer send by Post/Telex/DHL/FAX will neither be received nor it will be accepted.

5. The expenditure will be booked against (O&M) Revenue Budget 1999-2000.

Biddut/Jana-1449(5)/99-2000
GD-194 **Director, Purchase**
BPDB, Dhaka

Amendment No. 1 (One)

বাক ১১টা থেকে ভোর ৬টার মধ্যে সেচ পাশ চালান

Amendment of Local Tender Notice

No Pur-200/2000 Dated. 4.1.2000

1. Receiving date of the Local Tender Notice No. Pur-200/2000 dt. 4.1.2000 for supply of Micro Bus shall be on 14.3.2000 instead of 28.2.2000.

All other terms & conditions will remain unchanged.

Biddut/Jana-1474(4)/99-2000
Director, Purchase
BPDB, Dhaka
GD-196

Bangladesh Power Development Board

বাক ১১টা থেকে ভোর ৬টার মধ্যে সেচ পাশ চালান

International Tender Notice

Sl No	Tender No & Date	Description of Materials/Equipment of Different Ratings
1.	Pur-207/2000 dt. 22.2.2000	33 KV Current Transformer-150 Nos., 33 KV Potential Transformer -102 Nos., 33 KV SF-6 Circuit Breaker-50 Nos., 33 KV Vacuumtype Circuit Breaker-40 Nos., 33 KV Circuit Breaker with Control Panel-20 Nos., 33 KV Gang Operated Isolator-48 Nos., and 33 KV Fusetype Isolator-24 Nos.
2.	Financing	Cash foreign exchange allocation 1999-2000.
3.	Qualification of tender	Bidders of eligible countries.
4.	Bid bond	Irrevocable /un-conditional bid bond of equivalent to 2.5% of quoted amount in the currency of bid in favour of Director, Purchase, BPDB, Dhaka.
5.	Place of received of tender	Office of the Director, Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9th floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.
6.	Date and time of received of tender	29-03-2000 up to 11:00 AM (BST).
7.	Date & time of opening of bids	29-03-2000 at 11:30 AM (BST).
8.	Name of the office where tender document available	From the office of the undersigned on submission of written application alongwith Pay Order/Bank Draft for amount of Tk. 5,000/- (non-refundable) in favour of the Director, Purchase, BPDB, Dhaka-1000.

Tender document will neither be sold on the day of opening nor it will be received through Telex/Fax/Post/Courier etc.

Director, Purchase
BPDB, Dhaka
GD-195