

Lack of dredging a threat to water transportation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lack of dredging of rivers poses a serious threat to rural water transportation in the country, said Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain at a workshop yesterday.

He said big rivers must be connected with each other to improve the water transportation.

The minister said proper traffic signal and weather forecasting system could lessen the risk in travel-

ling through waterways.

He also suggested registration for all country boats to ensure safety in riverine communication.

The minister was speaking as chief guest at the inaugural session of the workshop organised by Bangladesh National Forum for Rural Transport and Development in the city.

While presenting a keynote paper at the workshop, Associate Professor of Bangladesh University

of Engineering and Technology Abdur Rahim said four million people are employed in the country's water transport sector who are earning livelihood for about 10 million people.

"Rural water transport sector in Bangladesh is just second to agriculture both in terms of economy and employment," he added.

Rahim said the rural water transport sector hardly gets any attention from the government.

Chief Engineer of Local Government and Engineering Department Shahidul Hasan, stressed that all boatmen across the country should be brought under credit facilities so that they could overcome their economic hardship.

Dr. Bjorn Guterstam, network officer of Global Water Partnership, Stockholm said navigability of rivers is a vital part of water transportation.

He said proper water resources management could play a significant role for the livelihood of the people linked to this sector.

Executive Director of Dhaka Transport Coordination Board Quamrul Islam Siddique, who chaired the first session, said major investment is needed to build up the capacity of waterways.

"Long negligence and inadequate financing are the major hurdles to make the country's water transport system more effective," he added.

Two papers on 'Maintenance of Inland Waterways' and 'Water Transport and Livelihood of Char Dwellers in Faridpur' were presented at the technical sessions of the workshop.

Bullet-hit passport broker dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A passport broker, who along with four others received bullet injuries in a shootout at Agargaon in the city on Saturday, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday.

Kanchan Mia, 35, received six bullets in a clash on the rooftop of Agargaon Community Centre.

Witnesses said Kanchan, Shafiqullah Shafi, Naim, Abdul Latif and Asaduzzaman were bullet-hit when they were playing cards at 8.30pm on that day.

Police said a gang of 12 opened fire on them over the sharing of their profit.

Naim's brother Ferdous Akhter filed

a case against seven people, but police failed to arrest anyone till last evening.

Accused held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Fatulla police yesterday arrested the prime accused in the killing of Awami League (AL) activist Abdul Kader.

Police arrested the accused Bolder Selim, allegedly a BNP activist, from a mill at Fatullah Post Office Road.

Kader was shot dead on August 15 last year when he was attending a programme to mourn the killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.



PHOTO: STAR

The Commonwealth Student and Youth Organisation took out a procession in the city yesterday to mark the Commonwealth Day.

'Involve community in city solid waste management'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday said active community involvement is essential for sustainable solid waste management in the capital.

They said introduction of door-to-door waste collection system involving city dwellers and ward commissioners can ensure a sound solid waste management.

The seminar on 'Community-based Solid Waste Management,' was organised jointly by Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) at the Nagar Bhaban auditorium.

The seminar was held following an on-going study by the JICA on the city's solid waste management to formulate a master plan in this regard by March 2005.

Chairman of Center for Urban Studies Prof. Nazrul Islam said ward commissioners should be actively involved with the community-based waste management programme.

Three papers on door-to-door waste management system were presented at the seminar.

In his paper, Project Coordinator of PRISM Bangladesh Monir Alam Chowdhury presented how it has been managing solid waste in Khulna city involving the ward-based system.

PRISM, a non-government organisation, has been collecting waste at 26 out of total 31 wards in Khulna City Corporation since 1998 taking a monthly charge Tk 20 from every house.

Mahbub Ahsan Kharram, an individual introducer of community based management of solid waste at Kalabagan in the city from 1987, said primary collection of waste is continuing smoothly but installation of waste containers on the main roads should be shifted to help escape traffic jam.

Secretary General of Bangladesh Integrated Environment Development Forum Nurul Huda said specific rules and regulations are needed for solid waste management.

JICA Study Team Leader Dr. Katsuhide Nagayama and Chief Executive Officer Habibur Rahman of DCC also spoke at the seminar.

RU reopens today

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi University (RU) reopens today after 53 days of closure.

All residential halls were opened yesterday and the university buses started plying as usual.

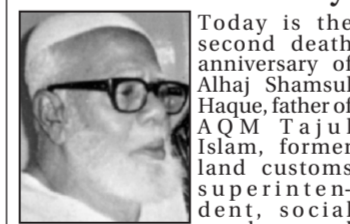
RU Vice Chancellor Prof Faisal Islam Faruki has told The Daily Star that all steps have been taken to maintain congenial academic atmosphere on the campus.

Students have been asked to show their identity cards while boarding the halls.

The authorities have also banned procession, meeting and rally on the campus.

Earlier the syndicate decided to open the university on February 28, but it could not implement the decision following the call of an indefinite strike by the Jatibatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) to realise their demands.

Death anniversary



Today is the second death anniversary of Alhaj Shamsul Haque, father of AQM Tajul Islam, former land customs superintendent, social worker and superintendent engineer of Public Works Department, says a press release.

Milad mahfil will be held at his village home at Doulatramdi in Noakhali and at the official residence at Dhanmondi Road No. 1.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to attend the milad.



New Nation Sramik Union executives

Md Rafiqul Islam and Md Abdur Mannan have been elected president and general secretary of the New Nation Sramik Karmachari Union for a two-year term, says a press release.

Rafiqul Islam was elected unopposed in the election held on March 1.

Other office-bearers are Abdus Salam - vice-president, Md Ataur Rahman - assistant general secretary, Md Shah Alam - treasurer, Md Nuruzzaman - organising secretary, Rabeya Sultana Aankhi - office secretary, and Md Abdus Salam Howlader - publicity secretary.

UK education fair begins Mar 11

DU CORRESPONDENT

The British Council is organising a three-day Education@UK Fair 2004 in the city on March 11-13.

Education Minister Dr Osman Farruk will inaugurate the fair at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel at 11:00am.

Eighteen educational institutions will take part in the fair.

The British Council will also organise a two-day fair at Hotel Agrabad in Chittagong from March 16. The fair will be open for all without any entrance fee.

The fair will provide an opportunity for prospective students, their parents, teachers, personnel and training managers to talk directly to representatives of the British institutions, said the organisers at a press conference yesterday.

Dr. June Rollinson, director of the British Council, said the UK qualifications are recognised worldwide and it can be a solid foundation for one's career.

More than 2,000 students got UK visas last year, said Lawson Ross, first secretary for immigration and consular of the British High Commission.

The participating institutions are University of Abertay Dundee, Brighton International Business School, Canterbury Christ Church University College, University of Central England in Birmingham, David Game College, University of Greenwich (London), Hertfordshire International College of Business & Technology, University of Hertfordshire, University of Huddersfield, Liverpool John Moores University, London Metropolitan University, London South Bank University, University of Luton, Middlesex University, St. Patrick's

International College, University of Sunderland, West London College and University of Westminster.

The fair will remain open from 12:00 noon to 7:30pm on March 11 and from 11:00am to 7:30pm on March 12 and 13. The entrance fee is Tk 20.

JU admission test rescheduled again

JU CORRESPONDENT

The Jahangirnagar University (JU) authorities have rescheduled the date for admission test for first year honours courses under 2003-2004 academic session.

Now the test will be held from April 3 to 12. The new schedule will be announced today.

It was decided at the central admission committee meeting at the administrative building yesterday with Vice-Chancellor Prof Jasim Uddin Ahmad in the chair.

The authorities rescheduled the date as the dean of Arts faculty and Life Science faculty wrote to the VC on March 5 seeking time to complete preparation for holding the admission test.

Earlier, the authorities first fixed the date for holding the admission test from March 13 to 23 then March 17 to 25.

Meanwhile, a teacher preferring anonymity said the new date might be changed as the teachers are planning to refrain themselves from taking admission test until a new VC is appointed from the elected three-member panel.