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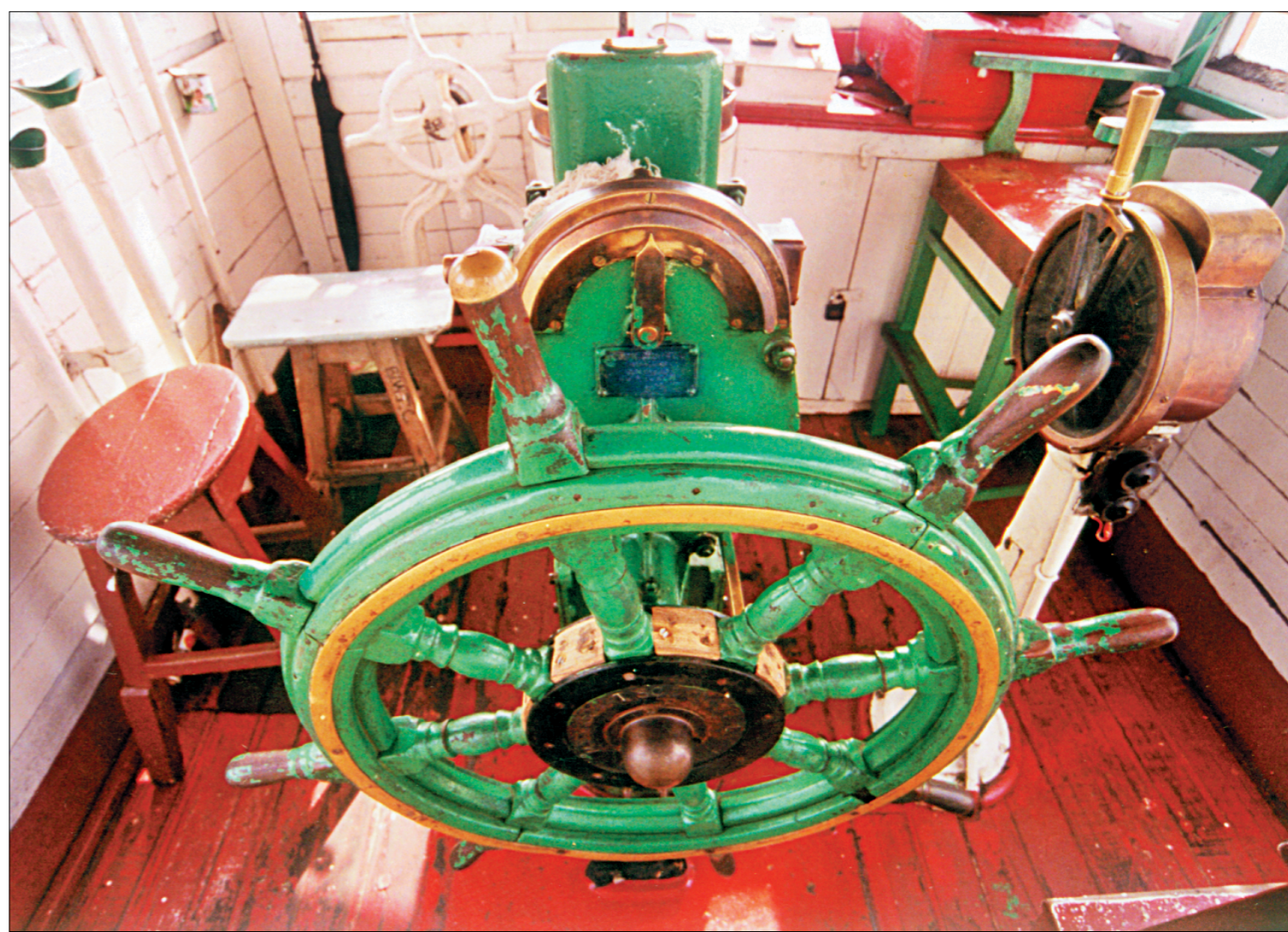
DHAKA MONDAY JUNE 14, 2004

A service: slow but steady

The service on-board the rocket service is beyond compare. The mouth-watering food makes it difficult for many a connoisseur or amateur to resist. Fresh Hilsa from the River Padma is a speciality for fish

However, at the end of the 19th century the two companies merged under the name of India General Navigation Ropeway Company. It continued services in India and the then East Pakistan even after the partition of 1947. Khulna-Barisal Mail Service, Barisal-Dhaka Mail Service, Barisal-Narayanganj Express Service, Narayanganj-

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After independence, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) was established in 1972 with one government-owned ship and nine abandoned private ships. It had 608 water transport facilities of different types. At least 20 of them were passenger vessels. BIWTC started its operations in full swing in 1975. At present it is continuing its commercial operation under four operational units -- P.S. Masud, P.S. Ostrich, P.S. Lepcha and P.S. Turn along with M.V. Shela and M.V. Madhumati ply as the daily

P.S. Lepcha: P.S. Lepcha was first made in 1938. This steamer too was converted to diesel with aid from the Belgian government. It

P.S. Turn: Built in 1935, the vessel has been recently modernised at BIWTC's own dockyard when air conditioning was provided to its first class cabins. Turn is an eight-foot deep, 200 feet long and 26 feet wide steamer, with a speed of nine and a half nautical miles per hour. It has a capacity to carry 550 passengers and 97 tons of goods.

Story: **INTERNET**
Photo: **SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN**

