

Parjatan's Ashulia river cruise fails to attract tourists

SABRINA KARIM MURSHED

Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC)'s regular river cruise programme from Ashulia landing station failed to attract tourists after a month of its inauguration.

BPC inaugurated the service by ML Shalook, a double-decker launch on May 1 after Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Association (BIWTA) opened a 29 kilometer long circular water way from Sadarghat to Ashulia.

"We expected that city people would rush to enjoy the cruise as they have hardly any place to go," said a high official of BPC. "But it did not happen."

ML Shalook brought to Ashulia from BPC's floating restaurant Mary Anderson has a seating capacity of 72 persons and dining capacity of 24 persons.

BPC offers three different cruise programmes for tourists. The first one is seven-hour Dhaka-Ashulia-Pagla-Ashulia-Dhaka trip that costs Tk 875 per person including breakfast and lunch. It needs booking of at

least 40 persons.

The second one is a two-hour long trip in the Ashulia water body that costs a person Tk 200. The third one costs Tk 100 per person for an hour long trip.

costs Tk 110 per person including refreshments. Prior booking of minimum 40 person is required for it.

The BPC official said BPC is sending letters to educational

average only seven passengers turn up a day to take a trip by the vessel. "There are days when not a single passenger comes," said one of them.

He said that operating the vessel with inadequate passengers is not commercial viable. The fuel cost is at least Tk 1,000 per hour," he said.

The official said they even sometimes run the second cruise in Ashulia with two or three persons. "We are doing this only to popularise the river cruise."

Most of the city dwellers are unaware of the cruise programmes. Some of them say the charges are too high while some doubt about security on the vessel.

BPC officials however attributed the lukewarm interest of tourists to lack of advertisement, heat wave and dried water body. "This is summer. Tourists may show interests in the rainy season," said an official.

The official replied in negative when asked if there is any chance of reducing the charge. "How can we reduce it when fuel price has been hiked."



Both the cruises need minimum 25 persons and on the spot booking.

There is another two-hour cruise offered for students that

institutions offering lower charge for the cruise to popularise it among students.

The officials in charge of the river cruise programme said on



ML Shalook, Partajan's river cruise operates sans adequate passengers.



Water crisis is a commonplace scenario in the city, but instead of solving this problem, Wasa has decided to increase the water tariff.

Water price to go up from July

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka WASA (Water and Sewerage Authority) will increase water price by five per cent per thousand litre from July 1 this year.

The increased price will be Tk 5.25 for a thousand litre of water for residential supply while Tk 17.50 per thousand litre for commercial supply instead of the previous rates of five Taka and Tk 16.54 respectively. After the price hike, those who pay Tk 300 in monthly water bills will have to pay Tk 315.

"We have increased the price due to new government pay scale. Pump maintenance cost has also increased," said WASA managing director ANH Akhter Hossain. "We have raised the rates after one and half years and that too is also very negligible," said the WASA MD.

However, subscribers in the city will be counting extra money for water for the fourth time under the present government.

The water price for clients without metres will increase by Tk 3.3 per thousand litres. Residential clients without metres will have to pay 31.97 per cent instead of 34 per cent while it will be 37

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It is believed that the price hike will benefit the clients who are getting water from WASA without owning a metre.

According to WASA, a total of 2.16 lakh household clients are buying its water. The demand of water is 160 crore litre a day. WASA, which produces 145 crore litre a day, can barely meet the demands of the city dwellers especially during summer when there is a shortage of nearly 50 crore litre each day.

"This crisis worsens when the elec-

tricity go off for a long period of time. The introduction of the mathematical model of system and meter monitoring to minimise the system loss will improve the situation including bill collection," said the managing director of WASA.

At present WASA supplies water with the help of the Saidabad Water Treatment Plant, three water treatment plants close to Narayanganj district and 412 deep tubewells. Out of those 412, only 230 deep tubewells have fixed generators.

healthouting, taxicab & train timing

HEALTH

Hospitals

Heart
National Institute of Cardio Vascular Diseases (NICVD),
- 9130800, 9122560-59

Burn

Dhaka Medical College Hospital
Burn Unit-8626812-6

Cancer

National Cancer Institute-8014914,
8826561-65
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib
Medical University-8612550-4,
861455-9

Diabetes

Diabetic Research Hospital
(BIRDEM)- 9661551-5,
8616641-50

Mother & Child Care

Shishu Hospital- 9119119,
8116061-62
Azimpur Mother & Child Health
Training Institute- 8624827, 8624980

Eye

Istamia Eye Hospital-9110794,
9119315
National Eye Hospital- 8117202,
8114807

Dental

Dental College -9002035

Orthopaedics

National Orthopaedics (Pangu)
Hospital- 9114075, 9112150

General

Dhaka Medical College Hospital-
8626812-6

Rushmono General Hospital-
8317819

Holy Family Hospital-
83111731-25

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib
Medical University Hospital-
8612550-4, 8614545-9

Bangladesh Medical College &
Hospital- 8115443, 9118202,
Shamarita Hospital- 9131901

Suhrawardy Hospital -- 9130800,
9122560-69

Saiimullah Medical Collage

Hospital -- 7310061-4, 7319002-6

Cholera Research Hospital
(ICDRB)- 8811751-60

Monowra Hospital 8319802, 8318135

Blood Bank

Red Crescent Centre- 9116563

Sandhani (DMCH)- 8624040

Sandhani (SMCH)- 7310061,
7310061,7319022

Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital-
8626812-9

Eye Bank

Sandhani International Eye Bank-
8614040

Ambulances For Dead Body

Anzuman Mafidul Islam (Kakrail)
9336611, Gandaria 7319808,
7318166,
Al-Markajul Islam 9127867,

MARKET CLOSED

Gulshan 1, 2 markets-Friday

Elephant Road-Friday

Bishal Center-Friday

Baitul Mukarram Market-Friday

Polwell Market-Friday

BCS Computer City-Friday

Isha Khan Shopping Complex-Friday.

Rajlaxmi Complex-Friday

Stadium Market-Friday

Bangabazar Market-Friday

National Museum-Thursaday

Ahsan Manzil--Thursaday.

New Market-Tuesday

Gausia Market-Tuesday

Mouchak Market-Sunday

Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday

Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday

Eastern Plaza-Sunday

Farmviy Super Market-Sunday

Muktijuddha Jadughar-Sunday

Dhaka Zoo-Sunday

Shishu Jadughar-Sunday

TAXI CAB

Yellow Cab

Navana 9558065

Salida 9344477, 0171620881

Cosmo 9112959 and 8127191

Cab One 7113282-3

Nihon 8624741-2

Orion 9347277

Anudip -- 8125285 and 8127611

Capital 9352847

Union 8130485

Kool 0171826731

Black Cab

Cab Ex 9358401

Cabline 8321162

JBS Cab 019364575

Sajan 018126036

Anudip -- 8125285 and 8127611

Cab One 7113282-3

Palki 0171052500

Cab I 7113282

Jatri 0171540074

Nipun 9572277

R-Cab 8914782

Star Cab 9571919

Shihab 018202477 & 018228675

KGN 8620011

LIBRARY & INFO

Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers

Central Public Library- 8626001-4,

Shishu Academy- 9564128

Shilpakala Academy- 8614673

Bangla Academy- 8619550

Islamic Foundation- 9550280,
9556407

Nazrul Institute- 9114602

Ford Foundation- 8116133

Alliance Francaise- 8611557

Information Resource Center, The
American Center - 8813440-4,
9886395-9

British Council- 8618867-8,
8618905-7

Community Development Library-
8113769, 8113604

Goethe Institute Int'l- Dhaka-
9126525-6

Indian Information Centre &
Cultural Library- 8850141-2

The Russian Cultural Centre-
9116314, 9118531, 9118314

Drik Photo Gallery- 9120125,
8112954, 8123412

Press Institute of Bangladesh

TRAIN TIMING

Subarna Express

Mahanagar Prabhati

Mahanagar Godhuli

Turna

Parabati Express

Joyantika Express

Upaban Express

Tista Express

Ekata Express

Upakul Express

Agnibeena Express

Leaves Dhaka at 4:30 pm

Leaves Dhaka at 7:30 am

Leaves Dhaka at 3-15 pm

Leaves Dhaka at 11-00 pm

Leaves Dhaka at 6-40 pm

Leaves Dhaka at 12-45 pm

Leaves Dhaka at 9-45 pm

Leaves Dhaka at 7-00 am

Leaves Dhaka at 5-00 pm

Leaves Dhaka at 8-00 pm

Leaves Dhaka at 9-20 pm

Reaches Chittagong at 10:35 pm

Reaches Chittagong at 1-55 pm

Reaches Chittagong at 10-55 pm

Reaches Chittagong at 6-40 am

Reaches Sylhet at 9-20 pm

Reaches Sylhet at 6-40 am

Reaches Bahadurabad at 1-05 pm

Reaches Bahadurabad at 11-15

Reaches Noakhali at 5-00 am

Reaches Jagannath at 2-30 pm