

Plan to construct pvt jetties on banks of Karnaphuli

ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD, Ctg

The government is going to allow the construction of private jetties on both banks of the river Karnaphuli. However, the setting up of such jetties on the right bank will be allowed under special consideration only.

Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) is about to finalise a policy titled 'Wooden, Steel-structure and RCC-structure Jetty Approval Related Policy 2007' for this purpose, said the port sources.

The draft of the policy has already been prepared and would be sent to PICOM (Private Infrastructure Committee) soon.

The policy might be published in the Gazette following the approval of PICOM, they added.

Meanwhile, many feared that the new policy proposing for private jetties on the right bank of the river under special consideration might create a scope for setting up private port there.

They mentioned that an attempt by the Stevedoring Services of America (SSA) BD Ltd to construct a private port on the right bank sparked a huge protest in the past and it was not successful due to an

injunction by the court.

They also alleged that a local business group is now desperate to set-up a private port on the right bank.

The new policy might pave the way for setting up a private port by that group and by others in future, feared the port experts.

They observed that private port on the right bank of the Karnaphuli might pose a security threat to Key-Point Installations (KPI) like Shah Amanat International Airport, Oil installations, Zahurul Haq Air Base and Bangladesh Naval Academy.

Besides, any private port at the downstream of the Karnaphuli would surely discourage the vessels in reporting at Chittagong port, which is around nine KM off the estuary, forcing a serious vessel crisis for the port, they added.

CPA sources said the draft of the new policy proposed for keeping the left bank of the Karnaphuli open for construction of wooden jetties and steel-structure jetties suitable for berthing coaster vessels of a capacity not over 500 tons, and RCC jetties for berthing ocean-going vessels with a length up to 200 meters.

The draft also proposed for keeping the right bank of the river reserved for construction of jetties by CPA

while leaving a scope for making application for setting up private jetties on special consideration.

The experts have criticised the scope and opined that if any jetty is constructed on the right bank of the Karnaphuli it has to be done by CPA keeping the national as well as port security in mind.

According to CPA sources, the government is thinking of allowing private jetties on both banks of the Karnaphuli in consideration of increasing cargo-handling activities of Chittagong port and its future need.

They said the cargo handling at Chittagong port is increasing at the rate of 14 percent.

They said the increasing cargo handling could hardly be tackled with the existing capacity of all the 15 jetties, seven lighter jetties and six mooring jetties and silos at Chittagong port and those of Kafco, TSP, CUFL and ERL.

Enhancement of efficiency might enable the port to tackle the increasing pressure of the cargo handling for the next 20 years, but beyond that it will not be possible without constructing new terminal, they added.

Keeping the future need in mind

the government is thinking of allowing private jetties, said the sources.

The policy won't create scope for setting up any private port in the downstream of the Karnaphuli as the private jetties with measurement determined by CPA would only allow berthing of domestic vessels, said Captain Yahiya Sayeed while talking to The Daily Star on Tuesday.

License would be issued on condition of its renewal after one year for construction of private RCC-structure jetties on BOT (Build, Operate and Transfer) basis, he added.

According to sources, the license fee has been fixed at Tk 5 lakh for RCC jetty, Tk 3 lakh for steel jetty and Tk 1 lakh for wooden jetty.

The license fees would be increased by 10 percent after every five years.

To ensure that no river erosion takes place or no hindrance is created to normal flow of the river and movement of vessel, plan for such jetty will have to be approved by CPA after Mathematical Model Study and necessary survey through Buet (Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology), they added.



PHOTO: MOHAMMED RAHIM

Leaders and activists of US chapter of Awami League stage a demonstration in front of the UN headquarters in New York yesterday demanding immediate release of AL President Sheikh Hasina. Later, they submitted a memorandum to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in this regard.

LENDING RESOURCES TO MIGRANTS GFMD to conduct study in Bangladesh

PORIMOL PALMA

The Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) in Belgium has selected Bangladesh for conducting a feasibility study to assess the involvement of banks and other financial institutions in lending resources to migrants and their families.

The study aims at suggesting ways to reduce migration cost and its risks in the destination countries.

The decision was taken against the backdrop where migrants from developing countries who pay high to migrate are likely to become liabilities for their poor households once they return home with inadequate income.

Dr Hamidur Rashid, director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Salauddin Akbar, deputy secretary of the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, Shahidul Haque, regional representative of International Organisation for Migration (IOM) for South Asia, and Syed Saiful Haque of Welfare Association of Repatriated Bangladeshi Employees, participated in the GFMD held on July 9-11 from Bangladesh.

It was decided at the panel discussion of a session styled "Role of other than government partners in strengthening the developmental contribution of temporary labour migration" that Bangladesh will implement the feasibility study project in assistance with the IOM, the Philippines and Sri Lanka, Shahidul told The Daily Star on Thursday. The session was chaired by Bangladesh.

The first GFMD, an inter-governmental informal consultative process, hosted by the Belgium government drew some 800 delegates from more than 140 countries. The second GFMD will be held next year in the Philippines.

At the session Dr Rashid presented a paper prepared in assistance with the IOM Regional Office in Dhaka and the GFMD Taskforce in Brussels.

The paper proposed that loans from banks or micro-financing institutions could be given to aspirant migrant workers to pay the initial migration cost that includes recruitment fees, plane fares and document-

ation fees.

"If a bank agrees to give a loan to a prospective migrant, then it would be in the best interest of the bank to ensure that the worker receives the best possible employment contract and his or her rights are respected," the paper said.

To prevent non-repayment of the loan, the bank would exercise due diligence to reduce contractual imperfections, Rashid observed, adding that it could be less risky for the bank if the loan agreement stipulates that the worker would

remit his or her income through the bank.

The paper also proposed setting up of migration resource centres (MRC) in both countries sending and receiving manpower since most migrants are not skilled in the languages of the destination countries, or acquainted with their social and cultural norms and working conditions.

Shahidul said MRCs are functioning in some manpower-sending countries like Bangladesh and the Philippines, but there are no MRCs in the destination countries.



PHOTO: STAR

Policemen stand guard near Baitul Mukarram Mosque yesterday as security has been stepped up in the city.

Faezul Huq's death condoled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different socio-political organisations and individuals yesterday condoled the death of AK Faezul Huq, former state minister for jute and son of Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Huq.

President Iajuddin Ahmed expressed deep shock at the death of AK Faezul Huq.

In a condolence message yesterday, he said Faezul Huq was endowed with creative faculties in different fields, including education, industry, literature and politics.

"The country has lost an experienced politician and social worker at the death of Huq," Iajuddin added.

Speaker of Jatiya Sangsad Barister Jamiruddin Sircar and Deputy Speaker Akhter Hamid Siddiqui in a joint statement condoled the death of Huq.

Information Adviser Mainul Hossain also expressed deep shock at Huq's death.

In a condolence message, he said the country has lost an eminent social worker as well as a politician with the death of Huq.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in a message said Huq was a "Talented politician as well as a social worker endowed with immense creativity in different arena of knowledge".

Awami League (AL) Acting President Zillur Rahman and Acting General Secretary Mukul Bose also condoled Huq's death.

Workers' Party, Barisal Bibhag Samity, Bangladesh Nari Mukti Andolon, Jatiya Gonotantrik League, Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Projonmo League, Muktiyoddha Paribar Kalyan Sangsad, Muktiyoddha Bahumukhi Kalyan Samity, Dakkhin Bangla Jubo Kalyan Samity and Muktiyoddha Palli Society also expressed deep shock at the death of Faezul Huq.

3000 cops punished during emergency Says IGP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Around 3,000 policemen have been punished on charges of corruption, misuse of power, misconduct and other irregularities since the caretaker government assumed power, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Nur Mohammad said in the port city yesterday.

He revealed this while exchanging views with the journalists of print and electronic media.

"Moreover, many top-ranked police officers were closed, made OSD (officer on special duty) or faced suspension on the same ground," said the IGP adding that such measures forecast a radical change in the department.

Referring to the 'traditional' disrepute of police, Nur Mohammad said this did not happen overnight, rather many 'limitations' and moral degradation were largely responsible for the ignominy of police department.

"Lack of proper training and recruitment were two other vital reasons that led to such ill repute," he

added.

The IGP said police were supposed to be the 'symbol of trust' and 'friends of common people' but instead they have turned out to be completely reversal to the expectations.

Underscoring the need for modernisation and reforms, the IGP said time has come to wipe out all the stigmas and negative impression about police and prove the force as the 'true friends of common people.'

"Only a full-fledged reform within the department can make it a service-oriented and pro-people institution," Nur Mohammad said, adding, "And the present caretaker government is actually working to this end."

Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) Mainur Rahman Chowdhury, Commanding Officer of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab)-7 Lt Col Hasinur Rahman, and additional inspector generals, deputy commissioners and police superiors were present in the meeting held at the CMP Conference Room.

Col Taher Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Colonel Taher Day will be observed today to mark the 31st death anniversary of Col Abu Taher Bir Uttam.

This year, the day will be observed in a low-key manner due to emergency.

Although Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) and Colonel Taher Sangsad have taken up elaborate programmes, but they did not get permission from the authorities to hold the programmes, the two organisations said in separate statements.

A delegation of JSD led by its President Hasanul Haq Inu will place wreaths at the grave of Col Taher at Kajla village in Purbadhala, Netrakona, at 11:00am.

Different organisations will also place wreaths at the portrait of Taher at Shaheed Col Taher auditorium at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city at 4:00pm.

In a statement yesterday, JSD President Hasanul Haque Inu and General Secretary Syed Zafar Sazzad paid tribute to the memory of Col Taher, saying that he played a significant role in building the nation with the spirit of the Liberation War.

'Change attitude towards elderly people'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop yesterday stressed the need to change attitude towards elderly people and called on the media to play an important role in this regard.

Although the elderly people account for seven percent of the total population, the media do not highlight their contribution adequately, they said.

The Bangladesh Association for the Aged and Institute of Geriatric Medicine organised the workshop 'Healthy ageing and media' in the city in association with the World Health Organisation and the Ministry of Health and Family Affairs.

Presenting the keynote paper, Dr ASM Atiqur Rahman, secretary general of Bangladesh Association for the Aged, said the people usually see the elderly as frail, impatient and dependent. Such attitude must be changed, he added.

The media also disseminate very little information about the elderly people, their rights and achievements, health condition, income and family status, he said.

He called on the media to air and publish more reports on the elderly people regularly as they have a lot of contribution to society.

The newspapers can bring out special page for them and the electronic media can broadcast live programmes, documentary and talk show on them, he suggested.

Speaking as the chief guest, Dr Shaikh Abdus Salam, chairman of Mass Communication and Journalism Department of Dhaka University, said, "We should consider the elderly people as a blessing for society and the media should raise awareness about them."

He urged the association to hold more dialogues and view exchange meetings with journalists, editors and the policymakers to sensitise them to the issue.

Association President Dr Rashid Ahmed and MA Baset, an administrative officer at the health ministry, also spoke.

Begum's six decades in awakening women

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women. But women's struggle is yet to end as incidents of women and children repression, superstitions and religious fundamentalism still prevails," said Nurjahan Begum, editor of the weekly.

Women in this country need to achieve more courage, quality and education to keep pace with the women abroad, Nurjahan said, adding that women's development will be faster now as they have started to come out from home.

"Begum played an important role in societal change and it would not be possible for Begum to last for long 60 years if it could not contribute a great deal to the society," said litterateur Selina Hossain adding that if we ever try to write the history of Bangladesh, the women of this country and their movement, we must acknowledge

the role of Begum.

"We should nurture the spirit of Begum that contains something to inspire," said Maleka Begum who conducted a research on the weekly's role in social change.

She handed over a set of her research book to Nurjahan Begum.

The first women's magazine with photographs started its publication from Kolkata on July 20, 1947 with Mohammad Nasiruddin as the initiator and Begum Sufia Kamal as the editor. After a few months Nurjahan Begum took its charge as editor.

The magazine was shifted to the then East Pakistan in 1950 and started publication from Patuati in Dhaka.

Even after the passage of a long time, the Begum has maintained its own features and played an important role in creating awareness among

women, the speakers said.

Paying tribute to the weekly's initiator Mohammad Nasiruddin, first editor Begum Sufia Kamal and present Editor Nurjahan Begum, the speakers said, Begum worked for spreading knowledge and arouse awakening among women even in rural areas.

A number of famous women writers in the country started as contributors of Begum that published features and articles on women, health, children and literature from the very beginning, they said.

Among others, Rabeya Khatun, Latifa Akand, Kazi Madina, Selina Doza Punni, Anwara Begum Ranu, Selina Khalek, Sayeeda Khanom, Rizia Rahman and Dr Nazma Siddiki, and Flora Nasreen Khan spoke.

Horror still haunts 8-yr old daughter

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of JMB who wanders around the city using different pseudonyms.

Law enforcers investigating the murder, however, suspect that the murderer wrote the letter to divert the course of investigation.

Rummun said, "My mother used to tell us she got everything early. So her end came too early as well. My mother lost her father very early in her life. She got married when she was a student of class IX and I was born early too," he said, adding, "My mother was not supposed to leave us in such a way."

He said, "I cannot think of anything without my mother. She used to wait for my return with meals ready on the dining table and we used to have our meals together."

"We along with my mother were supposed to visit my grandmother's house today (yesterday). My grandmother still does not know that her beloved daughter is no more. She is waiting for us," Rummun said before breaking down in tears.

Kulkhwani of Sayma was held at

her flat in Prince Tower on Elephant Road yesterday which relatives and well-wishers of Sayma attended.

INVESTIGATION

Police investigating the gruesome murder said they have gleaned important information from the two domestic helps of Sayma's home, who were present in the flat during the murder.

Investigators are now quizzing Mina and Aleya—the two domestic helps who have been remanded for seven days.

"They gave us some important information yesterday which will help us a lot to detect the killer," said Officer-in-charge of New Market Police Station ABM Golam Kibria.

He, however, refused to divulge the information for the sake of the investigation.

A man believed to have acquaintance with Supreme Court lawyer Sayma Khanam, 44, slit her throat inside her 15th-floor flat in Prince Tower Tuesday.

Barisal journos boycott Mainul's programme

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Members of Barisal Reporters Unity (BRU) and Barisal Metropolitan Union of Journalists (BMUJ) boycotted a view exchange programme with Law and Information Adviser Barrister Mainul Hossain at the local circuit house last night.

Ismail Hossain Negahban and Sushanta Ghosh, president and secretary of BRU and Swapan Khondokar, secretary of BMUJ, said the district administration invited all journalists to take part in the programme at 5:30pm.

But after waiting as of 7:00pm, when a large number of journalists from local and national print and electronic media entered the hall, they saw on the banner that the programme was arranged only for the members of Barisal Press Club.

In protest, the BRU and BMUJ members left the venue.

Only Meherunnessa Babul, ward commissioner and president of Barisal Press Club and Kazi Russel, executive editor of local daily Ajker Barta, who are wife and son of Kazi Babul, former president of Ajker Barta who is serving prison sentence and close aide of top corrupt Giasuddin Mamun, attended the programme with their fellow members.

While talking to the members of Barisal Press Club, the adviser said the caretaker government has no desire to stay in power for long.

About the arrest of Sheikh Hasina, he claimed that it is a legal process and the government has no role in it.

Earlier, a leaflet was distributed by unidentified lawyers calling on legal practitioners to boycott the programme of the adviser.

However, office-bearers and members of the District Bar Association attended the programme.

National level debate contest begins in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jukti Kathan, a national level debate contest organised by ATN Bangla, began on Thursday with a view to creating enlightened citizens for a better Bangladesh.

Chairman of ATN Bangla Mahfuzur Rahman inaugurated the competition at its studio at Bashundhara City on that day.

Adviser to the channel Saiful Bari, Chief of the Programme section Nowajish Ali Khan and Chairman of Debate for Democracy Hasan Ahmed Chowdhury Kiran also spoke at the inaugural ceremony.

On the first day of the competition Vigarunnisa Noon College, Shaheed Anwar Girls' College, Holly Cross College and SOS Harman Mainer College took part while Dhaka Imperial College, South Point College, Siddheshwari Girls' College, Ideal Commerce College, Rifles Public College and Kumudini Government College contested yesterday.

A total of 48 schools from across the country are taking part in the competition.

The competition will be telecast on ATN Bangla every Thursday afternoon.

Obituary

Quazi Abdus Salam, father of Quazi Nazrul Islam, general secretary of Institute of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh (IDEB), passed away due to brain hemorrhage at Metropolitan Hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 90, says a press release.

He left behind his four sons and five daughters to mourn his death. IDEB condoled the death and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

They also conveyed sympathy to members of the bereaved family.



No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at most places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Sylhet, Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy rainfalls are also likely at places, Met office said in a forecast.

It also predicted that day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Highest temperature 31.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chuadanga and lowest 24.0 degree Celsius at Rangamati.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:47pm today and rises at 5:23am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	30.3	24.5	95	80
Chittagong	28.4	25.2	100	92
Rajshahi	30.6	24.5	99	88
Khulna	29.0	25.0	87	91
Barisa	30.4	25.2	90	92
Sylhet	30.6	24.5	92	90
Cox's Bazar	30.7	25.5	96	100