

POOR NAVIGABILITY IN JAMUNA

Fertiliser supply to 16 N districts hampered

GOLAM MOSTAFA JIBON, Back From Notakhola

With navigation problem taking a serious turn in the Jamuna channel following drastic fall of water level at different points, fertiliser transportation to 16 northern districts through Baghabari river port has remained suspended for over a month.

Leaseholders at Baghabari port demanded extra charges from the owners of vessels and barges that often get stuck up and take more time than scheduled.

But the contractors carrying fertiliser declined to comply with demand for extra charges and consequent stalemate has continued for over a month.

At present, fertiliser sacks from the cargo vessels and barges are being unloaded from Notakhola Point of Jamuna River for supply to Pabna, Sirajganj, Bogra, Rangpur, Dinajpur, Gaibandha, Natore, Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj, Kurigram, Naogaon, Joypurhat, Lalmonirhat, Thakurgaon, Panchagarh and Nilphamari districts.

Earlier, the goods including fertilizer were unloaded from Nagorbarighat for several days following the dispute between leaseholders and the carrying contractors and navigability problem in the river channel, Baghabari port sources said.

Due to the poor navigability, cargo vessels and barges often get stuck at different points of Jamuna River. As many as 15 cargo vessels and barges loaded with huge quantity of fertilizer are now



Huge urea fertilizer remains stockpiled on the premises of BADC godown in Rajshahi city as dealers are reluctant to take delivery while the farmers in northern districts have to pay high price due to its short supply.

stuck up at different points of the Jamuna channel due to poor navigability, sources said.

Farmers have to purchase fertilizer with high prices due to added carrying time and expenditure required for its supply to the districts.

During a visit to fertilizer dealers' shops in different upazilas of Sirajganj district, this correspondent saw fertilizer selling at previous rates although the government has announced reduction of its prices.

The dealers, however, said they did not get yet any instruction about the new rate of fertilizer.

The claimed that they are counting loss as they have to spend additional money as carrying cost.

The dealers also told about short supply of fertilizer.

Mazbar Rahman, a fertilizer trader of Shahebganj Bazaar in Raiganj upazila of Sirajganj district recently said he is facing crisis of TSP and potash. Many farmers are going back from his trade centre due to short supply. He also urged the government to start open market sale system for all fertilizer in the greater interest of farmers.

The port authorities said, if the navigation problem is

resolved and the channel is made suitable for movement of barges and vessels, the port will get life again. In this regard, they also sent several letters to the BIWTA authorities demanding proper dredging, but to no effect.

A BIWTA official seeking anonymity told The Daily Star that they have failed to keep the route functional for want of logistic supports including adequate manpower and dredging machines. When they complete dredging at a point, the current of river carry quantities of sand from other points and make the point silted again.

Firearms, gunpowder seized in Jessore

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) recovered two foreign-made firearms, one bullet and one kilogram of gunpowder from a passenger bus at Jessore on Monday night.

The man who was carrying these arms, ammunition and gunpowder managed to escape getting advance information of raid by the elite force.

Acting on a tip-off, members of Rab-6 led by Major Sarwar took position in front of Eagle Paribahan office at Garhikhana road under Jessore Kotwali Police Station at around 11:00pm.

Later, they carried out a search in the bus of Eagle Paribahan bound for Chittagong from Khulna city and found two firearms, bullet and gunpowder in a bag.

The recovered firearms are a 9mm pistol made in USA and a revolver made in India.

Rab deposited recovered arms, bullet and gunpowder to the police. A general diary (GD) was filed with Jessore Kotwali police station.

2 die, 28 missing as trawler sinks in Arial Kha

A CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

Two bodies of 30 missing passengers of a capsized trawler were recovered from the Arial Kha River at Kalkini yesterday.

The bodies were identified as Tania, 14, daughter of Chanchal Sarder of Kachikata village under Bangsar union and Rezaul, 4, son of Saleh Bhuiyan of Raipur village under Laxmipur union, said Kalkini Police Station officer-in-charge Md Rafiqul Islam.

Thirty passengers went missing in the river following capsizing of the trawler on Monday. The rest 28 passengers are still missing.

Earlier, the trawler carrying fertilizer, rice and more than 50 passengers left Madaripur for Surjomoni village in Kalkini. On the way the trawler sank in Alipur launch ghat area.

500 rice mills in Pabna lying idle for a week

Paddy rotting as sunlight missing due to dense fog

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Rice production in over 500 rice mills of the district has been stopped following inclement weather, said Pabna district unit president of Rice Mill Owners Association Md Idris Ali Biswas. It requires at least three to four days of sunlight for producing rice in winter season. But sunlight is not available for last one week due to dense fog, he said.

About 15,000 maunds of paddy are being rotten in the mills rendering over 3,000 rice mill labourers, a large number of whom are women, jobless, they said.

At least 300 maunds of paddy can be processed in each rice mill in one round thereby producing 100 maunds of rice. Over 10,000 maunds of rice can be produced every week in the district in the peak season. But production in mills has been stopped following inclement weather, said Pabna district unit president of Rice Mill Owners Association Md Idris Ali Biswas. It requires at least three to four days of sunlight for producing rice in winter season. But sunlight is not available for last one week due to dense fog, he said.

When contacted, Jamal, 45, a rice mill labourer of Dapunia village in Pabna Sadar upazila said, "We work in rice mills on contract basis and get Tk 3,500 by producing rice from 400 maunds of paddy." "If weather remains favourable then it is easier to produce rice within

three or four days", he said adding, on completion of one round of production, about seven or eight labourers get Tk 3,500 to 4,000. "As we have no work, we are suffering much in such a situation," he said.

Meanwhile, prices of rice have shot up in retail outlets in the district, market sources said. Prices of each bag of rice increased here from Tk 50 to 100 during last one week.

When contacted, district food officer said that dense fog has disrupted production of rice but "the situation is under control".

On contact, district controller of food Md Jahangir Alam said they are monitoring prices of rice which is "stable".

Clash over control of bus stand in Rangpur: 20 hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

At least 20 people were injured in a clash between two factions of Sramik League over control of Rangpur central bus terminal yesterday.

One faction is led by Awami League leader Sharfuddin Ahmed Jhontu while the other by district AL convener Abul Mansur.

The trouble began at around 10:00am as the leaders and activists of Mansur group damaged the stage erected at the terminal by Jhontu faction

to hold a general meeting. Jhontu's supporters got furious and made attack on its rival group. Both sides locked in attack and counter-attack that continued for an hour.

Police reached the spot at about 11:00am, charged baton and brought the situation under control.

Jontu and Mansur were present at the terminal during the incident. But their presence was strongly criticised by some leaders of the AL district unit.

When asked, Jhontu and Mansur said they went there to make a negotiation in

regard to formation of new committee.

Rangpur central bus terminal is the source of extortion. Everyday Tk 1 lakh has been collected from the terminal in the name of transport workers' welfare.

After the AL-led grand alliance came to power, the two factions of Sramik League are trying to take control of the terminal.

During the rule of the BNP-led four party alliance, the terminal was under the control of Altaf Hosen Mukul, district president of Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal.



Police chase transport workers as two factions of Sramik League clashed to take control of Rangpur Bus Terminal yesterday.

এখন বাজারে

NESCAFÉ Coffee-mate

ভালবাসার গল্প লিখে জিতে নিন আকর্ষণীয় মোবাইল সেট বিস্তারিত পত্রিকায়

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POLICE-MOB CLASH ON JAN 14 Nilphamari rally demands release of 'innocent' people

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Speakers at a meeting at Darwani Market in Nilphamari Sadar upazila on Monday night demanded immediate release of 'innocent' people arrested from the market and surrounding villages following a police case centring violent protest after a street accident on 14 January.

Eleven policemen and 50 others were injured as agitated

mob engaged in a clash with police after the accident that killed a betel leaf trader of Darwani market.

Adult males, mostly the Boro farmers in the area, have gone into hiding in the peak Boro cultivation season as police indiscriminately arrested innocent local people after filing a case accusing 200-250 unidentified people, speakers said in the meeting.

On Saturday night, police raided several villages around Darwani market in Sadar upazila

and arrested 18 people.

Thirteen of the arrestees were sent to Nilphamari jail while five others taken on remand.

They were accused of rioting, resisting government employees to carry out official duty and causing serious injury to them, said police.

Vice-chairman of Nilphamari Sadar upazila Shahed Mahmud, Nilphamari Municipality Mayor Dewan Kamal Ahmed, district Awami League Secretary Momtazul Islam spoke in the meeting.

LOOKING FOR...

HEAD OF MARKETING

Job Summary
To achieve marketing objectives with comprehensive planning and consistent monitoring commensurate with organization's Mission and Vision.

Requirements

- MBA major in Marketing.
- Knowledge in MIS is must.
- Minimum 5 years experience in a managerial position.
- Strong communication skill.
- Age- around 40 years.

Candidate(s) currently drawing salary below Tk. 50000/- need not apply.

Head of Marketing Research & Planning

Job Summary
Prepare and review comprehensive Marketing & Distribution planning through required marketing research work to meet the short term and long term vision of the organization.

Requirements

- MBA (major in Marketing) or Graduation in Engineering/Applied Physics & Electronics with MBA.
- Knowledge & exposure in MIS field will be preferred.
- Strong analytical and computer skills.
- 3 to 4 years experience in related field.
- Age not exceeding 35 years.

Candidate(s) currently drawing salary below Tk. 25000/- need not apply.

Professionals are requested to apply to HR Department, Panjeree Publications Limited, 43 Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Sarak, Shantinagar, Dhaka-1217, within February 7 2009. Application through jobs@panjeree.com is also encouraged.

Lalmonirhat students yet to get textbooks

A CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

An acute crisis of textbooks has been prevailing here since beginning of the new academic session.

As a result, study of about one lakh students of classes six to nine in 270 junior and secondary schools is being hampered.

Books on social science, general science, accounting, physics, chemistry, geology, agriculture, economics and civics are yet to arrive at libraries in Aditmari, Kaliganj, Hatibandha, Patgram and Sadar upazilas. Book traders could not say about arrival of the books.

Guardians have to procure

books at prices much higher than that fixed by the school textbook board. Book traders have created an artificial crisis of books, they alleged.

But local book traders alleged that publishers of Bangla Bazar in Dhaka are not supplying books to them on commission following withdrawal of commission on books by the government. Previously, there had been 17 percent commission on each board book, they said adding, publishers of Bangla Bazar are forcing them to buy forbidden notebooks.

When contacted, district education officer Azad Rahman said the crisis is a 'national problem'.

FERTILISER BDR seeks people's help to check smuggling

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) officials have sought cooperation of people from all walks of life in border villages to resist smuggling of fertilizer, diesel and drug into India.

The call was made at a view exchange meeting at Thakurgaon BDR camp yesterday.

Twenty Rifles Battalion Commander Lt Col S Shahed Kamal presided the meeting while it was attended by Dinajpur Sector Commander of BDR Col Kudrat-e-Elahi as chief guest.

A project financed by the European Union

Request for Proposals (RFP)

for

Producing Information and Educational Communication (IEC) Visual Aids for the Field program of Health Cluster under UNDP-CHTFD

The Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility (CHTFD), United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Bangladesh, seeks proposals from interested and well qualified organizations to "Producing Information and Educational Communication (IEC)/Visual Aids for the Field program of Health Cluster under UNDP-CHTFD under UNDP-CHTFD. The solicitation documents have been uploaded on the UNDP website <http://www.undp.org.bd/proc.php> more.

The deadline for submission of RFPs will be **10 February 2009; 05:00 pm.**

ন্যাশনাল টিউবস লিমিটেড

(বাংলাদেশ ইম্পাত ও প্রকৌশল কর্তৃপক্ষের একটি প্রতিষ্ঠান)

১০১-১৪২ টংগী শিল্প এলাকা
টংগী, গাজীপুর-১৭১০১

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স্বাধ্বস্থান পরিচালক, ন্যাশনাল টিউবস লিমিটেড, টংগী, গাজীপুর কর্তৃক নিম্নোক্ত পণ্যসামগ্রী সরবরাহকারীর নিম্ন খরচে ও দায়িত্বে অত্র কারখানার ভান্ডারে সরবরাহের জন্য প্রকৃত সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে সীলমোহরকৃত বামে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাইতেছে :

ক্র. নং	টেন্ডার নং ও তারিখ	দ্রব্যের নাম ও বিবরণ	আবেদী মনি (ফেক্সযোগ্য)	টেন্ডার দলিলের মূল্য (ফেক্সযোগ্য)	টেন্ডার খোলার তারিখ ও সময়
১)	বাণিজ্য (স্থানীয় ক্রম)-০৭/০৮-০৯ তারিখ- ২৬-০১-০৯	বল বিয়ারিং, হার্ডওয়্যার ও ম্যানুফ্যাকচারিং দ্রব্যাদি।	টংগী ৩,০০০/- (তিন হাজার)	টংগী ১০০/- (একশত) মাত্র।	১৬-০২-২০০৯ তারিখে সকাল ১১-১৫ ঘটিকায় টেন্ডার ব্যান্ড বন্ধ হইবে এবং একই তারিখে সকাল ১১-৩০ ঘটিকায় খোলা হইবে।
২)	বাণিজ্য (স্থানীয় ক্রম)-০৮/০৮-০৯ তারিখ- ২৬-০১-০৯	৪০ দাঁত ও ১৮ দাঁতের গুয়ার পিয়ার ও এয়ার কম্প্রেশারের যন্ত্রাংশ (ড্রইং অনুযায়ী)।	টংগী ৪,০০০/- (চার হাজার)	টংগী ২০০/- (দুইশত) মাত্র।	
৩)	বাণিজ্য (স্থানীয় ক্রম)-০৯/০৮-০৯ তারিখ- ২৬-০১-০৯	৬ ডায়া সাবমার্সিবল পাম্প (মটরসহ) এবং হাইড্রোসার মালিটি ট্রেজ পাম্প।	টংগী ৪,০০০/- (চার হাজার)	টংগী ২০০/- (দুইশত) মাত্র।	

উক্ত টেন্ডার সিডিউল নির্ধারিত মূল্য পরিশোধ সাপেক্ষে অফিস চম্বাকালীন সময়ে প্রধান হিসাব রক্ষণ কর্মকর্তা, ন্যাশনাল টিউবস লিমিটেড, টংগী শিল্প এলাকা, গাজীপুর এবং হিসাব নিয়ন্ত্রক, বাংলাদেশ ইম্পাত ও প্রকৌশল কর্তৃপক্ষের, বিএসইসি ভবন, ১০২ কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ, ঢাকা-১২১৫ হইতে পাওয়া যাইবে। অনিবার্য কারণ বশতঃ টেন্ডার খোলার দিন অফিস ছুটি/বন্ধ থাকিলে পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে একই সময়ে উভয় স্থানে টেন্ডার গ্রহণ ও খোলা হইবে। টেন্ডার খোলার দিন কোন দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয় করা হইবে না।

(ডঃ মোঃ আমিরুল মামিন)
অতিরিক্ত প্রধান অফিসী (বাণিজ্য)
ফোন নং ৯৮০২৭৩৭