

Poor navigability hits south

Lack of timely river dredging blamed

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Movement of water vessels in the southern region is hampered as lack of dredging in the dry season has resulted in poor navigability on most river routes.

More than 3,000 km waterways face navigability problem while 1,400 km already became unfit for movement of water transport, said Mostafizur Rahman, assistant director of Bangladesh Inland Water

Transport Authority (BIWTA).

Most vessels on these routes often have to stop for hours on the river before reaching their destination, he added.

The rivers Lohalia, Kirtonkhola, Paira, Nishinda, Kalabadar, Elisha, Tetulia, Saheberhat, Bishkhali, Sandha, Arialkha, Buragourango, Kazal, Agunmukha now become risky for navigation, said BIWTA sources.

The falling of the water level of these rivers started in November and it will continue throughout the dry season, especially during low tide, they said.

Patuakhali port office sources said at least 14 to 16 feet deep water is needed for plying of a double-decker launch while a single-decker needs 8 to 10 feet depth.

In last 10 years, plying of launches on at least 20 internal water routes in Patuakhali and Barguna

districts have stopped due to poor navigability and many owners there sold their launches, said Md Shahjahan Khan, president of Patuakhali launch owners association.

More than 50 launches plied the routes joining Patuakhali to Dasmira, Badnatoli, Pathorghata, Kakchira, Bhola, Mohipur, Ulania, Kalaiya, Taltali and Amtali just 10 years ago but only 10 launches use them now, sources said.

BIWTA completed a dredging operation on April 13 in Patuakhali launch terminal area for smooth movement of the launches there.

However, there was not sufficient dredging of the alluvial layer on the adjoining routes, sources said.

On Patuakhali-Dhaka route, water vessels including passenger launches face navigability problem at different points due to the dry season.

"The alluvial land at different points on the route often creates obstacles to running our vessels smoothly, especially during the low tide," said Abul Kalam who runs a double-decker launch on Patuakhali-Dhaka route.

Many times we have to keep our vessel anchored in the river for hours due to navigability problem at different points on the route such as Lohalia, Boga, Bahechar and Jhilna, he said.

Launches on Bhola-Barisal route ply slowly, often using bamboo sticks to measure the water level.

During low tide most of the launches on the route get stopped at different points including Saheberhat, Tungbaria and Laharhat, said vessels owners.

Launches cross the Charmoni River only during the high tide as the water level falls sharply during low tide, making the river unfit for plying of vessels, they added.



PHOTO: STAR

Al Haj Masudul Haq High School in Chapainawabganj Sadar upazila lies mangled as nor'wester lashed the upazila on Sunday evening, damaging many structures including dwelling houses and uprooting a good number of trees.



PHOTO: STAR

A huge newly emerged landmass in River Lohalia at the entrance to Patuakhali river terminal hampers movement of vessels, inset, a boat stuck in a shoal in Ramnabad river in Galachipa upazila of the district.

9-year-old boy killed just for a cellphone

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A nine-year-old boy was murdered allegedly by three other boys in Joypurhat Sadar upazila on Sunday night for a cellphone.

Police arrested a teenage boy in connection with the murder yesterday.

The victim was identified as Minhazur Rahman, son of Mizanur Rahman of Pashchim Puranpoil village of Joypurhat Sadar upazila.

Russell Ahmed, a sub-inspector of Joypurhat

police station, quoting witnesses said that Minhaz was returning home at around 8:30pm after recharging his father's cell phone at a roadside shop at Puranpoil Bazaar.

On his way, three juveniles--Rana Babu, 13, Aminul Islam, 14, and Masum, 14-- waylaid him and tried to snatch away the cell phone. As he resisted, the three boys, hailing from same village, took him to a nearby paddy field and killed him.

Later, they took the body to a cane field and left the place with the

cell phone.

As Minhaz was not returning home till midnight, family members started searching for him. They found the body in the cane field and informed the police. Later police recovered the body and arrested Rana Babu, 13, son of Aftab Hossain of same village who was hiding at a nearby paddy field.

During the interrogation, Rana confessed to killing the boy, police said.

A case was filed with Joypurhat police station in this connection.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

Probe report for stern action against teacher

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The probe body has recommended stern action against assistant teacher Kamalesh Roy of PWD High School in the city for giving corporal punishment to Rizia Sultana Sathi, a class eight student of the school, on April 4.

The three-member committee headed District Education Officer (DEO) Md Mizanur Rahman submitted the report to Deputy Director of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education in charge of Khulna division TM Zakir Hossain at 9:30pm on Sunday.

Two other members of the committee are assistant inspectors of schools Noore-Alam and Md Kamruzzaman.

Committee chief Mizanur Rahman told this correspondent that he had recommended stern action as per rule against assistant teacher of mathematics Kamalesh Roy of PWD High School at Noornagar under Sonadanga Police Station for

Follow-up



Rizia Sultana Sathi

giving corporal punishment to schoolgirl Sathi.

He said the committee recorded statements of teachers and some students of the school during investigation into the incident.

"After checking and rechecking the statements, we came to a conclusion that teacher Kamalesh Roy had given corporal punishment to Sathi for not enrolling in his coaching centre," the DEO said.

The committee has got no evidence against involvement of Headmaster Liakat

Hossain in this incident, he added.

When contacted, the deputy director of secondary and higher secondary education said official letters will be sent to the education ministry and the managing committee of the school to take stern action against the teacher as per recommendation of the probe committee. Teacher Kamalesh Roy is now under suspension.

Steps will also be taken so that the teacher can not come under monthly pay order (MPO) system in future, DD education further said.

Rizia Sultana Sathi, admitted to KMCH soon after incident on Wednesday noon, was discharged from the hospital on Sunday evening.

On the other hand, Headmaster Liakat Hossain and teacher Kamalesh Roy got bail from the CMM Court at 5:30 pm. on Sunday in the case filed against them by Sathi's father Kazi Rezaul Karim with Sonadanga Police Station on Wednesday night.

DINAJPUR

6 Indians in jail despite end of term

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Six Indian nationals are still languishing in Dinajpur jail though they have completed jail terms.

Bangladesh border guards arrested eight Indians at different times for illegal entry into the country. Of them, six were sentenced to jail by the court while the rest two acquitted.

Jail officials said the two, acquitted by the court, are also languishing in jail.

They are Hafizur Rahman, 30, of Kusumtara-Kakpara village of South Dinajpur, and Sree Siam Yadav, 30, of Ekdera village in Purulia district.

The six, who completed their jail terms, are Md Janab Ali, 50, son of Monir Ali of village Sirsa under Tura Thana of Qusar district. He landed in jail in November 17, 2001 and his jail term ended on December 20, 2003. Mohammad Hossain, 50, son Md Juynayet of Rupnagar village under Mitashari Thana of Patna district of Bihar Pradesh. He landed in jail on March 15, 2008 and his jail term ended on September 14, 2008. Joy Narayan Singh, 40, son of Parshona Singh of Dariapur under Mufassal Thana of Baitpur district. He landed in jail in January 4, 2008 and his jail term ended on May 3, 2008. Sree Ludang, 28, son of Sree Jungur of Jagdish under Coutoali district of Bihar. He landed in jail on May 2, 2009 and his jail term ended on November 1, 2009. Bakul Barman (Balka), 35, son of Sree Girja Barman of Menipur (Manapur) under Kumarganj Thana of South Dinajpur. He landed in jail on May 20 last year and his term ended on January 27 this year. and Moloy Sarker, 28, son of Monoranjan Sarker of Khandara village under Kumarganj Thana of South Dinajpur district. He landed in jail on March 18 this year and completed jail term on April 8 this year.

JUBO DAL LEADER PAROSH MURDER

Charges pressed against 8 people

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Police yesterday pressed charges against eight people in the Jubo Dal leader Parosh murder case.

The accused are president of ward no 4 Jubo Dal in Lalmonirhat municipality Aslam Hossain, 30, organising secretary Mominul Islam, 29, and Jubo Dal workers of same ward Mahatab Hossain, 25, Shariful Islam, 22, Bablu Miah, 25, Abdul Jabbar, 30, Apiar Hossain, 26, and Mamotaz Begum, 25, all hailing from Saptana village in Lalmonirhat municipality.

Investigation officer (IO) of the case sub-inspector (SI) Mahabubul Hasan said, convener of Lalmonirhat municipal Chhatra Dal and Degree student of Adorsha College Mehedi Hasan Parosh, 25, was killed over political feud by the accused on November 10 night in 2010.

The next morning, the body of Parosh was found in a paddy field in Putimari Dola area in Lalmonirhat



Mehedi Hasan Parosh

municipality.

The plaintiff of the case and victim's elder brother Mofakhkharul Islam Mojuu alleged that main accused Aslam Hossain is their neighbour.

"As Aslam was facing a threat to his political career due to popularity of JCD leader Mehedi Hasan in Saptana area, he along with some of his associates killed Parosh", he said.

Of the eight accused, Aslam and his two aides Abdul Jobbar and Mominul Islam went into hiding immediately after the murder. The rest five accused are in Lalmonirhat jail, police said.

Stalker stabs woman for resisting kidnap of daughter

Youth jailed for stalking

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Stalkers injured a woman in Jhenidah on Sunday while a mobile court yesterday jailed a stalker in Rajshahi.

A woman was critically injured by stalkers on Sunday when she tried to resist them from kidnapping her daughter in Hatgopalpur area of Jhenidah town.

Police quoting locals said Tipu, son of Latif Biswas of the same area, was proposing Suraiya Parveen Sathi, daughter of Afzal Khan and an HSC examinee of Hatgopalpur RT College, since long.

Two months ago Tipu gave marriage proposal to the family members of Sathi. But being refused, he got furious.

On Sunday morning, Tipu along with his aides stormed into Sathi's house and tried to kidnap her.

When her mother Fahmida came to her res-

cue, the culprits stabbed her indiscriminately leaving her critically injured. They later snatched a necklace from her neck and fled the scene.

Fahmida was admitted to Sadar hospital in critical condition. A case was filed with the police.

In Rajshahi, a mobile court yesterday sentenced a stalker to six months imprisonment for teasing schoolgirls at Shalbagan in the city.

Executive magistrate M Razzakul Islam handed down the punishment to Raju Ahmed, 16, son of Ludu Hossain of Seroil Paschimpara, reports our staff correspondent.

Raju yesterday dragged a schoolgirl by holding her scurf and pushed down another on the ground on their way to UCEP School at Shalbagan.

The schoolteachers caught Raju red-handed and handed him over to Boalia police.



PHOTO: STAR

School and college teachers bring out a procession in Gopalganj town yesterday protesting assault on Nazmul Haque, a teacher of Haji Lal Mia University College, by an HSC examinee and his associates on Sunday. The teacher changed the seat of the examinee at the college centre as he was involved in cheating in the exam.

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