

Ferry disorder often turns trip to Kuakata repulsive

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

All the five ferries operating on three routes of Kuakata-Kalapara road often go out of order, much to the sufferings of locals as well as tourists to Kuakata sea beach.

Vehicles often get stuck for long hours due to the situation, making journey to the picturesque tourist spot a repulsive one.

There are three ferry routes on 22 km long Kuakata-Kalapara road -- Kalapara on Andharmanik River, Hazipur on Sonatala River and Mohipur on Shibbaria River.

The Roads and Highways Department (RHD) runs two ferries each at Mohipur and Kalapara and one at Hazipur.

All the five ferries are designed to run with two engines but each of them uses a single engine as one in every ferry has remained permanently dysfunctional for long.

Disruption of ferry service on the routes has become a regular matter as the single engines often go out of order due to the extra load.

At about 5:00am on Friday, the ferry

on Hazipur route, carrying eight vehicles including buses, private cars and trucks, went out of order in the mid river and moved about 3 km away under the impact of the low tide, leaving over two hundred passengers in great anxiety.

Later mechanics from Patuakhali ferry divisional office fixed the engine and the ferry service resumed at noon. Around midnight the same day, the engine again went out of order and mechanics were able to run it at about 7:00am on Saturday.

"I along with my wife and two children had to suffer a lot as we got stranded at Hazipur ferry ghat from 7:00am to 12 noon on Friday," said Rezaul Haque, who was going from Dhaka to Kuakata as a tourist.

The government should ensure better ferry service on the road considering the interest of tourists, he said.

"One of the two engines has remained dysfunctional for one year and we have to run the ferry with the remaining one that is also in a bad condition for lack of renovation. Very often it stops functioning," said Chan Mia, driver of a ferry on the route.

Md Mojibur Rahman, supervisor of the ferry, said the ferry went out of order as many as four times in a week, leaving a large number of vehicles including passenger buses, private cars and trucks stranded on both sides of the terminal.

Md Alim, driver of a passenger bus plying Kuakata-Barisal route, said, "We have to suffer greatly as ferry service on the three routes is in a very bad condition. When a ferry goes out of order, many passengers leave buses and cross the river on country boats to go to their destination. This causes us serious losses."

When contacted, Md Mozammel Haque, sub-divisional engineer (Ferry) of Patuakhali RHD, said, "Import of spare parts of these Germany and England made ferry engines have remained stopped and so, we try to run the engines with country-made parts. But they do not function properly and disruption of the ferry service has become a common scene here."

"The problem will be solved when the ongoing work for construction of bridges across the three rivers completes. But it will take several years," he added.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

A mango tree gets adorned with blooming buds as if heralding the advent of spring. The photo was taken from Khalishpur in Khulna city yesterday.

GAIBANDHA CRIME SCENE

Nine murdered last month

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Nine people were murdered in separate incidents in four upazilas of Gaibandha district last month.

Of them, three were killed in Sundarganj and Gobindaganj upazilas each, two in Palashbari upazila and one was killed in Saghata upazila.

In Sundarganj, former union parishad member Hafizur Rahman and his men killed Shahid Hossain, 44, of Boraikandi village during a clash with their rivals over capture of a disputed land at the village on January 5.

Dowry-greedy Raju Mia killed his wife Nazma Akhter, 30, at Sarbananda village following an altercation over the issue on January 6.

Police recovered the body of Manik

Chandra, 35, at Nachni Ghagoa village in the upazila on January 29. Law enforcers are yet to unearth clues to the murder.

In Gobindaganj, college student Abu Hasan, 20, was killed by a gang of criminals near the upazila headquarters on January 20. Locals said Hasan was murdered as a sequel to a previous enmity with his neighbours over the ownership of a land at the village.

One Nurul Islam, 48, was beaten to death by his rivals in the same upazila the same day.

On the night of January 20, Rashidul Islam, 35, a teacher of Parboira Girls' High School, was stabbed to death by an unidentified gang in Gobindaganj upazila. Teachers, students and local people brought out a procession at the

upazila headquarters the following day demanding immediate arrest of the killers. Later, they handed over a memorandum to the upazila nirbahi officer (UNO).

In Palashbari, Mintu Mondol, 50, of Pohnapur village was killed by one Joynal of the village following an altercation over a trivial matter on January 14. Joynal has been absconding since the incident.

Garment worker Aminur Rahman of Sui village in the upazila was abducted and then killed by unknown criminals on January 9. None of the killers was arrested as of yesterday.

In Saghata, one Momena Begum, 55, of Falia Digor village in the upazila was killed by unknown criminals on January 7. The reasons behind the murder could not be known.



PHOTO: STAR

The only ferry plying across Sonatala River at Hazipur on Kalapara- Kuakata road lay stranded for hours in mid river as the only functional engine of the two-engine vessel went out of order on Friday.

UP chairman in Faridpur killed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Criminals killed Moloy Bose, 45, chairman of Atghar union parishad in Saltha upazila yesterday morning.

Locals said a gang of 5-6 assailants intercepted Moloy at Ronokail village in Sadar upazila while he along with one Sohag was returning home from the district town by a motorbike at about 11:00am.

The gang started to stab him indiscriminately on head and other parts of the body, leaving him dead on the spot.

Moloy was the son of Monendra Nath Bose of Sarukhdia village in Saltha upazila.

Police recovered the body and sent it to Faridpur General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Seriously injured Sohag was



Moloy Bose

rushed to the same hospital.

Police said, the UP chairman might have been killed following previous enmity as he had been at loggerheads with some people of his village.

Bijoy Basak, Additional SP of Faridpur, told this correspondent that the murder was pre-planned and it might be linked to the last UP election.

"We are trying our best to identify and arrest the criminals," he said.

Nurul Islam gets bail in mayor Lokman murder case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

A Narsingdi court here yesterday granted bail to Sadar thana unit BNP general secretary Md Nurul Islam, a prime accused in the municipality mayor Lokman murder case.

District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Shajahan granted the bail after 10 to 12 lawyers, led by advocate Abdul Based Bhuiyan, placed a prayer for Nurul Islam.

After a hearing, the judge passed the bail order.

Earlier, in the morning, the Chief Judicial Magistrate Nitai Chandra Saha ordered to send Nurul Islam to jail after investigation officer of the case Inspector Mamunur

Rashid Mondal placed him before the court on completion of his two-day remand in third phase.

Nurul Islam, the fifth accused in the case, was arrested by the immigration police from Shahjalal International Airport in the capital on January 29, on his return from Malaysia.

According to Mohid Uddin, Superintendent of Police in Narsingdi, with Nurul Islam, so far 12 out of 14 accused got bail in the case.

Narsingdi municipality mayor Lokman Hossain succumbed to his injuries at DMCH hours after masked assailants shot him at the town Awami League office on Sadar Road on November 1 last year.

www.rehab-bd.org

সবার জন্য
বুঁকিমুক্ত নিরাপদ
জীবন আবাসন

REHAB FAIR 2012
CHITTAGONG

৮, ৯, ১০ ও ১১ ফেব্রুয়ারি '১২

সকাল ১০টা থেকে রাত ৮টা
ভেন্যু: চট্টগ্রাম ক্লাব চট্টগ্রাম
উদ্বোধন: ৮ ফেব্রুয়ারি বিকাল ৩টা

একটি টিকটের
ব্যবহারে ৫-১০
প্রতিদিন থাকবে
আকস্মিক
পুরস্কার

শিশু চিত্রাঙ্কন প্রতিযোগিতা:
১০ ফেব্রুয়ারি '১২, শুক্রবার
স্থান: চারুকলা ইনস্টিটিউট, চট্টগ্রাম
রেজিস্ট্রেশন ফরম পাওয়া যাবে
রিহাব চট্টগ্রাম অফিস ও
মেলা প্রাঙ্গণের সখ্যাকেন্দ্রে থেকে

Co-Sponsor

Organized By
REAL ESTATE & HOUSING ASSOCIATION OF BANGLADESH
Chittagong Office: VIP Tower (2nd Floor) 125, Chatteweshary Road, Chittagong.



GPH 500W TMT Bar

তাদের জন্য
যারা কোয়ালিটিতে আপসহীন



GPH ispat Ltd.

www.gphisp.com.bd