

Wagon ferry service resumes as Jamuna regains navigability

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Gaibandha

Bangladesh Railway authorities have resumed wagon ferry service between Balashi Ghat in Gaibandha district and Bahadurabad Ghat in Jamalpur district as the Jamuna River attained required navigability with the start of the rains.

Ferry communication on the route remained suspended for long seven months from November 15 last year due to sharp decline of water level in the Jamuna.

The service, meant for goods carrying trains plying the routes between the country's northern region and the capital, is now provided for transport of food grains supplied by the government authorities and railway goods, said a marine official.

The facility will be extended for the traders and businessman if they are interested, he said.



PHOTO: STAR

Railway wagon ferry service between Balashi Ghat in Gaibandha district and Bahadurabad Ghat in Jamalpur district has resumed after long seven months. Photo shows wagons being loaded on a barge at Balashi Ghat on Thursday.

Under the first consignment after resumption of the ferry service, workers loaded 30 wagons with wheat from Burimari land port and the train left Balashi Ghat at 5:00pm on Thursday, said Mosharaf

Hossain, stationmaster of Balashi Ghat railway station.

The ferry services on Balashi Ghat - Bahadurabad Ghat route practically continue for only five months during the

rainy season, while it remains suspended during the remaining seven months due to serious decline in the water level, he added.

When the railway wagon ferries are in service

fertiliser traders of northern districts can carry goods from Jamuna fertiliser factory for reasonable fair, but they have to bear much higher cost for carrying it by road during the suspension of the ferry service, said Abdul Latif Hakkani, president of Gaibandha Fertiliser Dealers Association.

Cross sections of people have demanded sufficient dredging of the silted up river routes to arrange round the year railway ferry services both for passengers and wagons.

Anchored at Balashi Ghat for years, several ferryboats including those for passengers and wagons are gradually decaying due to remaining unused long, said Jahedul Islam, a local college teacher.

On July 15 in 2005, the railway authorities declared passenger ferry service on Balashi Ghat - Bahadurabad Ghat route abandoned on the grounds of recurring losses.

The Daily Star - রবি ENGLISH FAIR



PHOTO: STAR

Kids from two schools, who won different competitions at the English language fair held at TN High School in Patgram upazila of Lalmonirhat district yesterday, flash V-sign.

Kids of 6 more schools join joyful events

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Students of six schools--three in Narail, two in Lalmonirhat and one in Feni districts--yesterday took part in English language fairs held under English in Schools programme, a joint initiative of The Daily Star and mobile operator Robi.

Adcom Ltd is the creative and event partner of English language fairs

Our Narail correspondent reported that over 200 students of Kalia PS Pilot Girls' High School, Fazilatunnesa Girls' High School and Chachuri Purulia Secondary Schools participated in joyful interactions at the English language fair held at Kalia PS Pilot Girls' High School.

Sheikh Robiul Islam, assistant headmaster of the school, inaugurated the fair. Assistant teachers Mrinal Kanti Taropder of Fazilatunnesa Girls' High School, Hosne Ara Begum, Shankar Kumer Gosh, Kazi Anarul Hasan of Kalia PS Pilot Girls' High School and Goutam Kumer Mondol of Chachuri Purulia Secondary Schools addressed the inaugural programme.

Following screening of Lion King, a globally renowned movie, the students of the three schools took part in spot quiz, vocabulary test, situation-based question answer, extempore speech and role play.

Sheikh Robiul Islam, assistant headmaster of Kalia PS Pilot Girls' High School, distributed prizes among the winners of different events at the end of the programme. An English language club was also formed.

In Lalmonirhat, over 250 students of Patgram TN High School and Patgram Huzur Uddin government Girls' High

School took part in the English language fair held TN High School auditorium at the upazila headquarters, reports our correspondent.

Teachers and guardians of the two schools were also present at the fair. Habibur



Rahman, headmaster of TN High School, inaugurated the programme at around 10:00am. Shakil Jahan, area manager of Robi was present.

Globally renowned movie The Lion King was screened followed by quizzes on vocabulary, one-word questions, situation-based questions, extempore speeches and role play.

Students of the two schools took part in joyful interactions and watched the events based on the movie.

Later, prizes were distributed among the winners of different competitions. An English language club was formed.

The English language fair at

Fulgazi Pilot High School in Feni saw lively participation of over 300 students of the school, according to a correspondent.

Md Mozammel Haq, headmaster of the school, opened the programme. "This wonderful event has encouraged school students to learn English in a different and interesting way." The headmaster in his speech said.

Following screening of Lion King, a globally renowned movie, the students participated in spot quiz, vocabulary test, one word question and quick questions---all based on the movie. Selected students also took part in extempore speech on different topics and role-play.

The students also entertained the audience by telling jokes and singing songs. Prizes were distributed among the winners of different competitions at the end of the programme.

Aiming to promote English language learning among school students across the country, The Daily Star in cooperation with Robi undertook English in Schools programme in 2009.



PHOTO: STAR

Two students of Kalia PS Pilot Girls' School at Kalia upazila headquarters in Narail district take part in a role play during the English language fair held at the school auditorium yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

Prize winners at the English language fair pose for photograph with their teachers at Fulgazi Pilot High School in Feni.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

Agitators attack DC

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kurigram

The deputy commissioner of the district sustained injuries as agitated locals attacked him while demonstrating for smooth power supply in Ulipur upazila yesterday. According to police and locals, a few transformers of Palli Biddut Samity were stolen within a week in Pachpir of Durgapur union under the upazila plunging the area into darkness. Over 500 residents of the area yesterday blocked Kurigram-Chilmari road at about 10:00am for electricity. DC Md Habibur Rahman and some officials, who were passing by the road, tried to pacify them. But an agitator hit the DC with a stick, leaving him injured.

346 bullets found in pond

A CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

At least 346 bullets were found in a pond at village Charnagar under Maderganj upazila yesterday evening. Police said 150 SLR bullets, 114 rifle bullets and 82 pistol bullets were found while digging earth of one Billal Hossain's pond for road construction. Officer in-charge (OC) of Maderganj police station Abdul Awal said the bullets might have been kept in the pond during the Liberation War.



PHOTO: STAR

Editor of Phothom Alo Motiur Rahman visits 'Rock Museum' at Panchagarh Government Women College on Friday afternoon. He also held view exchange meetings with local elites of Panchagarh and Thakurgaon districts on the day.

Bogra businessman shot

A CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Criminals shot a businessman in Phuldighi area under Shahjahanpur upazila in the small hours of yesterday. Hit by bullet in his head, Shahidul Haque Rimu, 38, was shifted to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital as his condition deteriorated. Shahidul was shot at about 3:00am while sleeping in his bedroom. Officer in-charge (OC) of Shahjahanpur police station Riaz Uddin said, Shahidul is a land broker. He might have been shot over a land-related feud.

Hartal in Rangpur today

A CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Demanding unconditional release of the central leaders and immediate withdrawal of all 'false' cases against them, district BNP and units of Jubo Dal, Chhatra Dal and Swechchasebok Dal called a half-day hartal today in Rangpur district. At a joint press conference on Friday evening at Rangpur district BNP office in Grand Hotel area, the leaders of the front organisation called the hartal.

Outlaw murdered

UNB, Jhenidah

A cadre of an outlawed party was hacked to death by his rivals at Atlia village in Sadar upazila on Thursday night. The deceased was identified as Abu Sayeed, a cadre of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (Janajuddha). Police said criminals called Sayeed out of his house and stabbed him indiscriminately and left his body in Mirzapur

Man abducted for ransom murdered

Farmer kidnapped by men in guise of Rab

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Criminals have killed a medical representative abducted for ransom on Thursday.

The victim was identified as Shamim Ahmed, 30, son of Sukur Ali of Chakchandaikona under Raiganj upazila and worked for The Chemist Laboratories.

His body was recovered from under a bridge of Hatikumrul-Bonpara highway on Friday noon.

Ataur Rahman, OC of Taras PS said Shamim was abducted on Thursday on his way to house.

The criminals demanded Tk 30 lakh as ransom for his release.

As his poor father could not afford it, they asked for 5 lakh taka.

Later failing to get the ransom, they killed him and dumped the body under the bridge.

In another incident, a farmer of Jhaoil village under Kamarkhand upazila was kidnapped by men in the guise of Rab on

Wednesday.

Victim Nazrul Islam, 38, is a Awami League worker and son of late freedom fighter Solaiman Sarker.

Nurul Islam, brother of the victim, lodged a case with Kamarkhand police yesterday.

According to the case, two people of Ariamohon and Kaliakandapara villages under Sadar upazila called Nazrul Islam from his cropfield at 6pm on

Wednesday and took him to Jhaoil rail crossing. There two motorbike riders tried to pick him up forcibly. Resisted by villagers, they showed identity cards of Rab. Later when Nazrul's family members went to Sirajganj Rab office, they came to know that no such person was arrested by the eliteforce.

Victim's mother Zahura Khatun said, recently they had a quarrel with some neighbours on removing earth from a pond.

Contacted, Abdus Samad, Sirajganj camp commander of Rab 12 and Sohrab Ali, OC of Kamarkhand PS said, they

Bomb blast kills 2 Bangladeshis in Murshidabad

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Two Bangladeshis were killed in bomb explosion at Pirojpur village under Roghunathganj PS in Murshidabad district of Paschimbanga, India on Friday. The village is some three kilometres away from Narayanpur frontier of Chapainawabganj district.

The two Bangladeshi nationals were identified as, Titu Mia, 40, son of Zillar Rahman and Bhelu Mia, 25, son of Kased Mistri of Devipur village under Narayanpur union of Sadar upazila of the district.

Major Abu Nayem, operation officer of 9 BGB battalion in Chapainawabganj said, Titu Mia and Bhelu Mia went to one Malek's house at Pirojpur village in Paschimbanga on May 9.

The two were staying at the house of Malek. When the house owner was making bomb on Friday afternoon, a bomb suddenly

went off killing Titu and Bhelu on the spot and seriously injuring Malek.

BGB came to know the incident from different sources. However, Border Security Force (BSF) of India are yet to confirm it, Major Nayeem said.

In Jessore, an informer of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) was killed allegedly by unidentified criminal at Jhumjhumpur in the district town on Friday night, reports UNB.

Victim Ziauddin was son of Shahjahan Ali of Sadipur in Kushtia district.

Locals said, the gang stabbed Zia near local BGB School around 10pm on his way to a local bazar from his Jhumjhumpur house, leaving him critically injured.

He was taken to Jessore General Hospital where doctors pronounced him dead.

Zia is believed to have been killed for giving information about smugglers to

Infant 'stolen' from hospital

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

An eight-day-old boy was 'stolen' from Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) yesterday morning

Hospital sources said Shila, wife of Rajob Ali of Jalchatra Aamlitala under Madhupur upazila of Tangail district, was admitted to the hospital on June 7. She gave birth to her son the following day.

At around 10:00am yesterday, Shila's mother-in-law went out of the labour ward No 1, along with the newborn to spread wet clothes in the corridor.

An unknown woman came forward, took the child from the grandma as if to assist her, police quoting hospital sources said.

When the grandma was busy with the clothes, the woman hurried away with the baby, police said.

Hearing the news, police from MMCH police camp rushed to ward. They searched different wards and hospital premises but could not find the child.

Officer-in-charge (OC) of Kotwali Police Station Golam Sarwar said drives are on to rescue the child and arrest the culprit. Shila's relatives filed a case with Kotwali Police Station in the afternoon.

Two siblings murdered in Meherpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Two siblings, allegedly involved in drug smuggling in border areas, were murdered by rivals at Kazipur in Gangni upazila of Meherpur district early yesterday.

The dead were identified a Rafiqul Islam, 40 and Afzal Hossain alias Abu Jel, 35, sons of Kiamat Ali of the village.

Police recovered their bodies from the 'no man's land' on Kazipur border at around 7:30am.

Abdullah Hel Baki, superintendent of police in Meherpur said the siblings were involved in drug smuggling by a gang led by one Milton of the area.

Recently, they themselves formed a syndicate which angered the rivals, the SP said.

OC of Gangni police, quoting family members, said Milton went to the house of Rafiqul and Afzal on Friday night and called them out at about 8:30pm.

"We suspect that Milton was involved in the murder," he added.