

# Dense fog disrupts launch, ferry services for hours

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Dense fog disrupted the movements of launch, steamer and other water vessels on river routes and ferry services on Paturia-Daulatdia and Mawa-Kawrakandi routes for 10 hours from midnight on Saturday.

Our Barisal correspondent reported that launch and steamer services on river routes in the southern region were hampered for six to seven hours due to dense fog, causing sufferings to the passengers.

The water transports could not reach Barisal river port and depart from there on scheduled times as they got stranded on river routes due to poor visibility caused by dense fog, said Sharif Afzal Hossain, Barisal port officer.

Triple-decker launches MV Parabat-9, MV Sundarbans-8, MV Suravi-8 reached Barisal from Dhaka between 4:00 and 5:00pm, and Kirtankhola-2 at 1:00pm yesterday. The vessels arrived at the port six to 10 hours after their scheduled arrival time, said Saidur Rahman Rintu, vice-president of Barisal Launch Owners' Association.

Dhaka-bound Sundarbans-7, Kalam Khan-1, Parabat-11 from Barisal arrived at Sadarghat Terminal 4-6 hours late, association sources said.

Raihan Manik, a passenger of MV Kalam Khan-1, said MV Parabat-11 hit their vessel near Chandpur early yesterday as river route was shrouded with dense fog

and visibility was poor.

Gopal Chandra Majumder, assistant general manager of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation at Barisal station, said Rocket steamer PS Ostrich on Dhaka-Morelganj route left Barisal port at 10:30pm. It was scheduled to depart at 6:30pm.

Ferry services on Barisal-Bhola, Barisal-Kuakata routes remained suspended for 3-4 hours early yesterday as dense fog blanketed the Meghna and Arial Kha Rivers, BIWTC sources said.

Our Manikganj corre-

spondent reports: Ferry service on Paturia-Daulatdia route remained suspended for seven hours yesterday due to dense fog. Six ferries loaded with vehicles and passengers got stranded in the mid-river from 3:00am yesterday.

Bidyut Kumer Saha, manager (commerce) of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) at Aricha ferry sector, said the ferry service resumed at 10:00am yesterday.

Ro Ro ferries Bir Shreshtha Motiur Rahman, Keramat Ali, Shah Poran,

Shah Ali, Amanat Shah and K-type ferry Kapoti anchored in the mid-river due to poor visibility, he said.

Ro Ro ferry Enayetpuri and K-type ferry Kumari were stranded at Paturia Ghat while Ro Ro ferry Bhasha Shahid Barkat and K-type ferry Kabori at Daulatdia ferry ghat for four hours.

Around 500 vehicles are waiting in the long queue on both sides of the river, BIWTC official said.

Ferry services on Mawa-Kawrakandi river route came to a halt for about nine

hours from midnight on Saturday, according to our Munshiganj correspondent.

Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan, who was travelling on the ferry 'Faridpur' remained stranded as the river craft along with a number of ferries was forced to anchor at the middle point of the Padma.

BIWTC sources said the ferry services on the route were suspended due to poor visibility caused by dense fog. The ferry services on the route resumed at around 10:00am yesterday, sources added.



PHOTO: STAR

Vehicles, including passenger buses, wait for ferry at Mawa terminal yesterday morning as nine ferries on Mawa-Kawrakandi route got stranded in the middle point of the Padma for hours due to dense fog from midnight on Saturday.

## RANGPUR CITY CORPORATION

# Campaign for mayoral poll gains momentum

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Candidates for the mayoral post at newly formed Rangpur City Corporation (RCC) election have intensified campaign and are going door to door to seek votes.

Twelve mayoral, 91 women's reserved councillor and 321 councillor aspirants are contesting the first-ever RCC election, slated for December 20.

The RCC has a total of 3.5 lakh voters, including 1,78,614 females, to elect a mayor 33 ward councillors and 11 women councillors to reserved posts.

The Election Commission is likely to use electronic voting machines (EVM) partially in the RCC polls, officials said.

The authorities are taking all preparations to ensure a free, fair and peaceful election, they said.

It would be a great challenge for the mayor to resolve the city's existing problems like traffic jam, water logging, drug peddling, incoherent development of infrastructure and deterioration of law and order, observed local elites.

In the city, the candidates for mayoral, women's reserved councillor and councillor posts have been doing all to draw public attention.

They are holding rallies in different areas and making pre-poll pledges to woo voters, locals said.

Police superintendent Saleh Mohammad Tanvir said, the law enforcers set up a number of checkpoints in different parts of the city recently for smooth-holding

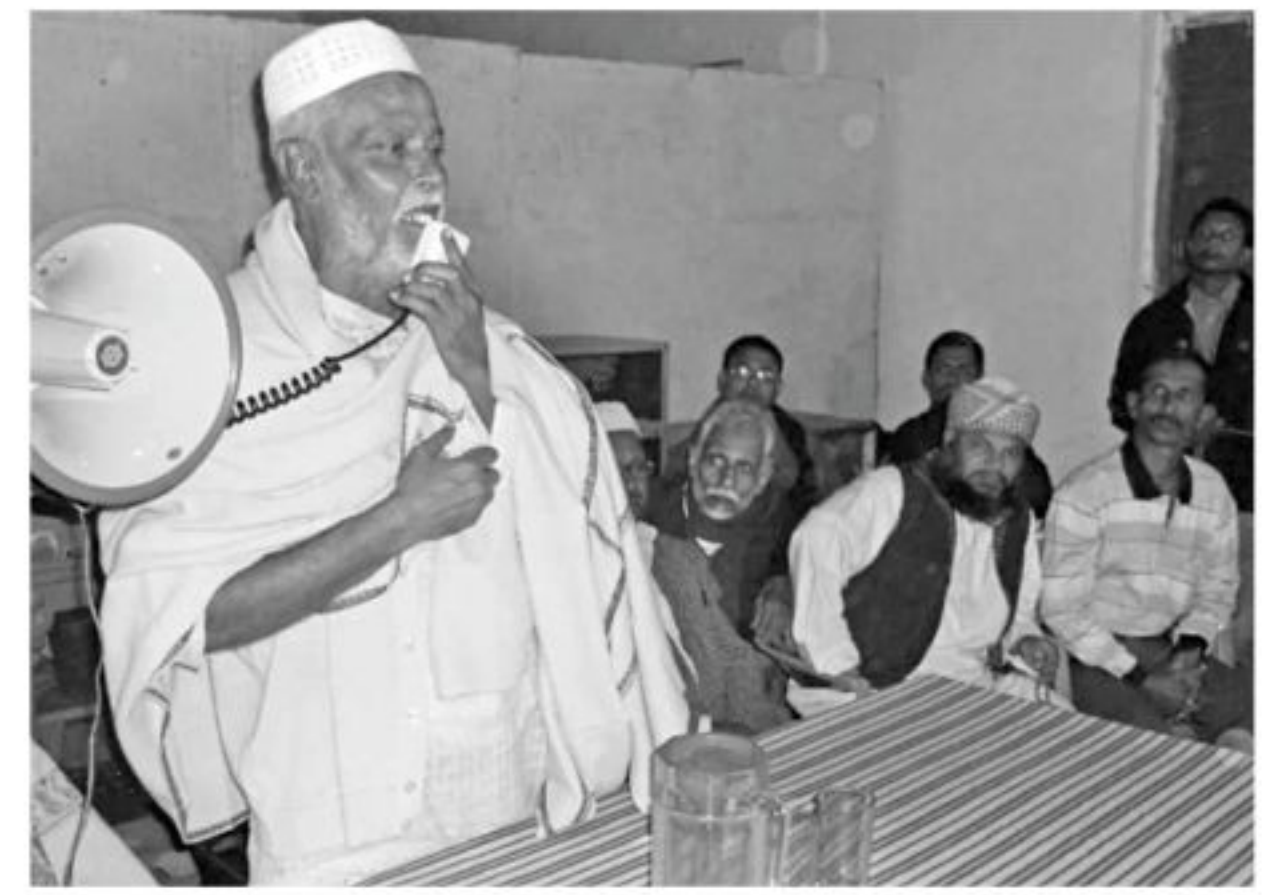


PHOTO: STAR

Mayor aspirants Mostafizur Rahman, top, and Shorfuddin Ahmed Jhantu meet separate groups as campaign for December 20 poll of Rangpur City Corporation intensifies. Twelve candidates will vie for the mayoral post.

of the polls.

Police, Rab and Ansar personnel would be deployed during the election to ensure a peaceful voting, said the SP.

Meanwhile, Rangpur Zonal Election office has identified 104 out of 182 polling centres as "vulnerable" considering the previous records of the candidates of the respective wards.

Rangpur Mahanagar Nagorik Committee has formally supported mayoral

candidate Shorfuddin Ahmed Jhantu, former lawmaker and member of advisory committee of Rangpur district unit AL, in the election.

As the Jatiya Party decided to withdraw support to its presidium member Mosiur Rahman Ranga and expelled another two aspirants Manik and Mostafa, the party has no candidates in the polls.

BNP has not shown any interest to contest the RCC polls.

## Month of Victory

# Bir Shreshtha's only son passing woeful days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

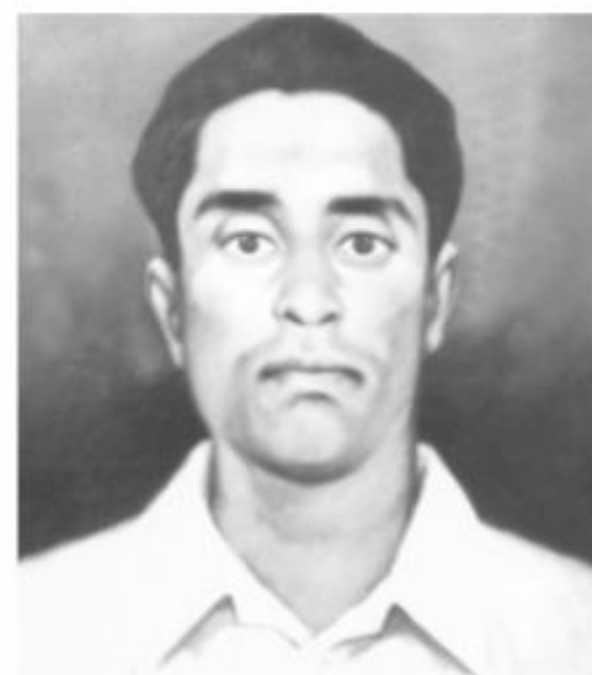
Today is 41st death anniversary of Bir Shreshtha Ruhul Amin.

On this day during the 1971 Liberation War, he was martyred while in an operation in the Polish, a gunboat of Bangladesh Navy, in Rupsha River of Khulna.

After the independence, he was given the title Bir Shreshtha, the highest gallantry award of the state, for his heroic contribution in the Liberation War.

Born at Bagpanchra in Sonaimuri upazila of Noakhali district in 1934, Ruhul Amin joined the then Pakistan Navy in 1953.

Engaged as an engine room artificer of a Pakistan Navy warship in Chittagong in 1971, he left his duty station and joined the Liberation War with a large group of students and youths of Sonaimuri area.



Bir Shreshtha Ruhul Amin

On December 10, Ruhul Amin, then aboard Bangladesh Navy gunboat Polish, started from Hiron point of Khulna to take control of Titumir, a warship of Pakistan occupation forces.

When he reached near Mongla port, allied Indian Air Force dropped a bomb on the Polish, mistaking it for an enemy gunboat. As the engine room caught fire, Ruhul Amin, then operating the engine, jumped into the river with serious injuries.

When he swam to the riverbank, local rajakars (collaborators of the Pakistani occupation forces) killed him.

The people of Bagmara village in Rupsha buried Ruhul Amin there.

Ruhul Amin had three daughters and one son. The daughters got married while son Shawkat Ali still struggles to maintain his family, working as a day labourer and van-puller.

Shawkat's three sisters take three-fourths of the government assistance meant for the family and so, he often passes hard time with his scanty income.

Meanwhile, the graveyard of Bir Shreshtha Ruhul Amin is threatened by river erosion. His relatives and locals have urged shifting the mortal remains to Bagpanchra, birthplace of the heroic son of the soil.



PHOTO: STAR

Bir Shreshtha Ruhul Amin's only son Shawkat Ali (circled) pulling van of a sawmill in Noakhali town to maintain his family.

## PABNA EDWARD COLLEGE

# BCL men arrested while filling up answer scripts

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Police arrested three Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists of Pabna Edward College unit along with six 'answer sheets' of Degree examinations at Kalachandpara village in Sadar upazila on Saturday night.

The arrestees are Limon Hossain, 25, organising secretary of the college unit, activists Abdul Aziz, 22, of Raghobpur School Para and Salim Reza, 25, of Boyra village.

Nur-e Alam, officer in-charge of Sadar police station, said on secret information, a team raided a residence in Raghobpur School area at about 8:00pm and arrested the trio while they were writing on answer sheets of English examination which was held on Thursday.

Principal Naid Mohammed Samsul Huda said, stern action would be taken against those responsible for the offence after investigating the matter.

Secretary of Pabna district unit BCL Rafikul Islam Rumon said necessary steps would be taken against the activists after investigating the allegation.

## LAND DISPUTE

# Jubo Dal leader beaten to death in Lalmonirhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A Jubo Dal leader was killed in a clash over a piece of disputed land at Haribhanga village in Sadar upazila yesterday.

The deceased, Azizul Islam, 44, son of Syed Ali of the village, was general secretary of ward no 1 Jubo Dal in Mohendronagar union.

Jamir Uddin, officer in-charge at Sadar police station, said there was a conflict between Azizul and local AL leader Javed Ali, 50, over two decimals land at the village for the last six months.

As a sequel to the conflict, a gang of 8/9 allegedly led by Javed and his son Motiur Rahman beat Azizul up mercilessly, leaving him critically injured on Saturday evening.

He was rushed to Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital and then shifted to Rangpur Medical College and Hospital as his condition deteriorated. He died at the hospital yesterday morning, said the OC.

No case was filed in this regard till filing of this report at 6:00pm yesterday.

# Roads in Faridganj upazila of Chandpur in sorry state

The town also lacks proper drainage system

UNB, Chandpur

Residents of Faridganj municipality are suffering a lot as almost all the important roads of the upazila headquarters have been lying in dilapidated conditions for long.

The roads that lie in most shabby state stretch from Faridganj Paschim Bazar up to Kalir Bazar Chowrasta (intersection), from Paschim Bazar up to T&T More (intersection), from Purbo Bazar road up to Char Basanta Bridge via Keroa Road and from Keroa Bridge up to Mirpur

School.

People of all ages most often face difficulties in negotiating with the run-down streets.

The situation turns even worse after a shower as water remains stagnant for days, creating muds and potholes in the roads, locals said.

Moreover, the town has no proper drainage system.

Town dwellers alleged that torrential rainfalls couple of months ago have also turned these roads into more deplorable condition.

According to sources,

Faridganj Poursava presently holds the status of a 'C' grade municipality.

It was officially declared Poursava (municipality) on September 1, 2005 with an area of 19.75 square kilometres.

But the roads have not seen any touch of development since, thanks to political tangles.

Contacted, Poursava Mayor Md Manzil Hossain (also a local BNP leader) said he would try his best to repair the roads as soon as possible with the money earmarked in the budget.

## SNAPS AND SNIPPETS



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad Dinajpur unit brought out a procession in the town marking 'Begum Rokeya Day' yesterday. Begum Rokeya, a pioneer leader of women's liberation in the sub-continent, was born in Rangpur on December 9 in 1880. She died on the same day in 1932.

## Journalist assaulted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A journalist was injured in an attack by criminals at Station Road in the district town on Friday night. Belal Hossain, 46, of Purbo Thanapara in the town, is district correspondent of Desh TV and the daily Bhorer Kagoj. The gang stormed into Belal's office at around 8:30pm and beat him up mercilessly for covering a report on drug peddling, leaving him critically injured, said Jamir Uddin, officer in-charge of Sadar police station. He was rushed to Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital. Police superintendent visited the hospital, said the OC.

## Rawhide seized on border

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) members yesterday seized 115 pieces of rawhide of goats while being smuggled to India through Amrakhali border. Acting on a secret information, a BGB team raided Amrakhali area and recovered the rawhide worth Tk 1.10 lakh. However, no was arrested in this connection as the smugglers fled the scene sensing the presence of BGB members. The seized rawhide pieces were later deposited with the Benapole Customs House.

## RMP cook murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Criminals murdered a cook of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (RMP) at Katakhal in Kamarkhand upazila on Friday night. The deceased was identified as Abdus Sattar, 42, of Ulipur village in Ullapara upazila of the district. Police said a gang beat up Sattar and stabbed him indiscriminately near the bank of the Phulzor river at night, leaving him dead on the spot. They also took away money from the victim. On information, police recovered the body next morning. They also arrested one Monirul Islam Babu in connection with the killing.