



Nouka'r Haat

Bangladesh is a riverine country, so boats are a major mode of transportation in the rural areas, especially during monsoon. Ferrying people and goods also becomes a small business for some people during the rainy season. Naturally, a lot of "boat markets" are held all over the country – one such happens at Kaikertek, under Narayanganj district. This market is almost 200 years old. After a good conversation over tea with the boat traders, I learnt that this market always sits during monsoon. Every Sunday, from 9 in the morning, the dealers gather and organise their boats. Around 10 am, the customers start turning up. People from all over Narayanganj come here to buy boats according to their requirements. The prices are usually determined by the quality of the wood, and everyday 80-90 boats are sold. At present the boat market is not faring well and the sellers are finding it very difficult to make any profit from this business; yet, some are trying to keep this trade alive as they consider it a family tradition.

PHOTOS & TEXT: PRONOB GHOSH



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