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Nightmare on ferries

Thousands suffer for hours due
to poor navigability of Padma

ABDULLAH AL NAYERIM

It was a journey Rafiqul Islam Nasir and his family members were not prepared to make on their return to the capital from Eid vacation at their hometown in Bagerhat.

On reaching Kathalbari Ferry Ghat Tuesday midnight after a six-hour-long bus journey, they came to know that most of the ferries were not operating across the Padma river for lack of navigability due to siltation.

What they would have to do was take their bags and belongings and board a small ferry to get to the other side of the river.

So, Nasir, his wife and two kids left their bus and squeezed into a ferry jam-packed with people. The ferry carried only people and light vehicles so that it didn't run aground on Shimulia-Kathalbari route.

Lostling for enough space even to stand in the crowd, some passengers were locked in scuffles with others in the one and a half hour's journey. Rain and humid added to their sufferings.

"I never faced such a hassle. Had I known that ferries would not carry our bus, I would not have travelled on this route and brought those heavy bags," said Nasir, a resident of Hasnabad in the capital.

The authority should have been aware of silt accumulation in the route and should have completed dredging beforehand to avoid such a situation, he added.

"It was very difficult for me and my children to travel on

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



People heading back to Dhaka from southern districts after Eid vacations arrive in their hundreds at Shimulia Launchghat yesterday.

Six workers electrocuted, killed

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Narsingdi

Six workers were electrocuted while dismantling a motor garage located inside a filling station in Raipura of Narsingdi yesterday.

The deceased have been identified as Baran Hossain, 22, Hakim Mistri, 50, Awal Miah, 20, Kawsar, 30, Zakaria, 25, and Abul Faiz, 30.

Of them, Faiz died at a hospital in Bhabar after being rushed there for treatment. Bodies of the other five were recovered from the spot.

Officer-in-Charge of Raipura Police Station Delwar Hossain confirmed the incident.

The OC said police recovered the bodies and sent those to Narsingdi Sadar Hospital for autopsies.

Locals said the incident took place around 3:45pm at Tabassum Motors located inside Lal Mia

FARUK MURDER

Charges framed against MP Rana, 13 others

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A local court yesterday framed charges against Awami League lawmaker Amur Rahman Khan Rana and 13 others in the murder case of freedom fighter Faruk Ahmed.

Judge Abul Mansur Miah of the Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court-1 framed charges against them under sections 34, 120 and 302 of the Penal Code, said Court Inspector Anwarul Islam.

The court fixed October 18 for hearing testimonies of the witnesses.

On February 3 last year, the Detective Branch of Tangail police pressed charges against the 14 accused. Of them, lawmaker Rana, Samir Miah, Anisul Islam Raja and Mohammad Ali are behind bars and Farid Ahmed, Nasir Uddin Nuru and Masudur Rahman are on bail.

The seven other accused – Jahidur Rahman Kakon, Shahidur Rahman Khan Mukti, Sanjay Khan Bappa, Kabir Hossain, Babu Miah, Alamgir Hossain Chan and Sanwar Hossain – have been on the run.

Jahidur, former president of Tangail Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Shahidur, ex-Tangail mayor, and Sanjay, former vice-president of Chhatra League, are Rana's brothers.

Meanwhile, Faruk's wife Nahar Ahmed yesterday expressed satisfaction with framing charges in the case. She demanded justice for her husband.

Some supporters of Faruk brought out a procession in the court area demanding capital punishment for the MP and other accused.

The lawmaker was brought to the court from Kashimpur Central Jail in Gazipur around 9:00am. The MP from Tangail-3 (Ghatail) had filed three petitions with the court seeking exoneration from the case, a reinvestigation and medical facilities in prison.



SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Outcry in India over outspoken journo murder

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Senior journalist-activist and a strident critic of Hindu politics, Gauri Lankesh was shot dead by unidentified assailants just outside her residence in southern Indian city of Bengaluru on Tuesday night.

Gauri, 55, editor of a Kannada language tabloid "Gauri Lankesh Patrike", on returning home by her car was opening the gate when the assailants riding a motorcycle opened fire on her indiscriminately from close range. Two bullets hit her on the chest and forehead, police officials said, adding she died instantaneously.

Four bullets hit the compound wall of her building in Rajarajeshwari Nagar, the officials said.

Gauri, who owned some other publications, was known for her forthright views against hardline Hindu politics and pro-Left leaning.

Bengaluru Police Commissioner T Sunil Kumar could not immediately ascertain who carried out the killing and the motive behind it.

Police suspected that she had been closely followed by the assailants. Karnataka Chief Minister and senior

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Life once existed on Red Planet!

Scientists claim breakthrough



MAIL ONLINE

Researchers have discovered another clear indicator that life once existed on Mars.

Nasa's Curiosity rover has found evidence of boron on the red planet's surface.

It is a key ingredient for life, and scientists say the find is a huge boost in the hunt for life. "Because borates may play an important role in making RNA—one of the building blocks of life—finding boron on Mars further opens the possibility that life could have once arisen on the planet," said Patrick Gasda, a postdoctoral researcher at Los Alamos National Laboratory and lead author on the paper, said.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Minister hints at power price hike

UNB, Dhaka

State Minister for Power and Energy Nasrul Hamid yesterday said a proposal had been sent to Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission seeking adjustment to the electricity tariff, indicating a hike by Tk 0.30 per unit. "It's a regular phenomenon to submit proposal to the regulator. Now it's up to the regulator to take the decision," he told reporters at his ministry.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3



SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center

PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 7

Fazl Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

SAJDA: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

9.5 tonnes relief rice missing!

Rab seizes two trucks,
spots discrepancies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion has found a huge discrepancy in rice being released for relief from Teigaon central storage depot (CSD) in the capital yesterday.

A team of Rab-2 stopped two trucks carrying 30 tonnes of rice in front of CSD gate around 9:00pm Tuesday. The trucks were carrying rice meant for distribution among the flood affected people in Jatiyati Party lawmaker Syed Abu Hossain's area. The food directorate officials were present during the time.

"Measuring the trucks around 2:00pm, we have only found 20.5 tonnes of rice in the truck, meaning 9.5 tonnes of rice was missing from it," Sarwar Alam, executive magistrate of the Rab, told The Daily Star. Each of the sacks was supposed to contain 30kg of rice but Rab found that some sacks had 12kg

SEE PAGE 13 COL 2



BIRTHDAY BOY ON FIRE: Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman (3rd from R), who turned 22 yesterday, celebrates with teammates after dismissing Australia centurion David Warner on the third day of the second Test at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong on Wednesday.

Pressure alone won't resolve N Korea crisis

Says Putin, calls for talks after meeting his S Korean counterpart

REUTERS, Vladivostok

Resolving the North Korean nuclear crisis is impossible with sanctions and pressure alone, Russian President Vladimir Putin said yesterday after meeting his South Korean counterpart, adding that the impact of cutting oil would be worrying.

Putin met South Korea's Moon Jae-in on the sidelines of an economic summit in the eastern Russian city of Vladivostok amid mounting international concern that their neighbour plans more weapons tests, possibly a long-range missile launch before a weekend anniversary.

Putin denounced North Korea's sixth and largest nuclear bomb test on Sunday, saying Russia did not recognise its nuclear status.

"Pyongyang's missile and nuclear program is a crude violation of UN Security Council resolutions, undermines the non-proliferation regime and creates a threat to the security of northeastern Asia," Putin said at a news conference. "At the same time, it is clear that it is impossible to resolve the problem of the Korean peninsula only by sanctions and pressure," he said.

No headway could be made without political and diplomatic tools, Putin said, later telling the TASS news agency that Russian and North Korean delegations might meet at the Vladivostok forum.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4