

Six years on, river fire station still has no equipment

A three-storey building was constructed at a cost around Tk 5 crore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

River communications are much easier than communications by road in the town of Patuakhali as well as in the riverine district. For apparent reasons, the Fire Service and Civil Defence decided to set up a river station by the Laukathi river in the town.

However, six years after a three-storey building for the river station was built at a cost around Tk 5 crore, thousands of locals are yet to reap its benefits as the fire station still does not have any fire boat, water ambulance or any other necessary firefighting equipment.

It is an irony that a water ambulance -- went out of order within a several years after it was purchased in the '80s -- of the town fire station is left to rot by the newly built pontoon of the river station.

While the new building of the river station was inaugurated on September 25, 2013 by then local lawmaker Advocate Shahjahan Mia, the construction of the pontoon for the station was completed only around eight months ago, in March this year.

Appointments in almost all posts, 12 out of 14, for the river station were completed in April this year, but even

the topmost official of the service in Patuakhali town is still unsure of when the station will receive its firefighting equipment.

Confirming that 12 of the new recruits joined the river station on April 4, Station Officer Sohel Ahmed said the personnel have been sitting idle without necessary equipment including fire boats and water ambulances.

Businessman Khairul Mridha from Badrua Bazar in Galachipa upazila said people are not getting any benefit from the new river station for years.

As many as 15 shops and three houses in the area burned down in fire on Monday, he said, adding that the amount of damage could have been reduced if the river station was in operation as it would take less time for fire boats to reach the spot as opposed to fire trucks driving on narrow roads.

Assistant Director Nazrul Islam of the fire service in Patuakhali town said the river station could not go in operation although it has its pontoon, a building and manpower.

All decisions regarding the setting up of the river station is made at the fire service headquarters in Dhaka and "I have no information on the matter," he added.



The water ambulance -- went out of order within a few years of purchase in the '80s -- of Patuakhali town fire station is left to rot beside the newly built fire service pontoon by the Laukathi river. Now the new river station awaits new firefighting equipment.

PHOTO: SOHRAB HOSSAIN

Academic activities severely hampered

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of Abrar Fahad. Abrar, a second-year student, was beaten to death by a group of Chhatra League men at a university dormitory between the night of October 6 and early hours of October 7.

The protesters said Abrar became a victim of BCL ragging that plagued the university halls mainly due to negligence from the Buet authorities, including VC Prof Saiful Islam.

At Pabna University of Science and Technology, students have been skipping classes since October 28, demanding the removal of the VC, Prof Rostom Ali, over allegations of graft and irregularities.

A few days earlier, an audio clip of an alleged conversation between the VC and a person seeking a job at the university had gone viral.

In the clip, the job seeker is heard telling the VC to return Tk 8 lakh which he had given as bribe. The job seeker is also heard saying he did not pass the recruitment test. Prof Rostom said the clip is fake. "A vested quarter is after my image. They are spreading falsehood for personal gains," he told reporters.

Meanwhile, a group of Rajshahi University teachers, under the banner of "Teachers' Society Against Corruption", have been forming

human chains on the campus every Monday and Thursday since October 3, demanding the removal of VC Prof M Abdus Sobhan and Pro-VC Prof Choudhury Zakaria over different allegations.

The teachers are irked by the VC's "Jai Hind" remark at a programme on September 26. They also alleged that the pro-VC took a bribe to recruit a teacher.

Prof Zakaria denies the allegation.

Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (Kuet) was closed for an indefinite period on November 1 after students of two dormitories clashed over a football match, leaving six injured.

Earlier, the authorities of Barisal University kept the university closed for 11 days since March 28 following student protests sparked by a remark by the then VC SM Imamul Haque.

On March 26, the teacher allegedly called a group of students "Razakar-er Bachcha [children of Razakar]", said the protesters.

Prof Imamul, however, denied the allegation and said the students became agitated after the university hosted a lunch programme on the Independence Day only for some distinguished guests.

In Gopalganj, students of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur

Rahman Science and Technology University have also been staging protests since Tuesday, demanding the authorities lower different fees at the university.

Academic activities at the university had been hampered for 12 days in September after students held protests demanding removal of VC Khondoker Md Nasiruddin over allegations of irregularities and corruption.

A UGC probe committee at that time found evidence of irregularities and corruption against the VC and recommended his removal.

The VC resigned on September 30.

Talking to The Daily Star, University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman Prof Kazi Shahidullah and Professor Emeritus of Dhaka University Serajul Islam Choudhury expressed concerns over the academic impasse at the universities.

They said the protests could lead to session jams at the highest educational institutions.

Asked about the allegations of corruption and irregularities against the VCs, the UGC chairman said, "These allegations are subject to investigation. You must consider someone innocent unless any allegation is proved to be true."

He also said VCs have certain

responsibilities and they could not use abusive words. "This is unexpected," he said.

Kazi Shahidullah said they did not want any disorder at the universities as that could lead to disruption in the students' academic life.

He also said they usually leave it to the university authorities to solve their own problems. "But now, we are thinking about holding meetings with them before taking any step."

Serajul Islam Choudhury said, "Students are the victims. There are possibilities that the universities will experience session jams."

He also said there were hardly any corruption allegations against VCs in the past. "Such allegations are surfacing now as the teachers are getting involved in various development activities on the campuses."

Meanwhile, rights group Ain o Salish Kendra in a statement yesterday said unrest at public universities was seriously hampering the academic atmosphere there.

It called for impartial investigations into the allegations against the university administrations, including the vice-chancellors.

Kathin Chibar Dan begins at Rangamati

Thousands of Buddhist devotees throng Rajban Bihar to join the festival

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Kathin Chibar Dan, the biggest religious festival of the Buddhist community in Chattogram Hill Tracts (CHT) region, began yesterday at Rajban Bihar in Rangamati town.

Chakma Raja Devashish Roy inaugurated the two-day programme through opening the bain ghar (sewing room) and spinning wheel at Rajban Bihar at 3:00pm.

Kathin Chibar Dan (offering of robe woven with hard work) is an annual religious festival during which Buddhist devotees offer manually woven robes to monks.

"Every year we arrange Kathin Chibar Dan with religious fervour. In line with our tradition, we follow this bain (manual weaving and sewing) method," said Raja Devashish Roy.

Such festivals help Buddhist devotees to learn reverence, patience and tolerance, he added.

Bishakha, a nurse of Gautama Buddha, introduced the event about 2500 years ago, by offering him a kathin chibar (robe woven with hard work).

Thousands of Buddhists from three hill districts of CHT region have started arriving in Rangamati town to join the festival.

"Like every year, the district administration has arranged adequate security measures on the occasion. We hope that our programme will be end peacefully," said Goutam Dewan, president of Upasok-Upasika Karjonirbahi Parishad, at Rajban Bihar.

Amiyo Khisa, secretary of the Parishad, and Susmita Chakma, its information and publicity secretary, were present at the inaugural function, among others.

Sharma blaze levels series for India

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and as many fours from Sharma's bat had powered India to the virtually impregnable position of 125 for two in 12.2 overs. Shreyas Iyer (24 off 13) and KL Rahul (8 off 11) then took India home with 4.2 overs to spare.

The only Bangladesh bowler to come out with any sort of credit was Aminul, who also took the wicket of opener Shikhar Dhawan in the 11th over, ending an opening stand of 118. Aminul ended with figures of two for 29 from four overs.

While Sharma was at his imperious best and has laid better bowling attacks to waste over a storied career, he was helped by the rest of Bangladesh's bowlers, who unlike in the first T20I were guilty of indiscipline and failed to bowl to the fields set by skipper Mahmudullah Riyad.

Earlier, Bangladesh failed to capitalise on a promising start, having reached 97 for two in 12 overs and seemingly on course for a 170-plus

score that would have been par on a good batting surface. India leg-spinner Chahal then put the skids on the scoring by getting Mushfiqur Rahim, the star of the first T20I, caught at deep midwicket and Soumya Sarkar stumped for a 20-ball 30 in the 13th over.

It was key that Soumya, the set batsman at the time after a 60-run opening partnership between Liton Das and Mohammad Naim, continued for a substantial score but he stepped out and failed to read the googly -- a common failing.

From 103 for four after 13 overs, skipper Mahmudullah Riyad made sure that Bangladesh did not lose their way completely, stroking a 30 off 21 balls before departing in the penultimate over. Mosaddek Hossain and Aminul Islam took Bangladesh to 153 for six, around 20 runs short of a fighting total.

However, it could have been very different had Bangladesh carried over

some of the maturity they showed while beating India in the first T20I in New Delhi. The restraint and planned assault that was on display in the first match was absent yesterday, especially in Liton, even when they had India on the ropes after reaching 54 without loss in the six Powerplay overs.

Liton had a big slice of luck in the previous over when, on 17, a stumping was disallowed because wicketkeeper had collected the ball before it had crossed the stumps.

In the next over, he was dropped by Sharma on 26 after going for another hairy shot. Liton then got himself out when, being deceived by a googly from Yuzvendra Chahal, went off on a blind run with the ball at his feet and was easily run out by Pant for a 21-ball 29.

Naim continued his good initiation into international cricket, top-scoring with 36, but was caught at deep midwicket off Washington Sundar trying to force the pace.

11,000 illegal

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Some illegal foreigners even choose to go to jail instead of being deported as they think that they will be able to stay in Bangladesh until the cases against them are disposed of, added the officials.

The foreigners usually walk out of jail on bail within a couple of months or a year, according to law enforcers.

An SB official said, "We wrote several times to the authorities concerned about the problems.... It's good that the government is taking steps in this regard [deportation] finally."

Under the existing law, the maximum punishment for overstaying visas is five years' jail term and a fine. **ALLEGATIONS AGAINST EX-SP HARUN**

Talking to journalists after the cabinet committee meeting, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan said allegations against former Narayanjanj superintendent of police Muhammad Harun Or Rashid would be investigated.

"We have just transferred him. An investigation into the allegations will be launched," he said in response to a query from a journalist.

Harun was transferred to the Police Headquarters on Sunday amid allegations of trying to extort a businessman, and framing him and his driver for possessing drugs and illegal firearms.

Locals deprived of services as councillors in jail

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to his room, but he was also found absent.

The on-duty security guard told The Daily Star that Secretary Rafiqul Islam had gone to Sultan's office.

Talking to this correspondent, Rafiqul said he goes to Sultan's office to get different documents signed.

At his ward-8 office at Sadeque Hossain Khada Community Centre in Kamlapur, Sultan said he did not have the ability to pay the extra Tk 27,000 rent for the councillor office of ward-9.

"I have called an introductory meeting with senior citizens of Arambagh. I'll raise the office issue [of ward-9] there," he said, hoping to get

a suitable office soon.

"Once I get it, it will be easier for me to do daily work," he added.

Sayed's removal came weeks after media reports of his involvement in illegal casino business in the capital.

On September 22, Rab busted illegal casinos housed inside Arambagh Sporting Club, Dilkusha Sporting Club, and Mohammedan Sporting Club run by Sayeed.

On October 31, Rab arrested councillor of DSCC ward-39 Moinul Haque Manju in an extortion case. Councillors of ward-32 and-33 of DNCC Habibur Rahman Mizan and Tarequzzaman Rajib were arrested on October 11 and 19 on charges of extortion.

Around 4:00pm on Monday,

this correspondent found Mizan's Lalmatia office locked.

Contacted, DNCC Zonal Executive Officer Masud Hossain said they were yet to get the arrest documents of Mizan and Rajib from police. That is why they could not hand over their responsibilities to others.

"For the time being, I have instructed ward secretaries to issue certificates on white paper," he said.

Usually, those certificates are issued on official pad.

DSCC Zonal Executive Officer Mohammad Samsul Hoque said he requested the higher authorities to take necessary steps to assign someone as councillor in DSCC ward-39 for the interim period.

Faculty Search

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Professor
PhD/DBA or an equivalent degree in relevant discipline from reputed foreign university with a minimum 7 years of professional/corporate experience of which at least 4 years must be in active teaching in the post of an Assistant Professor and or above (of which at least 5 years must be in the post of Associate Professor) with a minimum 15 publications in standard and reputed academic journals. Applicants must have first classes/divisions in all examinations.

Associate Professor
PhD/ DBA or an equivalent degree in relevant discipline from reputed foreign university with a minimum 7 years of professional/corporate experience of which at least 4 years must be in active teaching in the post of an assistant professor and or above with a minimum 6 publications in standard and reputed academic journals. Applicants must have first classes/divisions in all examinations.

Assistant Professor
PhD/ DBA/ MBA/ Masters in relevant discipline from reputed foreign university with a minimum 3 years of professional/corporate experience with a minimum 3 publications in standard academic journals. Applicants must have first classes/divisions in all examinations.

Lecturer
MBA/Masters with Bachelor/Honors in relevant discipline with No Third Class in all examinations with strong academic background having a minimum CGPA of 3.80 in a scale of 4.00 in all examinations. For all Arts & Social Science Disciplines minimum CGPA of 3.5 out of 4.00 is required in all examinations.

* Some of the requirements may be relaxed for candidates with greater experience. Attractive salary package with fringe benefits including house rent, medical allowance, provident fund, group insurance, gratuity and yearly two festival bonuses as per university policy. Salary negotiable in case of deserving candidates. Applicants are requested to apply with full CV, a signed application letter, attested photocopies of all academic records and 2 (two) copies of recent passport sized photographs within **30th November 2019**; to **Vice President, Human Resources**. Please write the name of the position applied for on top of the envelope. Applicants residing abroad may send in their detailed CV and application to hr@aiub.edu and rest of their documents by post. Only Short listed applicants will be contacted for interview. Confidentiality of the applicants shall strictly be maintained.

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