KAZIRHAT-ARICHA ROUTE

Ferry services set to commence this month

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Pabna*

In a bid to reduce traffic on Bangabandhu Bridge over the Jamuna river, ferry services between Kazirhat in Pabna and Aricha in Manikganj are set to be launched this month.

Ferry services between Dhaka and Pabna had been suspended for years.

If the new services continue without any hitch, travel time for people commuting between Pabna and Gabtoli in Dhaka will come down considerably.

Currently, the distance between the two locations by road, via the Bangabandhu Bridge, is over 200 kilometres, whereas it is around 140 kilometres if the Kazirhat-Aricha ferry services are used. The distance between Kazirhat and Aricha ferry terminals is around 14 kilometres.

Zillur Rahman, deputy general manager of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), at Aricha river terminal, said construction of necessary infrastructure at both Kazirhat and Aricha terminals have already been completed and they are now ready to roll out the ferry services.

A test run on the route with trial ferry the Birshreshtha Motiur Rahman was conducted last week, with BIWTA chairman and high officials from BIWTA and Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation on board.

The ferry services will likely be launched in the last week of February, added Zillur.

BIWTA Chairman Golam Md Sadek said although ferry services on this rout were supposed to be stopped after the opening of the Bangabandhu Bridge, it is being reintroduced by public demand.

The long-awaited services are now set to be in motion after issues relating to navigability and vessel availability were resolved, he said.

Sabbir Rahman, assistant manager at Kazirhat ferry terminal, said instead of going around via the Bangabandhu Bridge from Pabna to Dhaka or vice versa, people are more eager to save time and money by taking the ferry by travelling only 14 kilometres to and from Kazirhat and Aricha.

If the new ferry services are operated efficiently, most people will prefer the ferry route to travelling by road via the Bangabandhu Bridge, said Faruk Hossain, a bus driver from Dhaka.

If the new services continue without any hitch, travel time for people commuting between Pabna and Gabtoli in Dhaka will come down considerably.

Trial ferry the Birshreshtha Motiur Rahman docked at Kazirhat ferry terminal in Pabna. PHOTO: STAR

Missing trader found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Thakurgaon*

Police recovered the body of local trader from Rowshanbag area in Panchagarh municipality, after 36 days of his missing on December 31 last year.

The deceased, Tariqul Islam, 58, a rice trader, was son of Amir Uddin of Islambag area in the municipality.

Officer in Charge of Sadar Police Station Abu Akkas Ahmed said Tariqul went out of his home on December 31 and didn't return since then.

Locals saw Tariqul's body floating in a pond and informed them, he said, adding that criminals might have dumped the body about eight to ten days ago.

People of at least seven villages in Kurigram's Bhurungamari upazila have been suffering extremely since the bridge on Bagbhandar-Bhurungamari road near Purbo Bagbhandar Government Primary School collapsed about two weeks ago, snapping road communication with the upazila headquarters and other nearby villages. PHOTO: COLLECTED

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Faridpur women make extra earing by producing vermicompost

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Faridpur*

"Once I had to take money from my husband to meet the needs of the family, but now I earn Tk 10,000 to Tk 15,000 per month sitting at home from selling vermicompost," said Kulsum Begum, 40, wife of Md Siddque Mollah of Solakundi village in Faridur Sadar upazila.

Like Kulsum, around 100 women of Solakundi village in Sadar upazila have been earning a good amount of money by making the organic fertiliser at their house.

According to the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Faridpur, at least 1,300 people, mostly women, are now involved in making vermicompost in nine upazilas of the district. They are making 151 tonnes of vermicompost every year.

"I have been making vermicompost for the last three months spending Tk 1,700. I have already got 2.5 maunds of vermicompost," added Kulsum.

Champa Begum, 35, another housewife of Solakundi village, said, "For making vermicompost, we collect plants, tree leaves and cow dung and keep those in a big earthen hole. It is rotten in 20 to 25 days. It is used as feed for earthworms, and finally vermicompost is made from the earthworms' dung. Now I can make 400 kg of the organic fertiliser per month and help my family with the earning from it."

Vermicompost is being sold at Tk 12 per kg and earthworm at Tk 1 per piece at locally, she said.

Sahera Begum, 42, wife of Kolom Mia of the same village, said "We have five cows. After collecting their dung, we place it on a brick made pool for some days. Then we add earthworms and cover the mixture with gunny bags for 15 days. It is ready for use as compost fertiliser after separation of the earthworms."

Ramjan Sheikh, 60, a farmer of Solakundi village, said, "I achieved a higher yield of gourd this year using vermicompost fertilizer. I do not use chemical fertilizers on my land and as a result, the fertility of the land increased after using compost fertilizer."

Muzahidul Islam, sub-assistant agricultural officer of Sadar upazila, said, vermicompost making had introduced in Solakundu village three years ago. By this time, it becomes very popular among the farmers of the village. Farmers from different areas of this district and out of the district come to this village to buy vermicompost.

Many women are taking up vermiculture as it brings some extra earning for their families, he said.

Hazrat Ali, deputy director of DAE in Faridpur, said they are providing necessary suggestions to farmers to make vermicompost.

A woman makes vermicompost at Solakundi village in Faridpur Sadar upazila. PHOTO: STAR

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Development of Selected Madrasahs Project
Directorate of Madrasah Education
Technical and Madrasah Education Division
Education Ministry
28-J, Segunbagicha, Ramna, Dhaka-1000

Memo No. DME/DSMP/e-GP(Furniture)/2020-1057 Date: 04-02-2021

e-Tender Notice No. 01/2020-21 (OTM)

An e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of the following goods:

Sl. No.	Package No.	Tender ID No.	Description of goods	Tender document last selling date & time	Tender closing & opening date & time
01	GD5.1 Lot-01	543671	Manufacturing and supplying of furniture for academic building to selected madrasahs.	28-02-2021 17:00	01-03-2021 12:00
02	GD5.1 Lot-02	543788	Manufacturing and supplying of furniture for academic building to selected madrasahs.	28-02-2021 17:00	01-03-2021 13:00
03	GD5.1 Lot-03	543797	Manufacturing and supplying of furniture for academic building to selected madrasahs.	28-02-2021 17:00	01-03-2021 14:00
04	GD5.1 Lot-04	543807	Manufacturing and supplying of furniture for academic building to selected madrasahs.	28-02-2021 17:00	01-03-2021 15:00

This is online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender document from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to banking hours on 20 January 2021.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd, 01762625528-31). For more details please contact e-GP support desk number (01712-126295 or http://www.eprocure.gov.bd).

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GD-252