

NEWS IN  
brief

## 16 held for violating fishing ban in Bay

Kuakata naval police during a raid in Char Bijay area of Kuakata on Friday detained 16 people and seized four fishing trawlers for violating the ongoing ban on fishing in the Bay of Bengal.

The Fisheries department enforced the ban from May 20 to September 4 as a means to facilitate reproduction of fish during its breeding season in Kuakata area of Patuakhali.

During the raid, the police also seized one maund of fish and 1 lakh metres of fishing net.

Three of the seized fishing boat owners were later fined Tk 20 thousand each while another Tk 10 thousand. The 16 detainees were released after obtaining signed bonds from them.

## Slit-throat body recovered in Dinajpur

A throat-slit body of a battery-run easy bike driver was recovered in Birampur upazila of Dinajpur on Saturday morning.

The deceased was Rezaul Karim, 35, son of late Rajab Ali of Shantinagar area under Birampur Municipality in Dinajpur.

Family members said Rezaul went out of home on Friday afternoon. Suman Kumar Mohanta, officer-in-charge of the Birampur Police Station, said informed by locals, police rushed there and recovered the body, which was later sent to M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

The process was going on to file a murder case with the police station, he said.

Rafiqul Islam, brother of the deceased, alleged that criminals killed his brother to take away his vehicle.

Source: Our correspondents in Patuakhali and Dinajpur



Women and girls are making wigs at the makeshift factory in Tangail's Ghatail upazila. Bithi (standing) supervising the work.

PHOTO: STAR

## On the road to collective turnaround

An ordinary housewife chooses to be extraordinary through her entrepreneurship as a wigmaker

MIRZA SHAKIL

Bithi Akter, a housewife from Doyakandi village under Deulabari union in Tangail's Ghatail upazila, was struggling to maintain the five-member family with a meagre income of her day labourer husband during the Covid-19 situation.

The 35-year-old woman was having difficulty to make ends meet of her family, including two daughters and one son, due to the soaring prices of the essentials. She was desperately eyeing for an alternative source of income and set out on the entrepreneurial mission as a wig maker, a less-explored arena that she had not long experienced in.

It all started with her job at a small factory at her ancestral Shimultoly village in the upazila through an acquaintance. The job of the factory is to make wigs. Bithi learned the work well with just a few days of training. She was working with other women and girls in the factory and supporting her family by the earning.

However, she had to spend some extra money to do the work going a few kilometers away from her husband's house.

Then, two months ago, she rented a tin-shed room next to her paternal house and started doing the work from there.

Besides, she worked to increase the number of workers in the factory after giving training to the women and girls of the village.

At present, a total of 26 women and

girls of the village are working with her. Most of the workers, aged between fifteen to twenty, are students of local schools and colleges. Due to the closure of educational institutions in the Covid-19 situation, the women and girls were sitting idle at their houses with acute financial crisis. But now they are generating income.

Bithi said, "Actually, while working in Shimultoly, the company's supervisor advised me to do the work staying in my own village after taking some local women and girls with me. The rent of the structure and other necessary items all are provided by the company. They also provide the hair needed to make the wigs."

"Depending on the size, it takes one, two or two and half days to prepare each hair cap. We earn Tk 200 to Tk 700 per day. But the work is very delicate; it has to be done very carefully."

"I along with my elder daughter earn wages by working here. In addition, the company pays me an additional salary of Tk 5,000 per month to train and take care of the new girls," Bithi said.

"Now, I have been asked by the company to increase production by involving more local girls in the work," she added.

Bablu Mia, a former union parishad member of the village, said the name of the company is 'Hands and Hooks' which is a China and Bangladesh joint venture. Their office is in Dhaka's Uttara.

"A number of girls and women of the

village have been benefited a lot from getting work in this small factory. With the schools and colleges closed due to coronavirus outbreak, boys of the village are busy roaming around unnecessarily or with mobile phones, while girls are able to earn some money working at the factory. Now they are able to do something for themselves and their families with their income. We the villagers are happy with this," he added.

Taslima Akter, a college girl from the village and a worker of the factory, said, "I used to stay at home as the college was closed due to outbreak of coronavirus. I have been making wig at the factory with others for the last one month and half after Bithi Apa (sister) me trained me up doing the work. At the end of the month I get a few thousand taka as wage. Now I can do some shopping for myself if I want to; I can also help my family if needed."

Shimu, Amena, Tahmina and few other girls of the village working at the factory expressed almost the identical feeling.

Jubdil Khan, a former student of Jagannath University and now a government officer of neighbouring Pakutia village said one day he went to the village and saw the girls working at the factory.

"I would like to thank Bithi Apa for providing employment opportunity to so many girls at the village besides herself in this very difficult time of the pandemic. Due to her initiative, the girls of the area are able to earn up to Tk 10,000 a month

by working in the factory."

"If different business people or organisations set up such small factories in rural areas to provide job opportunities and fair wages to the local people, especially the youths, the unemployment problem will be reduced on the one hand and on the other hand they will be saved from terrorism, drugs and other degradations," he added.

Manjur Morshed, factory manager of 'Hands and Hooks', said that a couple of years ago, 'Hands and Hooks' started setting up the small factories in different places in Dhaka, Tangail and Rangpur where production and maintenance are done by women workers. Everything needed for the preparation of the wig, including hair, is brought from China following the health directives properly.

However, the Chinese employees of the company visit the factories to maintain the quality of the wig assembled by the women and girls. The wigs are sent to China after holding the final checking at the Ware House in Dhaka, he said.

Two factories were already in operation at Bhaighat in Madhupur upazila and Shimultoly in Ghatail upazila of Tangail. Later, the new factory was opened up at Doyakandi in Ghatail with the help of Bithi. At present, more than three hundred women and girls are engaged in making these wig in the three districts, including Tangail. The company pays a fair wage for their work, Morshed said.

## Ferry shortage cripples Pabna-Aricha route

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Over five hundred vehicles, mostly trucks loaded with goods, have been stranded near Kazirhaat ferry terminal in Pabna's Bera upazila and Aricha ferry terminal in Manikganj over the past several days.

The highway on both sides of the terminals is seeing the gridlock due to a shortage in the number of operational ferries.

Officials at Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) said only one ferry is currently serving the route as three out of total four ferries designated for the route went out of service after sustaining damage.

They also said they were hopeful of bringing in a ferry from Paturia terminal to ease pressure of vehicles on the route.

While visiting Kazirhaat ferry terminal on Saturday morning, several hundred vehicles, mostly trucks, were seen waiting to board a ferry. The drivers said they had been waiting there for at least a day.

"I came to Kazirhaat ferry ghat from Jessore on Thursday night, on my way to Dhaka via Aricha ferry ghat. Now it's morning on Saturday, but unfortunately, I am yet to catch a ferry," said Asif Hossain, a truck driver. "The ferry shortage is wasting our time and money."

While several hundred loaded vehicles are stranded on both sides of the ferry terminals for hours, only one ferry is operating in such a busy route, he sighed.

Poor maintenance is mostly causing frequent breakdowns of the ferries, alleged many truckers who frequent the route.

BIWTC officials, however, said the situation arises when ferries go out of service due to "technical faults".

"Four ferries are scheduled to run in the Kazirhaat-Aricha route. But two ferries -- Begum Rokeya and Begum Sufia -- had been running in this route. When Begum Sufia was down with technical fault on Friday, the immense pressure of vehicles is being met with the only working ferry," explained Mahbubur Rahman, manager of Kazirhaat ferry terminal.



With brick chips piled up and rainwater settled on a large part, most of the Nazirpur-Kachua bridge road -- under construction for years in Pirojpur Sadar upazila -- turns hazardous for thousands who use it every day to reach Sadar, Kachua and Nazirpur upazilas in Pirojpur and Kachua upazila in Bagerhat.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

## 2-yr deadline over, crucial road still incomplete

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

The deadline to finish construction of a six-kilometre road in Pirojpur Sadar upazila expires this June 30, but there is hardly any progress visible on the site.

After the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) issued work order for the work to Toma Construction in May 2019, Fisheries and Livestock Minister SM Rezaul Karim formally inaugurated the work on the road, between Nazirpur and Kachua bridge, on December 17 last year.

The RHD is spending Tk 31.3 crore to upgrade five roads in Sadar, Nazirpur, Nesarabad and Mathbaria upazilas in Pirojpur district.

The unpaved Nazirpur-Kachua bridge road is difficult to use during most parts of the year, but it especially becomes inaccessible during the monsoon season when large potholes on it gets filled with rainwater and turn into ditches, said locals.

"The road has been in a terrible state for over seven years, but the situation did not change."

Several thousand people use the road every day as the road connects Bagerhat's Kachua upazila with Pirojpur upazila headquarters.

They said they now wonder how much longer they will need to suffer on the road that has been under construction for so many years. But recently, as a makeshift solution to ease people's sufferings, brickbats with sand were dumped on some of the larger potholes in the road.

"The road has been in a terrible state for over seven years, but the situation did not change," said Nazrul Islam, a resident of Chalitakhali

village in Pirojpur Sadar upazila.

As a result, sufferings of the road users have been unbearable, he also said.

As there is no alternative to this road to reach Kachua, Pirojpur or Nazirpur, thousands are compelled to use the Nazirpur-Kachua bridge road every day, said Noman Sheikh, from the same village. "We are now worried if the condition of the road will ever change."

Urging immediate completion of the work, Ariful Islam, another local, said, "The road is very important for the local economy as farmers use it to transport their produce."

Contacted, RHD Sub-divisional Engineer Mohammad Wahiduzzaman said the work on the road was being delayed due to the Coronavirus pandemic situation.

Under the circumstances, they will extend the deadline for completing the work and will ask the contractor to expedite the work on an urgent basis, he added.

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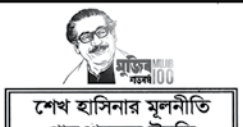
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Memo No. 46.02.0000.794.07.030.20.602

Date: 10-06-2021

e-Tender Notice (2<sup>nd</sup> Call)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocurement.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following Goods listed below:

Sl No	Name of Goods	Tender Reference No.	Tender ID	Last Date of Selling Documents Through Online	Last Submission
1.	Procurement of Rickshawvan for 26 ULBs (4 City Corporations & 22 Pourashavas) under Municipal Governance and Services Project (MGSP). Package No. MGSP/PMU/G31	APP ID No. 169675	586539	11/07/2021 at 5.00 pm	12/07/2021 at 1.00 pm

This is an 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.eprocurement.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks' Branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

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