

Lighted buoy placed to protect Padma Bridge from ferry collisions

UNB, Munshiganj

A floating, lighted buoy has been placed on the Padma Bridge to help ferries avoid colliding with its piers while passing. The buoy was placed three kilometres south of spans 12 and 13 yesterday.

The decision to place the buoy was taken in a meeting of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), Bangladesh Inland Water Transport and Communication (BIWTC), Bangladesh Armed Forces, and the bridge authority to determine procedures to protect the bridge piers from colliding with ferries on the Shimulia-Banglabazar route.

According to the authorities, strong currents immediately after passing the Hajra channel -- just 1.3km away from the bridge -- often makes it difficult for navigators to control their turn. This leaves ferries plying from Bangla Bazar to Shimulia prone for the collision. The authorities said this is what has led to consecutive accidents in the area in the last few days.

Now, ferries will be able to aim for the buoy after passing the channel and



A BIWTA vessel carries the lighted buoy before placing it near Padma Bridge span 12 and 13.

PHOTO: SAJJAD HOSSAIN

will be able to adjust heading control with the current before reaching the bridge, they said.

As of yesterday, ferries have already started using the buoy, sources said.

The authorities said they plan to place another spherical buoy after conducting a hydrographic survey, which takes place today.

Meanwhile, Banglabazar-Shimulia route ferries have been suggested to move through the span 11,12,13, and 14 area.

Authorities also suggested the alternative route through the span 6 and 7 area, as vessels on this route will move against the current and are less likely to lose control.

Man fatally run over by train in the capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man died under the wheels of a train in Dhaka's Khilkhet area yesterday.

The identity of the deceased, aged around 35, could not be known immediately.

The incident took place around 6am when an airport-bound train from Kamalapur station ran him over at Khilkhet level crossing, said Jahangir Khan, a sub-inspector of Khilkhet Police Station.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead around 8am, he said.

The police officer said they came to know that the deceased was homeless and used to live on city streets.



PHOTO: STAR

Fatema continues her quest for a better life. After repaying a loan with her daily income, she plans on settling down in her native village and get some respite.

A life full of obstacles

Fatema's struggle to make ends meet

SUKANTA HALDER

The father wanted to have a son, who would grow up and shoulder the responsibility of taking care of the penniless family. But fate did not allow such a desire, and so, a girl was born, to his disappointment.

Frustrated, one day he decided to abandon the baby, leaving her behind alone near a river. But fate intervened yet again. The baby's grandmother suspected her son is up to no good when she saw him going outside with the girl. And thankfully, the elderly lady rescued the child from the spot and raised her.

This is the story of battery-run rickshaw driver Fatema Begum.

Since birth, Fatema has borne one struggle after another. From working at a garment factory to being a house help, she tried a lot, in hopes of changing her circumstances for the better. But try as she might, she couldn't defy the odds. From her own family to society at large, instead of empathy and encouragement, she received snide remarks and spite.

Despite all this, she did not give up. With her battery-rickshaw, Fatema now tries her best to overcome her health financial issues.

Fatema recently spoke to this reporter at Shialbari Junction in the capital's Mirpur.

She was born Noakhali's Char Alexander and doesn't know her exact age but estimates it to have crossed twenty. Fatema has six siblings, five sisters and a brother; she is the youngest among all.

"When I was four, grandmother brought me to Dhaka and told me to work at an acquaintance's home. There, whenever I'd get a chance, I'd go out to play, since I was just a kid back then," she said.

"The people of the house used to beat me up. I was young, so I was more into sports. I didn't understand much. When I grew up, I left the work and joined at a garment factory," Fatema added.

She thought working at a garment factory would change her luck for the better, but another trouble arrived, in the form of Lavlu Sarkar, a rickshaw-puller who forced her to marry him.

Fatema became pregnant in April 2020, and during that time, she got to know that her husband married another woman. "I didn't believe it at first. Later, I found out that he had married many others."

"I was good in my husband's eyes as long as I gave him money. When I couldn't provide, things got worse. He started beating me," Fatema said.

Finding no alternatives, she started driving a pedal-rickshaw, when her husband stopped taking care of her. Due to this, there were complications during her pregnancy.

Fatema's eyes were full of tears when she was speaking of her miscarried child. The boy died before Fatema could see him.

Quoting the doctor, she said, "The doctor said the boy died because I had to work hard when he was in the womb. Luck is not on my side."

After giving birth, she had fallen ill and was treated at the district hospital for nearly a month.

She borrowed around Tk 1 lakh for treatment, and that debt still looms over her head. So far, she has paid back Tk 60,000 by driving the rickshaw.

Renting and driving the rickshaw, some days she earns Tk 200 and on others gets Tk 300 to 400. Fatema currently lives in a mess at Gabtoli.

"I used to pull a pedal-rickshaw. But I don't have enough strength, since I fell sick. That's why I now drive a battery-rickshaw."

Fatema said she hears all sorts of comments from people, due to being a woman rickshaw driver. She has to struggle to get passengers. In many cases, the passengers pay less fare for no reason, but she had to ignore all these things to make ends meet.

She still has a loan of Tk 40,000. Once it is repaid, she will go back to her village.

"The graves of my parents and son are in my village. There, I'll be able to see them and earn my daily bread."

Fatema also disclosed that she no longer feels comfortable in Dhaka city. However, she was grateful to God for keeping her on the right path so far.

Nation pays homage

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commission to expose behind the scene masterminds of August 15 carnage.

Quader, also the road transport and bridges minister, said this while talking to reporters after placing a wreath in front of the portrait of Bangabandhu at Dhanmondi Road-32.

"The mastermind killers of Bangabandhu were executed through trial. But beyond them, those who were conspirators, must be found and brought to justice by forming a commission," Quader added.

'COMMISSION WILL BE NEUTRAL' Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said the commission, which will be constituted to find out the conspirators behind the assassination of Bangabandhu and his family members, will be neutral.

The evidence and identities of the perpetrators including Ziaur Rahman, who were involved in the killing of Bangabandhu, will be published through a commission, he said while inaugurating 'Bangabandhu Gallery' at Registration Complex at Tejgaon.

'REWARD FOR INFO ON FUGITIVE KILLERS'

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday said the government will reward those who can provide accurate information about the location of the three traceless fugitive convicted

killers of Bangabandhu.

"I urge all expatriate Bangladeshis to share with us if you have any information about them... if your information is correct, of course we will reward you," he said.

He made the remark after placing a wreath at the portrait of Bangabandhu at the Bangabandhu Corner of the foreign ministry.

State minister for foreign affairs Md Shahriar Alam and foreign secretary Masud bin Momen accompanied him.

The government so far traced two convicted fugitive killers -- Rashed Chowdhury and Noor Chowdhury -- residing in the USA and Canada respectively.

Whereabouts of the other three fugitives -- Khandaker Abdur Rashid, Shariful Haque Dalim, and Moslehuddin Khan -- are yet to be ascertained.

After tracing locations of the two, the foreign and law ministries have been deeply engaged with the US and the Canadian authorities to bring them back.

"We don't know where the other three (convicted killers) are... we understand they have been moving from one country to another with different passports," Momen said.

PRAYERS AT BANGABHABAN

Marking the day, special prayers were held at the Darbar Hall of Bangabhaban yesterday.

President Abdul Hamid participated in it after Asr prayers.

Members of the president's family, secretaries to the president, military and civilian officials of Bangabhaban and other employees took part in the programme.

MISSIONS ABROAD

High commissions and Bangladesh embassies in different countries including India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Italy, Malaysia, Kuwait and Jordan yesterday paid homage to Bangabandhu marking National Mourning Day.

High commissioners, ambassadors of foreign missions in Dhaka including India, UK, Australia and chiefs of different international organisations also paid their tributes to Bangabandhu.

Separately, they placed floral wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu in front of Bangabandhu Memorial Museum.

Indian High Commissioner Vikram Doraiswami, after placing wreaths, tweeted, "Respectful homage to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on his martyrdom."

UK High Commissioner Robert Chatterton Dickson tweeted that on this day, he reflects on the extraordinary life of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his contribution to Bangladesh and the world.

Prof Monirul Islam no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Academician and researcher Prof Md Monirul Islam passed away on August 7. The sociologist was 70 at the time. He died after having suffered a heart attack.

He was taken to the National Heart Foundation Hospital for treatment, where he breathed his last.

Prof Islam was the founding chair of Lalmitia Mohila College's Department of Sociology.

In addition to being involved in significant research projects, he authored multiple books on sociology.

In a career spanning 40 years, he also worked with Padakhep Manabik Unnayan Kendra as an environment sociologist.

He was buried in his ancestral village at Chanchkoir, Natore.

Prof Islam left behind his two daughters and a host of relatives and well-wishers.



Writer Iffat Ara passes away

OUR CORRESPONDENT, M'singh

Shamsun Nahar Iffat Ara, a prolific writer, died of coronavirus at a Dhaka hospital on Saturday night. She was 82.

Iffat Ara from Mymensingh city's Senbari left behind two sons, a daughter and a host of relatives and admirers.

She was buried at the city's Gulkibari graveyard after a namaz-janaza.

Iffat Ara was born in Kishoreganj in 1939. She completed her MA in Bangla from Government Ananda Mohan College and BEd from Mymensingh Teachers Training College.

She started her teaching career in the city's Nasirabad Girls High School in 1969 and became its principal in 1971.

She published a literary magazine "Ditiya Chinta" from Mymensingh in 1986.

Six arrested

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The gang used to collect money from the jobseekers through a mobile financial service in phases for exams, training, laptop, medical equipment and transportation costs, said the police officer.

Play

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among them, which cannot be eliminated," he pointed out.

Ashraf said, "The Bangladesh government has done the best that was possible for these persecuted people, but now it is the responsibility of the international community to come forward and guide, through proper diplomatic channels, to arrange repatriation."

Commodore (ret'd) Mohammed Nurul Absar, chairperson of CFISS, said the repatriation process is urgent and the only solution for this crisis.

10-TRUCK ARMS HAUL

Death row convict dies with Covid-19

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former director general of National Security Intelligence (NSI) Brig Gen (ret'd) Abdur Rahim, a death row convict in 10-truck arms haul cases in Chattogram, died at a Dhaka hospital yesterday with Covid-19 infection.

"He breathed his last at the intensive care unit of Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital around 6am," Mahbulul Islam, jailor of Dhaka Central Jail in Keraniganj, told The Daily Star.

Rahim was admitted to the hospital on July 31 after he tested Covid-19 positive at Kashimpur Central Jail-2.

In 2014, a Chattogram court sentenced 14 people -- including Abdur Rahim, ex-ministers Lutfozzaman Babar and Motiur Rahman Nizami -- to death in the case.



Without keeping enough room for traffic movement, this Dhaka Metropolitan Police check-post at Gulshan-1 intersection was set up haphazardly, hindering vehicles taking this turn. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

BUILDING & LAND SALE
(Suitable for Factory/ Hospital/University)
Two Buildings (each 6 Storied@ 90,000sqft) total 1,80,000sqft, Land 5.50 bigha with Electricity/ Gas/ Water Facility. Both Buildings Accord Approved with Full Compliance. Presently Garments Factory running at Dhaka Road, Vogra before Gazipur Chowrasta.
Contact: 01711-525563, Email: dilan@capital-bd.com

পুঁট বিক্রয়
বন্দুরা বারিধারায় এম-ব্লকে দক্ষিণ-পূর্ব কোর্সে ৬, ৯ ও ১০কমার রেজিস্ট্রেশন ও বাউন্ডারীকৃত কমপ্লিট পুঁট গুলো (এককালীন মূল্যে) বিক্রয় করা হইবে।
যোগাযোগ: ০১৭১৫৪৬৬৮৭১

INVITATION FOR TENDER (2nd TIME)

Pubali Bank Limited, the largest Online Commercial Bank in Bangladesh is hereby inviting sealed Tenders from the eligible Tenderers who can participate in the following Tender as defined in the tender documents of the under mentioned work as per terms & conditions stated below:

- Notice Inviting Quotation (2nd time) for 02 (Two) Units of Hardware Security Module (HSM) for integrating with PI banking at Data Center of Pubali Bank Limited.

Please visit <https://www.pubalibangla.com/tender.asp> for more details, Interested Parties may purchase their Tender document by 24-08-2021 duly filled up all requirements.

(Md. Helal Uddin)
GM & Division Head



পূবালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড
PUBALI BANK LIMITED

ICT Operation Division
Head office, 26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka.

Hospitalisations

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still undergoing treatment at hospitals in Dhaka and 89 outside the capital, DGHS data shows.

Experts warned that if authorities concerned and citizens do not take necessary steps to destroy mosquito breeding spots, there is a chance that dengue cases may increase fast.

If that happens, the situation would be worse than previous years, because health services are already strained due to the pandemic.

As the capital's public hospitals are overwhelmed with Covid patients, it was already observed that those afflicted with dengue fever were finding it hard to get admission there.

According to DGHS, 1,01,354 cases and 179 deaths were recorded in Bangladesh in 2019.

The dengue virus was first reported in Bangladesh in 2000. It claimed 93 lives, while 5,551 were infected that year.

INVITATION FOR RE-TENDER

Pubali Bank Limited, the largest online commercial Bank in Bangladesh, is hereby inviting sealed Re-tenders from the eligible Tenderers who can participate in the following Re-tender as defined in the Re-tender documents of the under mentioned work as per terms & conditions stated below:

- Supplying, Installing, Commissioning and Maintenance of CISCO Smartnet Service/AMC for IP Telephony/IP-PBX System of Pubali Bank Limited.

Please visit <https://www.pubalibangla.com/tender.asp> for more details. Interested Parties may purchase Tender documents by 26 August 2021 duly fulfilling all other requirements.

(Md. Helal Uddin)
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