



In this recent photo, boats are seen put on display by sellers at Shamspara boat market in Atrai upazila of Naogaon.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

COVID-19 FALLOUT

Falling sales distress boat makers in Atrai

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Craftsmen making a living from boat sales at Shamspara boat market, the lone boat market in Naogaon's Atrai upazila, have been facing financial hardship due to declining sales at the market even during the peak season.

The boat makers wait through the rest of the year for monsoon when lowlands fill up with water and demands for new boats rise in the region.

But since the coronavirus pandemic broke out last year, sales of boats at the largest boat market in the area have continued to fall during two consecutive rainy seasons, said many boat makers.

In rainy season, Shamspara boat market is open two times a week -- on Mondays and Fridays.

Rivers, canals and large and small wetlands including Chalan Beel are filled to the brim during monsoon. This is when people in different areas of Naogaon's Atrai and Raninagar upazilas as well as Natore's Singra upazila have to rely on boats to get around for their day-to-day activities, said locals.

Many others roam around on boats to catch fish to make a living or just for fun, they also said.

The region usually turns festive in the monsoon with many boats out on the water bodies, said boat craftsman Abus Sobhan.

Monsoon is also the best time of the year for several hundred boat makers in Atrai upazila as this is when the boats they make are sold, he said, adding that they also get a lot of repair jobs in monsoon.

Locals said there are several

thousand boat makers in different upazilas of Naogaon where their livelihoods depend on boat sales and repair.

On August 6, when this correspondent visited the market, nearly four hundred boats of different kinds were put on display for sale. But only a handful of prospective buyers were seen checking out the boats.

Abdul Latif, another craftsman who brought four boats to the market, said he makes one boat every rainy season and sells it at the market where people from even surrounding districts throng to buy boats. But sales at the market this season have been poor so far.

He works at agricultural fields at other times of the year, but he makes boats in the rainy season when agricultural work is not

available in the region, he added.

The pandemic is the primary reason for the significant fall in sale of boats during peak season this year, said another boat maker, Abdul Mojib.

At a time when prices being offered by buyers are going down and prices of the main elements -- wood and bamboo -- going up, it is quite difficult for one to make much profit these days, he lamented, saying that depending on the quality of wood, it costs between Tk 3,500 and Tk 4,000 to make a 15-foot long boat.

Many local youths had been getting seasonal jobs at Shamspara boat market for pocket money, but without an adequate amount of sales, the sellers will not be able to employ them anymore, said boat maker Nagen Chandra.

Villagers suffer as bridge lies damaged

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

More than 10,000 people of 10 villages in Bhanga upazila have been facing immense sufferings since some portions of a concrete bridge, over a canal, broke down about three weeks ago.

In a bid to stop any fatal accident, villagers set up bamboos across the damaged bridge to halt vehicular movement through the damaged bridge.

Villagers said Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) built the 20-metre-long and two-metre-wide concrete bridge over Charakhali Canal at Fukurhati village in 1991.

People of several villages under Nurulaganj and Tujarpur unions use the bridge to go their destination.

Villagers living on both sides of the bridge use the bridge to reach Bhanga upazila headquarters in one side and Sadarpur upazila headquarters on the other.

Besides, three educational institutions--Fukurhati High School, Little Star Kindergarten and Baragram Fukurhati Nurani Alim Madrasa--are situated within 100 yards of the south side of the bridge. Schoolteacher Jagannath Paul of

Fukurhati village said small vehicles and pedestrians were crossing the damaged old bridge amid risk since a large portion of the bridge collapsed eight years ago.

Osman Mia, 45, a farmer of the village, said Jamir Sheikh, a freedom fighter of the village, took some initiatives to renovate it so that small vehicles can cross the bridge.

Around 11:00am on July 27, several parts of north side of the bridge suddenly collapsed soon after a three-wheeler cross it, halting all kinds of vehicular movement, he said.

Anwar Hossain, 65, a resident of Uchabari village under Tujarpur union, said as the bridge is risky it is very difficult cross it on foot.

To avoid any fatal accidents local people set up a bamboo barricade, he added.

Locals said Mujibur Rahman Chowdhury Nixon, lawmaker from Faridpur 4 Constituency, laid the foundation stone of a new bridge in place of the older one on November 28, 2020, but the construction work is yet to start.

Bhanga Upazila LGED Engineer Abdul Malek said they visited the spot and a tender is already under process to build a new bridge there.



People cross this damaged bridge over Charakhali Canal at Fukurhati village in Faridpur's Bhanga upazila amid risk of accidents.

PHOTO: STAR



Though passenger buses and light vehicles were allowed to pass on a priority basis, around 400 goods-laden trucks remain stranded at the Paturia ferry terminal and on the highway near the terminal in Manikganj to cross the Padma yesterday, as ferry movement slowed down due to strong currents.

PHOTO: STAR

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জিডি-১৪৭৫

Jashore Moitree Haat ends

Members of the voluntary organisation lend support to people in need amid Covid-19 crisis, about 2,100 people benefited from the noble initiative

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Moitree Haat, an initiative of a voluntary organisation that has been providing various supports to lower and middle income group people during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, ended yesterday in Jashore town.

Amid the coronavirus crisis, volunteers at Moitree Haat provided food packages at a cheaper price to around 300 lower-middle income families in different parts of Jashore town every day.

During the weeklong campaign, a total of 2,100 lower and middle income group people benefited from the noble initiative.

From August 9, they have sold the food package at low prices and continued till yesterday, said the authorities of the haat held on the Jashore municipality premises.

Each package includes 2kg of rice, 500 grams of lentils, one kg of flour, 500 grams of salt, 2kg of potatoes and 500 gram of cooking oil.

This needy people are buying each food package from the haat at Tk 150 while the actual price of the item is at Tk 300 in the local markets.

The Moitree Haat committee was formed on April 22, 2020 with 30 volunteers and two executive members



Volunteers selling food items at lower prices among people in need at Jashore municipality premises.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

and since then, they have been extending various supports to people in need amid Covid-19 crisis.

For example, they have distributed 2,000 KN-9 masks and 3,000 general masks among the families in need and providing telemedicine services to poor patients till now, said Md Mamunur Rahman, member secretary of the organising committee.

Apart from this, they have provided free oxygen support to 448 Covid-infected patients till August 6, he added.

They collected funds from their peers and well-wishers, both at home and abroad, and extended supports to people in need, said Mamunur.

The middle class people feel ashamed to stand in queue with poor

people for food, and they are the ones struggling most to meet their basic demands because of the Covid-19 crisis.

The organisation members also reached out to the middle class people's doorsteps with the food, said the volunteers.

Rashida Begum, a housewife from lower-middle income family in Shastitala area under Jashore municipality, said her husband is a construction worker but he became jobless during the Covid-19 situation. The couple have been struggling to feed their five-member family since long.

In this situation, volunteers at Moitree Haat lend their support to them, she said, adding it is really a praiseworthy initiative.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Chattogram City Corporation
Tigarpass, Chattogram
www.ccc.org.bd

Memo No. 46.11.1600.38.316.21.2058 Dated: 12/08/2021

e-Tender Notice/Mech

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.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents of following packages from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches up to particular date specified on tender notice.

Sl No.	Package No.	Name of works	Tender ID	Last date of selling documents	Last date of submission documents	Opening date & time
1	CCC.SE.mech.2021.141	Supply Spair parts for Garbage Vehicle	598102	29-08-2021	29-08-2021	29-08-2021
2	CCC/SE.Mech/2021/242	Supply Spair parts for 18 Nos. Garbage Vehicle	598097	29-08-2021	29-08-2021	29-08-2021
3	CCC.SE.mech.2021.142	Supply of 14 Nos. Type Tube for Pay-loader	598103	29-08-2021	29-08-2021	29-08-2021
4	CCC.SE.mech.2021.143	Supply of 60 Nos. Tyre Tube (Size-12.4-16) for Skite Steer Loader	598104	29-08-2021	29-08-2021	29-08-2021
5	CCC/SE.Mech/2021/240	Outfitting with necessary parts Renew/Repair of Chaindozar No. 11	598100	29-08-2021	29-08-2021	29-08-2021

Sudip Basak
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CCC/PRD-13/21-22
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