LEVEL CROSSING Illegal structures pose accident risk

SIFAYET ULLAH, Ctg

rail crossing.

Numerous illegal structures, including makeshift shops, have sprung up along the Sholoshahar-Nazirhat rail tracks in Oxygen level crossing area of Chattogram city.

These structures result in poor visibility along the rail tracks, posing risk of accidents. As such, trains have to move slowly

along the tracks at the rail crossing regularly, said loco masters. Locals alleged that the structures

have been set up illegally due to lack of monitoring by the Bangladesh Railway. At least 10 pairs of trains, including the Chittagong University shuttle, run on

these tracks daily, said BR sources. Visiting the area recently, this correspondent observed that at least 15 illegal structures, from tea stalls to parking lots, have mushroomed near the

"We run the train at 40 kmph speed usually. However, on the tracks near



Oxygen crossing, we are forced to run trains at 20-25 kmph, to prevent accidents due to the illegal structures set up along the tracks there," said a loco master of BR.

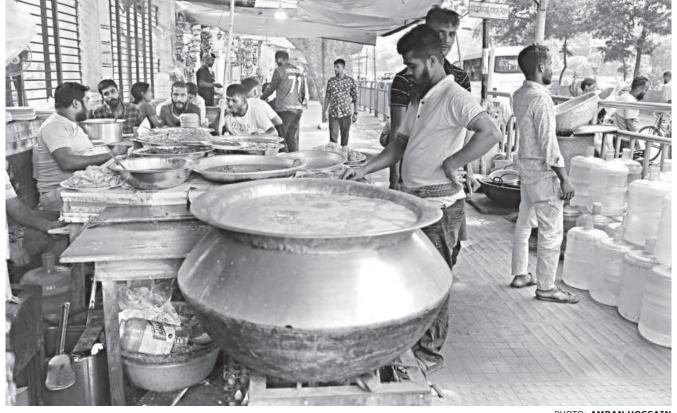
Terming Oxygen level crossing a risky spot, the engineering office of BR in Sholoshahar sent a letter to the BR's authorities concerned on October 1 for steps to evict the illegal structures there as those pose risk of accidents.

Mentionable, four people died at this crossing in separate train-vehicle collisions in 2016 and 2023.

Zillur Rahman, sub-assistant engineer of BR, said, "We requested Railway Police and Railway Nirapotta Bahini to evict these structures to ensure smooth train movement.'

Several shop owners admitted to this correspondent that they pay Tk 70 to Tk 200 daily to Mohammed Hezbullah, gateman at the crossing, to run their shops along the rail tracks.

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A makeshift roadside eatery occupies a significant portion of the footpath in front of the Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital in the capital. With the eatery running its activities, including cooking, there, pedestrians face difficulties and safety concerns while walking on the footpath and are often forced to walk on the road instead. The photo was taken yesterday.

Hilsa surge right after ban sparks controversy

Locals suspect fishers caught the fish earlier and traders kept them in cold storage

SHUSHANTA GHOSH, Barishal

Soon after the 22-day fishing ban on hilsa ended, a significant influx of hilsa fish appeared in local markets across the Barishal division.

However, locals suspect many of these fish were caught during the ban, a claim also hinted at by fisheries officials.

They also suspect fish traders have stored hilsa through various preservation methods, releasing them into the market immediately after the ban.

Just six hours after the restriction was lifted, at least 500 maunds of hilsa were



spotted in Barishal's Port Road wholesale market. Locals said many of these fish were discoloured and appeared frozen, indicating they may have been caught

Liton Majhi, a trader who brought in 10 maunds of hilsa from Bhola by trawler, remained evasive when asked how he obtained such a large quantity of fish so quickly after the ban was lifted.

During a recent visit to the Port Road, various sizes of hilsa were found on sale. Traders reported prices of around Tk 68,000 per maund for larger fish, Tk 65,000 per maund for medium-sized fish, and between Tk 26,000 and Tk 58,000 per maund for smaller hilsa, depending on weight.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Woman beaten to death in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A 55-year-old woman was beaten to death early vesterday while cooking her meal at home in . Naravanganj's Fatullah area.

The victim, Nilufa Begum, a garment worker residing in Gabtali under Fatullah Police Station, was attacked around 5:00am, police said.

Police arrested the suspect, Md Shanto, 25, hailing from Cumilla, but found no clear motive behind the attack. Locals and police reported that Shanto, wielding a

stick, attempted to break the window of Nilufa's onestorey residence. When Nilufa intervened, Shanto began beating her brutally without provocation. Upon hearing her screams, neighbours rushed to her aid and took her to Narayanganj General

Hospital, where doctors pronounced her dead, said OC Shariful Islam of Fatullah Police Station. "This was an unprovoked incident, and we

found no prior connection between the suspect and the victim," OC Shariful said. Shanto is reportedly an employee at Central

Dewanbag Sharif in Dhaka. Authorities there said Shanto is 'intellectually challenged', he said.

The deceased's son, Md Nasir, said the family did not know the suspect. Following the incident, locals detained Shanto, beat him, and handed him over to police. A murder case has been filed, and Shanto has been sent to jail.

DHAKA-CTG HIGHWAY 15 tonnes of iron scrap looted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Approximately 15 tonnes of iron scrap belonging to GPH Ispat Limited, a private steel re-rolling company, were stolen by a group of criminals on the Dhaka-Chattogram Highway in Sitakunda upazila early vesterday.

Law enforcers detained truck driver Belal, 30, but failed to recover the looted iron scrap so far,

The robbery took place on the highway near Sitakunda's BM Container Depot area in Barawlia. Around 10 to 12 miscreants intercepted the iron laden dump-truck by placing a private car on the highway, said police, quoting GPH Ispat's adviser for logistics and security Showkat Osman.

They later drove away with the truck. The dump-truck was found without the iron scrap in Panthichila Bazar area, nearly 30km away from the crime spot, in an abandoned condition, said police.

GPH Ispat authorities filed a case with Sitakunda Police Station. The police station's OC could not be contacted for comments.



Gas Transmission Company Limited (GTCL)

(A Company of Petrobangla)

Plot No. F-18/A, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar Administrative Area, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207

'জালানী নিরাপত্তা সর্বোচ্চ অগ্রাধিকার'

Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) for Selection of Consulting Firm (National) for Conducting Feasibility Study of (i) Barishal-Khulna (ii) Kuakata-Payra-Barishal and (iii) Barishal-Jajira-Maowa-Langalbandh Gas Transmission Pipeline Projects

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH			
1	Ministry/Division	:	Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources/ Energy & Mineral Resources Division
2	Agency	:	Bangladesh Oil, Gas and Mineral Corporation (Petrobangala)
3	Procuring Entity Name	:	Gas Transmission Company Limited (GTCL)
4	Procuring Entity District	:	Dhaka
5	Expression of Interest for Selection of	:	Consulting Firm (National) for Conducting Feasibility Study o (i) Barishal-Khulna (ii) Kuakata-Payra-Barishal and (iii) Barishal-Jajira Mawa-Langalbandh Gas Transmission Pipeline Project.
6	EOI Ref No	:	28.14.0000.185.65.001.24.1434
7	Date	:	05/11/2024
KE	Y INROMATION		10
8	Procurement Method	:	Quality & Cost Based Selection (QCBS)
FU	 NDING INFORMATIO	7	
9	Budget and Source of Funds	:	Own fund of GTCL
10	Development Partners		Not Applicable
PA	RTICULAR INFORMA	TIC	N
11	Project/Programme Code		Not Applicable
12	Project/Programme name	:	Consulting Firm (National) for conducting Feasibility Study of (i) Barishal-Khulna (ii) Kuakata-Payra-Barishal and (iii) Barishal-Jajira-Mawa-Langalbandh Gas Transmission Pipeline Project.
13	EOI Closing Date and Time	•	20/11/2024 and 12.00 Noon
INF	FORMATION FOR APP	LIC	CANT
14	Brief Description of Assignment	:	The major source of primary energy in Bangladesh is domestic natural gas. The demand for gas is increasing rapidly while its production is declining day by day. So, the gap between supply and demand is increasing. To minimize the gap, imported Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) through two existing FSRU is being supplied to national gas grid since 2018 and the Government of Bangladesh (GOB) has planned to install 3° FSRU and Land based LNG terminal to meet the current and future gas
			demand of the country. One plan is to setup FSRU at Payra deep sea. On the other hand, there are gas reserves in the Bhola region. To evacuate gas from the Gas fields of Bhola region and the future available Regasified Liquefied Natural Gas (R-LNG) at Payra/Kuakata and to supply the same to the South-Western part of the Country including Barishal and Khulna
			and to the mid region of the Country four pipelines (i) Bhola-Barishal (ii Barishal-Khulna (iii) Kuakata-Payra-Barishal and (iv) Barishal-Jajira Mawa-Langalbandh Gas Transmission Pipeline have been envisaged Detailed feasibility study of Bhola-Barishal Pipeline has already been conducted. So, detailed feasibility study of (i) Barishal-Khulna (ii Kuakata-Payra-Barishal and (iii) Barishal-Jajira-Mawa-Langalbandh Gas Transmission Pipeline Projects needs to be carried out for which this REO has been sought. After shortlisting, separate Request for Proposals

Firms.

(RFP's) for three pipelines will be issued to the short-listed Consulting



GTPR-11/2024-25