

CHILMARI-ROUMARI ROUTE

# Navigability crisis halts ferry services

S DILIP ROY

Ferry services on the Chilmari-Roumari route have been suspended since December 23 last year due to a navigability crisis on the Brahmaputra River.

Passengers now rely on boats, paying nearly three times the usual ferry fare.

Prafulla Chauhan, manager (commerce) of the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) at Chilmari River Port, said ferry services were halted due to dredging and navigability issues in the river.

The suspension has disrupted travel and commerce for locals.

Amzad Hossain, a businessman who frequently uses the route, said, "Crossing the river by boat is risky and costs three times more. The ferry service should be restored quickly."

Truck driver Delowar Hossain, who arrived at Chilmari port with a stone-laden truck, was unaware of the ferry service suspension. Now stuck, he said he was uncertain about when he can transport his cargo to Rajibpur.

This correspondent also noticed several boats near the port, used for transporting



passengers. Boatman Saiful Islam said due to the ferry service closure, many people are using boats to cross the river. He also said high diesel costs have forced them to charge higher fares.

BIWTC manager Prafulla said services will resume once the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) grants clearance, although no timeline has been confirmed.

Contacted, BIWTA deputy assistant engineer Md Kamruzzaman said a survey is underway to address the navigability crisis.

A six-kilometre stretch from Baldamara to Roumari Ghat is affected, with a char forming in the channel near Saheber Alga. The survey is expected to conclude soon, and dredging will begin to reactivate the channel and restore ferry services, he added.

# RMG sector must

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of Just Energy Transition at ActionAid, said policymakers should prioritise energy sovereignty over energy security.

"If they want energy security, they would plan more energy imports, but if they think about energy sovereignty, they would focus on relying on local resources like gas, solar, and wind," he said.

Azad said the ousted government had showcased the power sector as their greatest success, but the Ukraine war exposed its vulnerabilities.

"During that time, when fuel prices spiked globally, the industries faced the most trouble," he said.

Wasiur Rahman Tonmoy, senior coordinator of capacity development at Manusher Jonno Foundation, said, "We analysed 23 policy papers in Bangladesh's power and energy sector. None of the papers incorporated women's access to energy. Moreover, the rights of marginalised people to energy are also overlooked."

Shahriar Ahmed Chowdhury, head of the Centre for Energy Research at United International University, said there were misalignments in government plans for the power and energy sector.

"Local experts were not involved in the process; the planning was injected. Foreign experts introduced unproven technologies into those papers," he said. He said transmission and distribution systems are still not ready to handle solar energy.

Sohanur Rahman, executive coordinator at YouthNet Global, stressed the importance of capacity-building for a green transition.

"As zero carbonisation is one of the major goals of the chief adviser, it is time

for Bangladesh to take the lead. We need initiatives to develop green skills and jobs, especially for youths and women," he said.

He also called for mass public consultations and worker-level input in future plans.

Former BGMEA president Faruque Hassan said there are inefficiencies in industrial energy use.

"Industries are wasting around 28 percent of their energy. SREDA has initiated energy audits, but these efforts need to expand. Energy-saving technologies can help industries save energy and reduce dependence on imported fuel," he said.

Oxfam Country Director Ashish Damle highlighted global shifts back to fossil fuels, which could impact Bangladesh.

"Bangladesh needs a strong policy commitment. This is the right time to collaborate with the most affected countries and demonstrate leadership," he said.

Dr Munjurul Hannan Khan, executive director of NACOM, pointed out the lack of inter-departmental collaboration.

"Policies from the environment ministry are ignored by the energy ministry and vice versa. We also lack a specific timeline for achieving net-zero targets," he said.

He urged the government to remove taxes on renewable energy.

Shariful Islam, Oxfam's head of Influencing, Communication, Advocacy and Media, conducted the discussion.

Among others, Helvetas Bangladesh's Mohammad Mahmudul Hasan, Laudes Bangladesh's programme manager Faiza Tuba, journalist Mahfuzur Rahman Mishu, and The Daily Star's in-charge of NGOs and Foreign Missions Tanjim Ferdous spoke.

# It may have

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with Sheikh Hasan Itekkhar alias Chalu, a former ward councillor of Khulna City Corporation, and the woman, who, according to some sources, is a student in Khulna.

Later, Chalu, alongside Mejbah Haque Bhutto, a resident of Cox's Bazar's Tekpara who is close to Tipu, was arrested by Rab and sent to jail. CCTV footage from the hotel shows Tipu leaving the hotel with the woman at 6:31pm on Thursday.

Rab is conducting a shadow investigation into the murder, said Lt Col HM Sajjad Hossain, commanding officer of Rab-15.

Recovered bullet shells confirm the murder weapon was a 9mm pistol, likely made in Myanmar, he added.

Both Rab and police officials believe Tipu was a victim of a targeted killing. Several police officers, seeking anonymity, said Tipu might have been killed due to past enmity in Khulna.

Meanwhile, police have sought a 10-day remand for Chalu and Mejbah, said Jasim Uddin, additional superintendent of Cox's Bazar District Police.

The date for the remand hearing has not been set yet, he added.

During initial questioning, Chalu claimed he was visiting Cox's Bazar with Tipu, said OC Ilyas Khan.

# Equipment

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However, no one involved in the theft could be arrested.

Abu Taleb, a sub-inspector of the police station and also investigation officer, said necessary legal action will be taken upon investigation.

Kalapara OC Mohammad Jewel Islam said efforts are on to identify and arrest those involved in the incident.

# A betrayal of July uprising's spirit

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activation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Land Commission.

Shamsul Huda, executive director of ALRD, said, "Graffiti is part of a people's uprising. Removing or altering it disrespects that history, and we will not tolerate such actions."

He added, "The withdrawn cover

symbolised Bangladesh's diversity, pluralism, and multi-ideological identity. We cannot let this achievement of the uprising be wasted."

Ruhin Hossain Prince, general secretary of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), paid tribute to Rabindranath Soren, saying, "Throughout his 67 years, Rabindranath

Soren worked tirelessly for the progress of society, the country, and civilisation."

He criticised the removal of "Adivasi" from textbooks, saying, "Someone makes a statement, and the cover is immediately changed. This has heightened fears among indigenous communities about preserving their identity during this interim government period."

Writer and researcher Pavel Partha presented a keynote paper at the event.

Other speakers included Rajekuzzaman Ratan, assistant general secretary of Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal; Dipayan Khisha, PCJSS leader; Saiful Haque, general secretary of Biplobi Workers Party; Zakir Hossain, executive director of Nagorik Uddyog; and

Bichitra Tirki, president of Jatiya Adivasi Parishad.

The speakers unanimously called for preserving the legacy of the July uprising and ensuring that the term "Adivasi" remains an integral part of the nation's narrative.

# Fatalities rise

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officials will be held accountable for crashes caused by unfit vehicles or unlicensed drivers.

Other agencies, including the Roads and Highways Department, will also be responsible for crashes resulting from their negligence, he said.

The head of one of the agencies under the ministry said the ministry issued similar warnings earlier, but they had little effect, as issues like extortion by transport associations contribute to disorder in the sector, which in turn causes road crashes. Speeding vehicles are another major cause of crashes.

In May 2024, the previous government introduced speed limits for vehicles, but the guidelines remain unimplemented under both the previous and interim governments.

# Seize tax

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allegedly acquired assets worth Tk 9.44 crore illegally and concealed information on assets worth Tk 2.62 crore.

However, ACC found information of Tk 14,05,16,391, which is inconsistent with his income. To ensure a fair investigation, the commission requested access to all income tax returns and related records.

Farheen allegedly acquired illegal assets worth Tk 8,75,03,374, which are also outside known sources of income.

So, it is necessary to seize the income tax returns to investigate the matter in a proper way, ACC Public Prosecutor Mahmud said.

# Repealing it is like denying

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In the more than half a century since Bangladesh's independence, the previous governments have repeatedly distorted the original constitution of 1972 in their own ways to achieve their interests, thus going against the original spirit of the Liberation War, they said.

In the statement, the freedom fighters said, "The constitution of 1972 cannot be repealed under any circumstances, but rather we strongly demand from the current interim government that the original constitution of 1972 be reinstated in its entirety."

The statement was signed by the Titled Freedom Fighters Association Secretary General Md Shahjahan Kabir (Bir Pratik).

Other signatories include AW Chowdhury Bir Uttam and Bir Pratik, Captain (ret'd) Shahab Uddin (Bir Uttam), Major (ret'd) ATM Hamidul Hossain (Bir Bikram), Lt Col (ret'd) Abdur Rouf (Bir Bikram), Honorary Captain (ret'd) Abdul Haque Bir Bikram, Abul Kalam Azad (Bir Bikram), Maj Gen (ret'd) Md. Masudur Rahman Bir Pratik, Captain Kazi A Sattar Bir Pratik, DIG (ret'd) Kazi Joyal Abedin Bir Pratik, Md Momin

Ullah Patwari Bir Pratik and Anwar Hossain Pahari Bir Pratik.

The other freedom fighters who signed the letter are Mizanur Rahman Khan Bir Pratik, Mozammel Haque Mahbub Elahi Ranju, Nur Uddin, Mohiuddin Manik, Bahar Uddin Reza, Professor Abdullah Al Mamun, Delwar Hossain, Ratan Ali Sharif, Syed Rezwan Ali, Rafiqul Islam, Golam Azad, Md Idris Ali, Anwar Hossain, Anisur Rahman, Maj (ret'd) Waqar Hasan, Sardar Mohsin Ali, A Hakim, Bazlur Mahmud, Nurul Haque, Nurul Islam, Habibur Rahman, Fazlul Haque, Abdullah and Abdul Gafur.

# Former NCC

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His wife, Rokeya Rahman, was also accused in another ACC case.

Meanwhile, Rokeya claimed that while her husband is a political leader, their son has no involvement in politics.

**PRAYER TIMING**  
JANUARY 14

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5:30	12:45	4:00	5:36	7:00
JAMAAT 6:05	1:15	4:15	5:40	7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

**IN MEMORIAM**

34th Death Anniversary of  
**Late Abul Qasem FCA (1919-1991)**  
Founder President (ICAB),  
Former President (DCC),  
Founder, A. Qasem & Co., Chartered Accountants  
In Fond Remembrance  
Shakil, Farzana, Sohel, Jabeen, Sanjida, Mostaq, Sadaat,  
Sajid, Navid, Sanjida Khan, Sadaaf, Omair, Ahnaf, Afraz  
&  
All Partners, Directors, Staff and Students of A. Qasem & Co.

**NOTICE OF CLOSURE**  
**KOMAIHALTEC Inc. Bangladesh Branch**  
Office announces to be closed permanently in Bangladesh, effective March 31, 2025. We sincerely thank our valued clients, partners, and stakeholders for their support and cooperation throughout our journey. It has been an honor to serve you. For any pending matters, inquiries, or assistance, please contact us. We are committed to addressing all concerns during this transition period.

**KOMAIHALTEC Inc.**  
Skylark MAK84, House # 84, Road # 11, Block-D, Banani, Dhaka-1213, Tel: +818067559182

**Office of the Chief Engineer**  
**University of Dhaka**  
**Re-Invitation for Enlistment**

1	Ministry	Ministry of Education
2	Agency	University of Dhaka
3	Procuring entity	Superintending Engineer, Office of the Chief Engineer, University of Dhaka
4	Procuring entity district	Dhaka
5	Invitation for	Enlistment/Renewal of Enlistment
6	Invitation Ref No.	
7	Date	01/2025

**KEY INFORMATION**

8	Procurement method	Limited Tendering Method (LTM)
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**PARTICULAR INFORMATION**

9	Application closing date and time	Date: 21.01.2025 Time: 12.30pm
10	Name & address of the officer(s)	Address: Pritom Dutta, Executive Engineer, University of Dhaka
	Application form availability	Pritom Dutta, Executive Engineer, University of Dhaka
	Receiving application form	Superintending Engineer, Estimate Division, University of Dhaka

**INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT**

11	Eligibility of applicant	a. Must have valid trade license (2023-2024) b. Must have TIN certificate c. VAT registration certificate d. Must have up-to-date bank solvency certificate e. ABC License and Electrical Supervisor License (2023-2024)
12	Price of application form (Tk)	500.00 (non-refundable) (Should deposit on A/C No. 2624/3300098 at Janata Bank PLC., TSC Branch, University of Dhaka).
13	Enlistment/renewal fee (Tk)	5000.00/2000.00 (Should deposit on A/C No. 2624/3300098, at Janata Bank PLC., TSC Branch, University of Dhaka).

**PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS**

14	Name of official inviting application	Engr. A. K. M. Mahbub Mustafa, PEng
15	Designation of official inviting application	Superintending Engineer
16	Address of official inviting application	Estimate Division, Office of the Chief Engineer, University of Dhaka
17	Contact details of official inviting application	Tel. No. 9661900, Ext. 4130
18	Clause 5.1, 5.4, 5.8, 5.9, 5.10 & 5.11 of Application Form no need to attach in the case of Renewal of Enlistment and those who have already applied for Renewal and New Enlistment need not apply again. The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all Applications.	

Superintending Engineer  
Estimate Division  
Office of the Chief Engineer  
University of Dhaka

**পাওয়ার গ্রিড বাংলাদেশ পিএলসি**  
**POWER GRID BANGLADESH PLC**  
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

Grid Bhaban, Avenue-3, Jahurul Islam City, Aftabnagar, Badda, Dhaka-1212 www.powergrid.gov.bd  
Ref No.: 27.21.0000.101.07.425.25.186 Date: January 13, 2025

**Notice of 1st Time Extension**

**Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 400/230/132 kV AIS Substation at Pekua and associated single /double circuit 400kV/230kV/132kV LILO Lines on turnkey basis (Package-1)**  
(CONTRACT NO. POWERGRID/ADB/400KVIPEKUA/PTSIREP/PACKAGE-1/Re-Tender)  
Ref.: Power Grid's IFB No.: 27.21.0000.101.07.425.24.6193, December 03, 2024

The deadline for submission of bids for the above Works has been extended from January 20, 2025, 11:00 AM Bangladesh Standard Time (BST) to **February 03, 2025, 11:00 AM BST.**

All other terms and conditions of the above Bidding Document shall remain unaltered.  
**Md. Jahangir Azad**  
Company Secretary

**বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড**  
Bangladesh Power Development Board  
www.bpdb.gov.bd

Directorate of Purchase  
WAPDA Building (10th Floor)  
Motijheel, Dhaka-1000  
Tel: 01819223401, 9836626  
e-mail: dir.purchase@bpdb.gov.bd

**e-Tender Notice**

The following e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of:

Sl No.	Tender ID No.	Package	Reference No.	Description of goods/works	Last selling date and time	Closing date and time	Opening date and time
1	ID-1062626	GD-16a (Lot-1) (FY-24-25)	27.11.0000.304.25.210.25 Date: 13/01/2025	Supply of AAC WASP (Insulated) Conductor (CSD, Fouzdarhat and different places at Project Sites)	12-Feb-2025, 17:00	13-Feb-2025, 14:00	13-Feb-2025, 14:00
2	ID-1062890	GD-16a (Lot-2) (FY-24-25)	27.11.0000.304.25.211.25 Date: 13/01/2025	Supply of AAC WASP (Insulated) Conductor (CSD, Fouzdarhat and different places at Project Sites)	12-Feb-2025, 17:00	13-Feb-2025, 14:15	13-Feb-2025, 14:15
3	ID-1062977	GD-16a (Lot-3) (FY-24-25)	27.11.0000.304.25.212.25 Date: 13/01/2025	Supply of AAC WASP (Insulated) Conductor (CSD, Tongi and different places at Project Sites)	12-Feb-2025, 17:00	13-Feb-2025, 14:20	13-Feb-2025, 14:20

These are 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 from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank 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)).  
For more details please contact to the PE's Support Desk (01768015538).

সিনিয়র/জন্ম-৬৭৮(২)/১৩/০২/২৫  
**Md. Nannu Miah**  
ID No. 1-01304  
Director  
Directorate of Purchase  
BPDB, Dhaka

**বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক পিএলসি.**  
**BANGLADESH DEVELOPMENT BANK PLC.**  
(A State Owned Commercial Bank)

Reference: 11.2/17/ Dated: 14/01/2025

**Tender Notice No: BDBPLC./ITSU/OTM/EGP/2025/01**

e-Tenders have been invited in the national e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement of the following Goods.

LOT NO.	e-Tender ID	Description	Last Date & Time for Submission Through Web	Date & Time for Tender Opening
Single Lot	1060569	Renewal of License/Subscription/Support (including Spare Parts Replacement) and AMC (Annual Maintenance Contract) for Cyber Security Devices/Solutions at Bangladesh Development Bank PLC.'s Data Center (DC) & Disaster Recovery Site (DRS) for a contract duration of three (3) years.	05/02/2025 3:30 P.M.	05/02/2025 3:30 P.M.

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender document from the National e-GP System portal must be deposited online through any registered bank branch by 3:00 PM on 05/02/2025.  
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)) (0176262528-31). (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).  
N.B. This is the amended notice. Please disregard the previous one.

sd/  
**(Sabrina Chowdhury Dooty)**  
Assistant General Manager  
Head, IT Security Unit