

46 bodies recovered so far



A Correspondent

Munshiganj: Rescuers could not locate the sunken launch, Pinak-6, till Sunday morning despite their unyielding efforts since the vessel sank in the Padma River near Mawa Ghat in Lauhajang upazila with over 250 passengers on board on last Monday.

Although salvage ship 'Kandari-2' detected a metal object, presumably a wreckage of the sunken launch Pinak-6, in the Padma riverbed on Saturday but it is still uncertain whether it is of Pinak-6.

In-charge of Kandari-2 Navy captain Manjurul Karim Chowdhury said divers are trying to identify the underwater object but the search operation is being hampered due to strong currents in the river.

However, 46 bodies have so far been recovered after the tragic launch capsized in the Padma river.

Two salvage ships--Jarip-10 and Kandari-2-- having modern equipment, were carrying out the search for the sunken launch.

Besides, four other salvage ships-Tista, Sandhan, IT-97 and B-Dwip started their operation Saturday morning using new tricks to locate it.

Earlier, salvage vessels -- Nirbhik and Rustam--swung into rescue work but they failed to locate the launch due to strong currents in the river.

The mishap took place when the overloaded launch with over 250 passengers on board from Kawrakandi capsized in the river, 800 yards off Mawaghat (jetty) around 11:15 am Monday due to strong currents while it was heading towards the jetty.