

Bagerhat fishermen happy as hilsa abundant in winter

A hilsa weighing 600 gram is selling for Tk 400 while a one-kg fish for Tk 500 to Tk 550

PARTHA CHAKRABORTTY, Bagerhat

Unlike other years, Bagerhat KB Bazar is flooded with different sizes of hilsa during the ongoing winter, much to the delight of fishermen and traders. Buyers are also happy as the prices are

Visiting the famous fish trading centre yesterday, this correspondent found fishermen taking large quantities of hilsa from trawlers to the wholesalers while the market area is crowded with traders

"Hilsa is generally less available in coast from deep sea areas," said trawler buyer. owner Akkas Ali.

"I cannot recall getting such good quantities of hilsa during the winter in last ten years," he said.

The price is also within the reach of common people.

A hilsa weighing 600 gram is selling for around Tk 400 while a one-kg fish for Tk

"The prices are much lower than the started sending hilsa to different places in of the fish, which often comes near the are bearing eggs," said Rafikul Islam, a

> of fishes, which are usually found season, said local fishermen.

Expressing surprise, they termed the matter as a whim of nature.

Bazar Fisheries Association, said they have

winter. But this time we are getting a lot usual hilsa season. Some of the fish other districts as netting of the fish is high

Bagerhat District Fisheries Officer Dr Meanwhile, several other varieties Khaled Kanak said the government's various initiatives, including prohibition aplenty during the winter season in of hilsa netting during the breeding other years, are less available this season, have led to increase of the fish production in the sea.

The popular fish will grow even better if sufficient awareness Abed Ali, president of the Bagerhat KB programmes are conducted for the stakeholders, he said.

TORTURE ON WOMAN

7 arrested in Jashore

Police arrested seven people on charge of cutting off the hair of a woman after beating her at Salua Purbapara village in Jashore's Chowgachha upazila on Sunday.

The arrestees include Abdus Salam, 45, general secretary of ward Awami League, Imran Hossain, 23, Ajufa Begum, 40, Rehena, 40, Beauty Begum, 42, and Shapla Begum, 35. Two other accused, Miraj and Jamal Hossain are

The victim's husband said she went to her father's house over a family feud a month ago. He brought his wife back after the issue was resolved.

On Sunday morning when he was at Salua Bazar, his nine-year-old son rushed to him and informed that a group of people had attacked his wife.

When he returned home, the attackers were already gone. During the assault, the attackers also cut off the woman's hair. Her husband filed a case against nine people in this

Chowgachha Police Station Officer-in-Charge SM Enamul Haque said they arrested seven of the accused. "We're trying to arrest the two others," he said.

Housewife stabbed dead in Bandarban

Our Correspondent, Bandarban

A housewife was stabbed to death by her husband allegedly over a family feud in Lama upazila of the district early

The deceased was identified as Shahina Akhtar, 27, wife of Zakir Hossain of remote Teluniapara village.

Quoting local people, Officer in Charge (OC Investigation) of Lama Police Station Aminul Haque said, Zakir locked in an altercation with Shahina, suspecting her involvement in an extramarital affair with one Mizanur Rahman of the village, around 3:00am.

At one stage of altercation, Zakir, stabbed Shahina with a knife indiscriminately, leaving her dead on the spot, the OC said, adding that they detained Zakir for his involvement in the murder.

MURDER OF STEPSON

Woman jailed for 20yrs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

A Chapainawabganj court yesterday sentenced a woman to 20 years rigorous imprisonment (RI) for killing her

The convict is Rozina Khatun alias Khadiza, 30, wife of Abdur Rahim of Haripur Miapara area under Chapainawabganj municipality.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Shawkat Ali also fined the convict Tk 20,000. In default, she is to suffer six months more in prison. According to the case statement, Khadiza strangled her

eight-year-old stepson Reduan at her house and dumped the body in a nearby field on October 7 in 2018.

Being informed, police recovered Reduan's body the

The following day, police arrested Khadiza from her house, after Rahim filed a murder case with Sadar Police Station accusing her the same day.

After investigation, Inspector Idrish Ali, also investigation officer of the case, submitted charge sheet against Khadiza on December 31 the same year.

Road work held over claim on land

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Road pavement work remained suspended in a village under Saghata upazila after a locally influential man extended portion of a structure into several feet of the road.

The contractor for the work, part of an 1,870-meter-long road pavement project under Local Government Engineering Department, stopped the work after two structures were built recently, encroaching upon the road in Amadirpara village of Jumarbari union in the upazila.

Being informed, officials from Saghata upazila -- Upazila Nirbahi Officer Mohiuddin Jahangir, Assistant Commissioner (Land) Shakil Ahmed and Engineer Sabiul Islam -- paid a visit to the spots last week and removed one of the illegal structures built by Mosharraf Hossain, a landless farmer.

However, they returned without removing the structure built by Rezaul Karim as he is influential in the area, alleged locals.

Rebutting Rezaul's claim on part of the road, the locals said they had been using the road for a long time, but Rezaul erected the structure on the road only recently.

Akram Hossain, a resident of

Amadirpara village, said Rezaul should withdraw his claim on the road and remove the structure in the greater interest of villagers.

After his illegal structure was removed, Mosharraf claimed that even though the structure made by him was sitting beside the road, it was removed only because he is a poor man.

But he wondered why the structure made by Rezaul, though protruding into the road, was not removed.

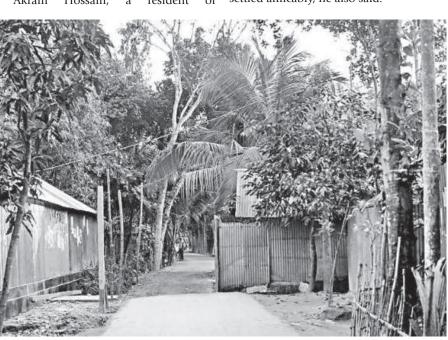
Rashedul Islam, headteacher of Badinerpara High School, alleged that the chairman of Jumarbari Union Parishad (UP) did not take any action against Rezaul Karim as the latter is his relative. Locals said they made repeated appeals

with the upazila administration to remove the protruding structure made by Rezaul as it might cause serious accidents.

Upazila Engineer Sabiul Islam said the Jumarbari UP chairman was asked to settle the matter. Contacted, UP Chairman Rostum Ali

Akanda said the road was built on Rezaul's land long time ago.

Nonetheless, the matter will soon be settled amicably, he also said.



Road work had to be put on hold after an influential local built the structure, protruding several feet out onto the road, in Amadirpara village of Gaibandha's Saghata upazila.

PHOTO: STAR



human chain, organised yesterday by Pabna Zila Unnayan Forum, several hundred people joined hands to demand a new Y-shaped bridge connecting three ferry terminals -- Kazirhaat in Pabna, Daulatdia in Rajbari and Aricha in Manikganj. Stretching from Ishwardi to Kazirhaat in Pabna and starting around 11:00am, the human chain lasted about an hour.

In a 100-kilometre-long

PHOTO: AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU

Tofazzal finds fortune in Kashmiri plum

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

In an attempt to change his fortune, Tofazzal Hossain went to Saudi Arabia a few years back, after selling all his arable land and taking loan from local moneylenders.

Four years later, the 40-yearold man from Kachua village in Sakhipur upazila, however, returned home almost empty handed in 2016.

After returning home, when a bewildered Tofazzal was running here and there to find an employment opportunity for livelihood, he learnt through facebook that several people have changed their luck and brought them solvency by cultivating Kashmiri Kul (a kind of plum). As Tofazzal had no land left,

he took lease of two acres of land from a land owner of his village for 10 years with a cost of Tk 40,000 every year.

Last year, he planted 1,200 Kashmiri Kul plants on the leased land after collecting the saplings from Chuadanga.



Tofazzal shows the Kashmiri plum at his orchard in Tangail's Sakhipur upazila.

The Kashmiri kul variety looks like a small apple and its colour is red on light yellow and green. Moreover, the fruit tastes better production of the fruit. The than the other varieties like young farmer is expecting at delicious, he said.

'Baukul' and 'Thai kul'. Within a year, fortune smiles on Tofazzal as he got a bumper

least 10 tonnes of production

"I have invested a total of Tk 4 lakh to raise the orchard," Tofazal said, adding that each sapling cost him Tk 100.

He has already started selling the fruit from his orchard this season and expecting to earn Tk 10 lakh from his produces.

"Bau kul is sold at Tk 50 to Tk 60 per kg at the wholesale markets while my Kashmiri kul is selling for Tk 100 per kg," Tofazzal said.

Alongside engaging eight locals as day labourer, Tofazzal, a father of three, also works at his orchard

"I share my experience with people, who come to see my orchard," he said.

Sakhipur Upazila Agriculture Officer Nurul Haque said different fruits and vegetables grow well here as the land is much fertile.

Although, farmers cultivate different varieties of plum, the Kashmiri variety not only looks nice but also tastes