



Workers unload hilsa from trawlers at Bagerhat KB Bazar. Inset, a lot of big-sized hilsa at the market.

PHOTO: STAR

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 CHAKRABORTY, 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 not high.

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 and buyers.

“Hilsa is generally less available in winter. But this time we are getting a lot of the fish, which often comes near the coast from deep sea areas,” said trawler 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 500 to Tk 550.

“The prices are much lower than the usual hilsa season. Some of the fish are bearing eggs,” said Rafikul Islam, a buyer.

Meanwhile, several other varieties of fishes, which are usually found aplenty during the winter season in other years, are less available this season, said local fishermen.

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

Abed Ali, president of the Bagerhat KB Bazar Fisheries Association, said they have

started sending hilsa to different places in other districts as netting of the fish is high this winter.

Bagerhat District Fisheries Officer Dr Khaled Kanak said the government’s various initiatives, including prohibition of hilsa netting during the breeding season, have led to increase of the fish production in the sea.

The popular fish will grow even better if sufficient awareness programmes are conducted for the stakeholders, he said.

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.



In a 100-kilometre-long 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.

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-year-old 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.

PHOTO: STAR

least 10 tonnes of production this year.

“I have invested a total of Tk 4 lakh to raise the orchard,” Tofazzal 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 every day.

“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 here cultivate different varieties of plum, the Kashmiri variety not only looks nice but also tastes delicious, he 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