

Fish scarcity in Madaripur prevailing

MADARIPUR, June 2: Fish scarcity is prevailing here due to the fall in production in various waterbodies, and local fish markets are losing its attraction, reports UNB.

Fishermen of the district used to catch fish like ruhi, katla, pangas and boal in some waterbodies and in the rivers Arial and Kumar abundantly. But these days fish are scarce in the rivers.

Most of the waterbodies, owned by government and private owners are lying unused due to lack of proper care and maintenance.

An official of the Fisheries Department said that the sudden fall in the fish supply was due mainly to drying up of many waterbodies in the current dry season.

Moreover, it is alleged that some dishonest fishermen were catching fish fry by current nets violating the government ban. Mentionable that catching of fry under nine inches is a punishable offence.

Local leaders alleged that no punitive action is taken against the violators of government restriction due to mysterious reasons.

Former Yugoslavia eldorado for South Asian job seekers

COLOMBO, June 2: War-torn former Yugoslavia may be hell for many of its citizens, but for some Sri Lankans it holds the glitter of el dorado, reports AFP.

Sri Lanka's Foreign Employment Bureau (FEB) and private recruitment agencies have received a flood of applications since they began advertising for jobs in former Yugoslavia last week.

"The response has been tremendous, already we have sent 570 names to an American agency which is handling recruitment. We are processing more applications, said HB Seneviratne, chairman of the government-run FEB.

American agencies recruiting for work in Croatia are also trawling in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, The Philippines and Thailand.

The latest jobs are in civilian support services for the

United Nations Protection Forces (UNPROFOR), the 32,500-man peacekeeping operation in Bosnia and Croatia, he said. A condition for most posts is that the applicant already has had military service.

Sri Lanka's traditional foreign job market is the Middle East, where some 500,000 Sri Lankans are working now.

But at the moment the former Yugoslavia — where life can be dangerous and isolated — pays far more.

A carpenter will be able to get a monthly salary of 25,000 rupees (about 500 dollars), the same type of work fetches a maximum of 10,000 rupees (about 200 dollars) a month in the Middle East," Seneviratne said.

plumbers and operators for communications and construction equipment.

An experienced engineer is being offered about 3,000 dollars in the former Yugoslavia — almost double the amount a local engineer could get in the Middle East.

Because the money is so good, competition for the jobs is tight.

For Sri Lanka, the jobs are critical: remittances are now the country's main foreign exchange earner, pushing the traditional leader, tea exports, into second place.

Sri Lankan migrant workers, mostly housemaids, remitted 645 million dollars in 1993, and are expected to send home 800 million dollars this year.

Large numbers of Sri Lankans have also been recruited for employment in Singapore, Mauritius, the

United States and The Maldives, but this is the first time job offers have come from an east European country, officials said.

"We had to get cabinet approval for this scheme. This is a big job order and a first experience for us," Seneviratne said.

The Sri Lankan government is also hoping to win job contracts from Malaysia, Japan, South Korea, and from the reconstruction of Lebanon and the new autonomous Palestinian regions in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Recruitment for the foreign manpower market has become a roaring business here. There are 257 licensed private job agencies, but dozens of others have been operating illegally in a bid to avoid official regulations governing recruitment procedures.

Prices of essentials rise in Noakhali

MAIJDEE COURT (Noakhali), June 2: Prices of the essential commodities have increased abruptly in different parts of the district in the past two weeks causing suffering to the low income group of people, reports UNB.

Local people said essentials like rice, soybean oil, sugar, onion, garlic, even potato are available abundantly in the market but the prices of these commodities have shot up without any reason.

Soybean oil is now being sold at Tk 57, sugar at Tk 33, zinger at Tk 55, onion at Tk 8, garlic Tk 45, and potato at Tk 7.

Per kg fine aman rice is now being sold Tk 14 and coarse rice at Tk 12. Moreover, meat, beef, poultry birds and fish are being sold in high prices in the market.

Another report from Narail adds: The prices of essential commodities like soybean oil, sugar, onion, garlic and potato have also gone beyond the purchasing capacity of the poorer section of the people.

Soybean Oil is now being sold at Tk 52 as against its previous price Tk 40, sugar at Tk 30 against Tk 26, zinger at Tk 45 as against Tk 25, onion at Tk 8 as against Tk 6, garlic at Tk 55 against Tk 28 and potato at Tk 8 as against Tk 5.

Besides, fine aman rice is being sold at Tk 12 and coarse at Tk 11 per kg and fine rice at Tk 16 per kg.

New MD of Janata Bank

Jalilur Rahman Chowdhury has recently joined the Janata Bank as managing director, says a press release.

Prior to his new assignment he was the managing director at Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank (RAKUB).

Chowdhury, after completing his M.Com. from the Dhaka University, joined the Eastern Mercantile Bank Ltd. in 1961 as a probation officer. During probationary period he had his training at Westminster Bank Ltd. London.

During his long banking career he served to the Pubali Bank, Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Sonali Bank and Rupali Bank Ltd. as a general manager.



18 development projects completed in Noakhali

MAIJDEE COURT (Noakhali), June 2: Some 18 uplift projects have been implemented at a cost of Taka 65 lakh by the Noakhali pourashava, reports UNB.

According to official sources, 16 roads including old hospital road, Obaidullah road, West Badaripur and its branch roads have been developed and reconstructed at a cost of Taka 39 lakh.

Besides, poura auditorium has also been repaired at a cost of Taka 12 lakh and Sonapur Municipal market has been constructed at a cost of Taka 14 lakh.

A report from Feni adds: Works on two projects of Water Development Board are progressing fast under Food for Works Programme.

Government has sanctioned 700 metric tonnes of wheat for repair of embankment on the bank of Milonia river in Parshurampur thana and removal of alluvial soil from the Kazirhat sluice gate area in Sonagazi thana.

With the completion of the projects crops on vast acre of land of the area will be saved from flash flood.

Seven card phone booths installed

Another report from Noakhali says: Seven Card Phone booths have been installed in the district during the last six months.

Official sources said two card phone booths including one ISD have been set up at Noakhali General Post Office premises, one NWD and local at Sonapur Railway Station and one NWD and local at Noakhali General Hospital.

Three card phone booths have been installed at Chaumuhani and one ISD at Telegraph office, one NWD and local at Chaumuhani Municipal Office and one NWD and local at Municipal Commercial market of Begumganj thana.

The sources said people are collecting cards in large numbers and using the booths everyday.

Wheat cultivation scheme taken up in Barisal

BARISAL, June 2: An ambitious scheme has been undertaken to cultivate wheat in Barisal agriculture zone during the current season, reports UNB.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, 55,000 hectares of land will be brought under the wheat cultivation in the zone comprising Barisal, Patuakhali, Barguna, Bhola, Jhalakathi, Pirojpur, Madaripur, Shariatpur, Gopalganj, Faridpur and Rajbari districts.

Besides, the Agri extension department of Barisal has set up 240 demonstration plots to acquaint the farmers with modern methods of wheat cultivation.

New MD of TSSL

A M Nowsher Ali took over as managing director of Telephone Shilpa Sangstha Limited (TSSL) on Tuesday, says a press release.

Prior to joining his new assignment, he was general manager in the same organisation.

He also held a number of responsible posts in the Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board.



Children infected with the HIV virus from Sunflower Clinic in Constanta (300 km east of Bucharest) play on the beach during their first-ever open air play session organized by the British-based Angel Appeal organisation for the International Day of Children on Wednesday. — AFP photo

British analyst says Myanmar's growth figures misleadingly optimistic

BANGKOK, June 2: A British market analyst and chamber of commerce representative said here Wednesday that official economic growth figures espoused by Yangon are misleadingly optimistic.

"They are not the figures you find in Myanmar" said Peter Snell of Asia market intelligence, in an interview with AFP. Asia market intelligence is a research company with offices in Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, South Korea and Thailand.

Snell and roughly 20 other members of the British Chamber of Commerce travelled to Myanmar early last month for an unofficial trade mission during which Snell gathered figures from primary surveys and government statistics.

The results, he told the commerce at a presentation this week, were grimmer than official figures released by the Myanmar government.

The state law and order restoration council, or SLORC, the official name of the Yangon junta, has put Myanmar's 1993 economic growth at 5.9 per cent. Snell's figure, in line with that of the Asia development bank, was a fifth of that at 1.2 per cent.

Inflation was also much higher than the official count, Snell said. 1993 inflation for Myanmar was 31.8 per cent by Yangon's count, but "people on the ground there have indicated it was more like 45 per cent."

A recent move by Yangon to print new money, issuing the kyat in what Snell calls "common sense denominations," could easily add to that inflation figure for 1994, he said.

But Snell and other traders on his trip said Myanmar was still worth the risk of investment.

"I've been through Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia," he told AFP Wednesday, and Myanmar is a long way ahead of those places as a country starting out.

Echoing previous economic assessments, Snell said Myanmar biggest stumbling block remains foreign exchange. The government exchange rate of six kyat to the dollar is notoriously low, with twenty times that rate available on the black market.

"The problem is that, as long as that official exchange rate in place, they will never get enough foreign investment to dig themselves out of trouble," Snell said.

The state of human development in Bangladesh

By Selim Jaham

Bangladesh ranks 146th among the 173 countries included in Human Development Report(HDR) '94. Its HDI value is 0.309 — an increase of 0.143 from 0.166 in 1990. But this observation should not mask the fact that Bangladesh ranks at the lower end of even the low human development countries. Table 1 compares the human development situation in Bangladesh with that of its neighbours. It indicates that in terms of human development, Bangladesh is ahead only of Nepal. Sri Lanka is in the medium human development category and both Pakistan and India are more than 10 ranks ahead of Bangladesh.

Table 1 Human Development in South Asia

| Countries | Life expectancy (years) | Adult literacy rate (%) | Real per capita GDP (PPP) | Human Development Index | HDI ranking |
|------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| Bangladesh | 52.2 | 36.6 | 1,160 | 0.309 | 146 |
| Sri Lanka | 71.2 | 89.1 | 2,650 | 0.665 | 90 |
| Pakistan | 58.3 | 36.4 | 1,970 | 0.393 | 132 |
| India | 59.7 | 49.8 | 1,150 | 0.382 | 135 |
| Nepal | 52.7 | 27.0 | 1,130 | 0.289 | 149 |

Table 2 presents three countries — Madagascar, Bangladesh and Sierra Leone — with similar GNP per capita. But it clearly shows that these countries were not equally able to translate their income growth into the lives of their people. Madagascar was able to do it quite successfully, Bangladesh moderately, but not Sierra Leone. This becomes evident from the last column of the table. The end result is that Madagascar has a higher HD ranking compared to either Bangladesh or Sierra Leone. But it also reflects that countries like Sierra Leone has lots of potentials for translating their income into human development.

Table 2 Three Countries - Same Income but Different Human Development

| Countries | GNP per capita (US\$) | Life expectancy (years) | Adult literacy rate (%) | HDI | HDI ranking | GNP per capita rank minus HDI rank |
|--------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------|-------------|------------------------------------|
| Madagascar | 210 | 54.9 | 81.4 | 0.396 | 131 | 31 |
| Bangladesh | 220 | 52.2 | 36.6 | 0.309 | 146 | 13 |
| Sierra Leone | 200 | 42.4 | 23.7 | 0.209 | 170 | -7 |

Box 1 presents a summary balance sheet of human development in Bangladesh. Even though it is not a comprehensive one, yet it gives some idea of human development progress and deprivation in Bangladesh. Thus for example, even though food production during the 1980s has considerably increased, still 30 million people consume less than 1900 calorie per capita per day while the requirements are 2300 calorie. Or even though there have been some improvements in GNP per

capita, 47 million people still live under the poverty line. In Bangladesh, there are significant rural-urban as well as female-male disparity in the area of human development (tables 3 and 4). This is in spite of some progress achieved in reducing disparities. Thus for example, the female primary enrolment ratio as a percentage of male ratio has increased from 39 to 79 per cent during 1960-91. Or during the 1980s, the rural crude death rate as a percentage of the urban crude death rate has reduced from 187 per cent to 155 per cent. Apart from the information contained in tables 3 and 4, there are other indicators to highlight the female-male and rural-urban disparities in human development of Bangladesh. Thus even during the 1980s, the daily per capita calorie intake of women was only 83 per cent of that of men. Similarly, the female-male gap in daily per capita protein intake is about 21 per cent. During the later part of the 1980s, only 26 per cent of the rural population had access to proper sanitation, whereas the comparable figure for urban areas was 63 per cent. Or while 57 per cent of the urban population had access to electricity in 1992, only 5 per cent of the rural people had that advantage.

Box 1 Balance Sheet of Human Development in Bangladesh

| Progress | Deprivation |
|---|--|
| • Between 1960 and 1990, life expectancy increased from 39.6 to 52.2 years. | • In 1992, 660 thousand children died before the age of 5 years. |
| • In 1992, about 80% of the rural population used tubewells for drinking water. | • In 1992, about 48 million people did not have access to health services. |
| • By 1992, nearly 70% one-year old children were immunized. | • In 1990, about 250 thousand people were TB-infected. |
| • Between 1980 and 1993, food grain production has gone up from 15.0 million metric ton to 19.6 million metric ton. | • About 30 million people consume less than 1900 calorie per day per capita. |
| • The adult literacy rate between 1970 and 1992 has increased from 24 to 37%. | • In 1992, 42 million adults were illiterates. |
| • During the time-period 1985-90, about 4 million man-years equivalent of employment were generated. | • Unemployment among the university graduates were 40% in the 1980s. |
| • The per capita income has increased from US\$ 150 in 1985 to US\$ 220 in 1992. | • In 1990, 47% of the population were below the poverty line. |
| • Between 1960 and 1992, infant mortality per thousand live births has declined from 156 to 109. | • In 1992, 11.5 million children under 5 years were malnourished. |
| • The primary school enrolment among children has increased from 60 to 70% during 1985 and 1991. | • About 5 million children in the primary school age group were out of school in 1992. |

Table 3 Rural-Urban Disparity in Human development in Bangladesh

| | Rural | Urban |
|---|-------|-------|
| • Adult literacy (% 1991) | 31.1 | 54.4 |
| • Life expectancy at birth (years, 1992) | 56.0 | 60.5 |
| • Infant mortality per thousand live births (1992) | 91.0 | 65.0 |
| • Crude birth rate per thousand (1992) | 32.2 | 23.7 |
| • Crude death rate per thousand (1992) | 11.3 | 7.5 |
| • Fertility rate (per woman, 1992) | 4.3 | 2.9 |
| • Maternal mortality rate per thousand live births (1988) | 6.1 | 5.5 |
| • Chronic malnutrition (% 1992) | 46.8 | 37.5 |
| • Acute malnutrition (% 1992) | 7.2 | 5.5 |
| • Incidence of poverty (% 1988/89) | 48 | 44 |

Table 4 Female-Male Disparity in Human Development in Bangladesh

| | Female | Male |
|---|--------|------|
| • Life expectancy rate at birth (years, 1992) | 55.9 | 56.8 |
| • Infant mortality rate per thousand (1992) | 86.0 | 90.0 |
| • Adult literacy rate (% 1991) | 18.6 | 44.3 |
| • Enrolment ratio (% 1991) | | |
| - primary | 61.4 | 77.7 |
| - secondary | 15.0 | 32.0 |
| - post-secondary | 12.2 | 2.3 |

Issues of Human Security: The Bangladesh Context

The job and income security in Bangladesh is greatly constrained by the inequality in access to productive resources. In an agrarian country like Bangladesh, land is the most important productive resource. But while the top 10 per cent of the landowners own 49 per cent of the total land, the comparable figure for the smallest 10 per cent of owners is only 2 per cent. Similarly, the large owners of land, who constitute 7 per cent of rural households, received 37 per cent of institutional credit in 1989. The outcome of the whole process is a highly unequal income distribution structure. Thus in the late 1980s, while the highest 20 per cent of the population received 46 per cent of national income, the share of the lowest 20 per cent in it was only 7 per cent. The agricultural wages rate in real terms (1973/74 prices) was declined from Tk 8.00 in 1985 to Tk 6.51 in 1989. During the 1980s, the real earnings per employee has increased only by 0.6 per cent per annum in Bangladesh. The job and income security of the people cannot be ensured when 51 million people out of a total population of 120 million live below the poverty line.

(To be continued)

বিজেএমসি বিজ্ঞাপন প্রেস টেন্ডার বিজ্ঞপ্তি

উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক (পরিকল্পনা), বাংলাদেশ পাবলিক কর্পোরেশন, আনন্দেরকোট, মতিবিল বা/এ, ঢাকা কর্তৃক উক্ত কাগজে ১ (এক) টি ফোল্ড মেশিন ট্রি ডেলিভারী ভিত্তিতে সরবরাহ এবং কমিশনিং করার জন্য প্রসিদ্ধ স্থানীয় এজেন্ট/ডিলার/ব্যবসায়ীদের নিম্নে উল্লিখিত শীলমোহরযুক্ত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

দরপত্রসমূহ আগামী ১৫-০৬-৯৪ ইং তারিখ বেলা ১১-০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে বিজেএমসি প্রধান কার্যালয়ের পরিকল্পনা বিভাগে রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বাজে দাখিল করিতে হবে এবং ঐদিনই বেলা ১১-০০ ঘটিকার পরদাতাপত্র উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ থাকেন) খোলা হবে। টেন্ডারে বর্ণিত শর্তাবলীসহ টেন্ডার দলিল নং-ক্রম শাখা-৮৮/ফ্যাজ/৯৩-৯৪ বিজেএমসি র হিসাব ও অর্থ নিয়ন্ত্রকের অফিসের কাশ শাখায় ৭০/= টাকা (অফিসেরযোগে) মুদ্রা পাওয়া যাবে (খোলার দিন বাতীত)। দরপত্রের সাথে মোট দাখিলকৃত মূল্যের ১% (তবে ১০০০/- টাকার কম নয়) আর্নেস্টমনি হিসাবে বিজেএমসি র অনুকূলে পে-অর্ডার/ডিডি'র মাধ্যমে অবশ্যই দাখিল করিতে হবে অন্যথায দরপত্র বিবেচনা করা হবে না।

বিজেএমসি কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন অথবা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

বিজেএমসিঃ ৪১৬
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