

National

Hilsha in peril

From Aroop Talukdar

BARISAL, Sept 26: Despite government ban, fishing of hilsha fries, popularly known as jatka, is going on almost unabated in the vast southern region of the country, taking toll on the production of the national fish.

At present, reportedly, not only the marginal fishermen but also people equipped with modern fishing trawlers are engaged in illegal business with the full backing of wholesale fish traders and brokers.

Now, fish markets in the divisional headquarters have been flooded with jatka. It seems there is no check or stop the fishing of fries, although fishing laws exists in the country.

Of the total catch, about fifty per cent of the jatka netted in

dantly, local residents said.

According to wholesale fish market sources here, about 40 lakh pieces jatka were sent to different places in the country from here during last three weeks.

AM Ishaq Bhunya, an official of local Fisheries Department said nowadays hilsha fish is more or less available throughout the year. Indiscriminate catching of jatka will definitely decrease the production of full-size hilsha in near future.

Ishaq also said the Fisheries Department has no adequate logistics support and necessary manpower to conduct operation against illegal catching of jatka.

One of many unauthorised welding factories of Tangail town stretches its activities on the public thoroughfare. Oblivion to sufferings of the pedestrians and other road users, the municipal authorities also ignore that exposure to welding sparks could cause permanent damage to eyes and other human organs. These young men keep working on the road without any protection whatsoever. Is there any one to warn them?

-Star photo

No fire station in six Shariatpur upazilas

SHARIATPUR, Sept 26: A total of 16 fire incidents occurred in different parts of the district during the last year, causing damage of property worth about Tk 1.88 crore, reports BSS.

Fire Brigade rescued 40 persons and recovered goods worth about Taka 45 lakh during the period, Shariatpur Fire Service and Civil Defence office sources said.

However, there is no fire station at Narla, Zajira, Damuda, Bhedarganj, Gosaikhat and Shakhipur upazilas here.

These upazilas are far away from the district headquarters and the fire service vehicles have to take much time to reach destination.

UP chairman manhandled in Barguna

BARGUNA, Sept 26: A UP chairman was manhandled by miscreants at the land office in Amtali upazila on Sunday, reports BSS.

Witnesses said a gang of 5-7 rowdy youths swooped on Siddiqur Rahman, Gulishakhi Union Parishad chairman in Amtali upazila, when he reached the office at about 11 AM.

The reason behind the attack could not be known.

Fresh malaria outbreak in Rangamati

RANGAMATI, Sept 26: In a new sign of trouble for the health administration, a fresh outbreak of malaria has affected hundreds of people in frontier areas of the district, reports BSS.

Hospital source said some 50 people died of malaria in the hill district during the last six months.

Although the outbreak of the disease is still limited in the frontier areas, health workers apprehend that it can spread all over the district in a epidemic form if the health administration fails to come up with timely measures to check it.

The worst affected areas are Bara Harina in Barkolupur, Sajek in Baghaichhari, Shilchhari in Jurachhari, Jibital and Magban in Sadar and Chitramaram union in Kaptal upazilas.

Firefighters with the help of local people and BDR extinguished the blaze after two hours of hectic efforts.

Another report from Sylhet says: Ten shops were gutted in a fire at Bairagi Bazar in Bimanbazar upazila recently.

But the health workers are allegedly drawing their salaries without doing the jobs they have been entrusted with.

Allegations are also there against the authorities that they are not spraying insecticides in the areas for the last three years for reasons unknown.

Jute now bane of farmers

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Sept 26: Jute, once popularly known as golden fibre, has now become a bane of farmers here like other places in the country. The growers are forced to sell their product below production cost due to absence of buyers in markets.

At different markets in the district, jute is selling between Tk 250 and Tk 300 per maund. Growers say that at least Tk 350 is required to produce a maund of jute.

Jute mills are not buying jute and as a result middlemen are taking the full advantage of hoarding by purchasing it from the growers at through-way prices.

Shahidul Islam of Nichintapur village under Borailganj upazila, said real buyers are absent in markets, causing decline in prices.

Some farmers said if the price of jute continues to fall jute cultivation will decrease. Jute production here has been declining over last few years. The reasons are identified as low price, dearth of buyers and lack of quality seeds and fertiliser.

According to official sources, some 50,000 bales of jute were projected to be produced from more than 6,000 hectares of land in the district this season.

But the target is unlikely to be achieved as growers largely refrained from cultivating jute. Last year the growers experienced huge loss. Unofficial sources said only some 3,000 hectares of land were brought under jute cultivation.

During previous year, about 18,000 bales jute were produced by cultivating 6,225 hectares of land in the district which was far below the official target.

During 1996-97 and 1995-96 seasons, 4,650 hectares and 3,500 hectares of land respectively were brought under jute cultivation here.

Some jute traders told this correspondent that if the trend of low price continues jute will be smuggled out of the country. Many of traders said smuggling of raw jute has already been started. Smuggling of jute will cast an adverse effect on jute-based

handloom industry, traders said.

They say paper and partex manufacturing mills which need raw jute could also be set up to inspire the jute growers. President of Natore Chamber of Commerce and Industries M Aminul Haque said local entrepreneurs should have access to 'easy loans' from the banks to set up jute oriented factories.

He said, 'It's the declining price that discourages the growers to refrain from farming jute and it may hit the country's economy if appropriate steps are not taken soon.'

BSS from Barisal says: Poor farmers are reportedly being deprived of fair prices of jute this year due to absence of required number of government purchasing centres in this region. They lamented that they are to sell their produce at a price below the production cost due to shortage of buyers and proper marketing facilities.

Taking the advantages, some unscrupulous traders are buying jute from the poor farmers at throwaway prices and trying to smuggle out jute into India to earn more profit.

Local variety of jute is being sold between Taka 220 and Taka 245 per maund while Toshia variety between Taka 280 and Taka 300 per maund nowadays in this region.

A total of 12,05,985 bales of jute were produced in the districts of Barisal, Jhalakathi, Pirojpur, Patuakhali, Faridpur, Madaripur, Gopalganj, Rajbari and Shariatpur under Barisal Agriculture Extension Zone in this season, an official source said.

Jute cultivation is being decreased in the region day by day due to low prices in the market, the jute inspectors of the zone said.

Besides, many local traders are not financially sound. So they cannot purchase requisite quantity of jute from the growers for want of working capital, they said.

News snaps



A view of under construction Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Rahman Hall in Rajshahi University. The construction of the dorm, meant for male students, is progressing fast. -Star photo

Construction of dorm progressing

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, Sept 26: Construction work of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Hall, the 11th dormitory for male students of the university, has been progressing fast.

Construction of the hall, at a cost of Taka four crore, started on April 17 at the western side of Mathir Hall. Ground floor of the four-storey dorm has almost been completed. After the completion about five hundred students will get accommodation facilities, easing the existing problem to a large extent, university authorities said. There will be 4-seated, double-seated and single-seated rooms in the hall. The university has now 14 dormitories, four of them for female students.



Major General (Rtd) Subid Ali Bhuiyan, a renowned freedom fighter, addressing a public meeting in Panchgachia Union High School premises under Daudkandi upazila in Comilla district on Friday. Abdul Matin Master, Advocate Mir Mosharrif Hossain, Shawkat Ali, Shamsul Haq Darji, Prof Shah Ali, Prof Selim Khandakar and Prof Mizanul Kabir, among others, also spoke on the occasion

Housewife commits suicide

MANIKGANJ, Sept 26: A housewife allegedly committed suicide at Agkalia village in Daulatpur upazila Monday, reports BSS.

Police identified the victim as Atashi Begum, 21, wife of Joynal. Family feud was said to be the reason behind her suicide. Her husband went into hiding after the incident. Another report from Barguna adds: Rokeya Begum, 40, wife of Abdul Mannan, allegedly killed herself by taking poison after a brawl with her husband at Arpangashila village in Amtala upazila Friday, police said.

Rat killing drive

SHERPUR, Sept 26: A month-long rat killing drive began in the district Monday, reports UNB.

Local MP Atiur Rahman Attique inaugurated the drive by killing a rat on Nochmopur High School premises in Sadar upazila. On the occasion, a discussion meeting was held with Nochmopur High School Headmaster Fazul Haque in the chair. The meeting was attended, among others, by UP and municipality chairmen, agriculture officials and representatives of other professional groups. Some 300 local people, including teachers, students, newsmen, agriculturists, farmers and NGO workers took part in the rat killing drive organised by local Agriculture Extension Department.

Four extortions held

COXS BAZAR, Sept 26: In a surprise raid, police arrested four alleged extortions from Eidgaon bus stand here Monday, reports UNB.

Police said they caught the extortions red-handed while they collecting toll from private vehicles plying on the road. As traffic on 18 routes of the district, including Cox's Bazar-Chittagong highway, remained stopped due to an indefinite transport strike, a group of extortions started collecting tolls from small vehicles plying on the roads.

Electrician electrocuted

NAOGAON, Sept 26: A man was electrocuted when he was working on electric line at Sapahar under Naogaon district recently, reports BSS.

The man, Al Kayesh, 27, was an electrician. An unnatural death case was registered with the Sapahar police.



Farmers display jute at Bonpara bazaar in Natore. The once golden fibre now sells below production cost, much to the frustration of growers.

BPDB's International Tender Notice

1. International sealed tenders are invited by the Bangladesh Power Development Board from renowned manufacturers/suppliers for the materials and equipment for 33/11KV, 5/6.67 MVA Regular Type Sub-Station for Kotchandpur and Kaliganj under Jhenidah Distribution Division, BPDB, Jhenidah.

SI No	Tender enquiry No. & date	Description of equipment/materials	Qty	Cost of tender document	Tender receiving date
1	2	3	4	5	6
01	Pur-200/00/2001 dt: 20.7.2000	Procurement of Equipment & Materials for the:-			
		a) 33/11 KV, 5/6.67 MVA Regular Type Sub-Station (NEW) at Kotchandpur.	1 set.	Tk. 2,000/-	06.11.2000
		b) 33/11 KV, 5/6.67 MVA Regular Type Sub-Station (Upgrading & Renovation) at Kaliganj.	1 set		

- A complete set of tender document may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of written application and upon payment of Non-refundable fee of Taka as mentioned in column-5 each as above against this tender in the shape of Bank Draft/Pay Order in favour of Director, Purchase, Power Development Board, Dhaka.
- A bid bond equivalent to 2.5% (two and half per cent) of the offered price shall be submitted with tender.
- Tender will be received up to 11:00 AM and will be opened at 11:30 AM in presence of the intending bidders or their representatives, if any. Tender shall neither be sent by post nor it will be sold on the opening day. Offer send by Post/Telex/DHL/Fax will neither be received nor it will be accepted.
- The expenditure will be booked against PDB, Cash Foreign Exchange Allocation of (2000-2001).

Biddut/Jana-531(5)/2000-2001

DFP-22989-21/9

G-1684

Director, Purchase

BPDB, Dhaka.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Project for Strengthening Agriculture Information Service

Agriculture Information Service

Khamarbari, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215

Tender Notice

No AIS/384

Date: 4-6-1407/19-9-2000

Sealed tenders are invited from sellers/suppliers/manufacturing establishments for supplying the following goods for a project "Strengthening Agriculture Information Service" under Agriculture Information Service run with the finance from the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh during 2000-2001 fiscal year.

Serial No Description of goods Number/quantity Cost of schedule

1. Editing table for VDO Camera Unit (Consol) 1 (one) piece 200

2. Equipment shelf (for editing panel) 1 (one) piece

Interested tenderers can procure tender schedule containing detailed description of specification, terms and conditions on or before 04-10-2000 during office hours from the office of the Project for Strengthening Agriculture Information Service, First Building, 1st floor, Room No. F-201, Khamarbari, Dhaka-1215 on payment of specific fees (non-refundable). In order to purchase tender schedule the trading establishment will have to apply in their respective pads to the Project Director, Agriculture Information Service Project for Strengthening Agriculture Information Service, Khamarbari, Dhaka-1215. Income Tax certificate update and VAT certificate, bank solvency certificate and attested photocopy of trade licence for the current year will have to be enclosed with the tender. Original copies of all these papers will have to be produced at the time of taking tender schedule.

Tenders will have to be submitted along with the earnest money at the rate of 2.5% of the quoted cost in the forms of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any scheduled bank in favour of the Project Director, Project for Strengthening Agriculture Information Service, Agriculture Information Service, Khamarbari, Dhaka-1215 on 05-10-2000 PM before the attending tenderers (if anyone remains present).

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender or reject all tenders without assigning any reason.

AFM Shamsul Islam

Project Director

Project for Strengthening

Agriculture Information Service

Agriculture Information Service

Khamarbari, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215.

DFP-23050-21/9

G-1681