

National

Fish processing plants in Sylhet suggested

SYLHET, Nov 18: When production of sweet water fishes is steadily dropping in the country, the idea of setting up of modern fish processing plants in the region can help save fishes worth over Tk 100 crore from perishing every year, reports UNB.

The four districts of the region Sunamganj, Habiganj, Moulvibazar and Sylhet are known as big bowls of fishes as the districts have got a large number of water bodies like haors, baors, beels and canals in addition to rivers.

According to Fisheries Department, some 70,000 metric tons of fishes worth over Tk 300 crore are produced in the region every year

and one-third of which worth over Tk 100 crore is perished just for lack of preservation facility.

Compared to other three districts, Sunamganj has a reputation of producing surplus fishes, but the poor fishermen cannot supply those to towns and cities due to poor road communication.

"Tons of fishes are perished in the district each year," said a fisherman adding, "we have to often sell fishes at minimum prices as we cannot preserve those."

An official at Fisheries Department said, "the fishermen who toil throughout day in beels and haors for catching fishes ultimately cannot reap the benefits."

The official, who declined to be identified, said the government should set up fish processing plants in the region as economic incentives for the poor fishermen who are struggling to maintain their livelihoods in the face of dwindling fish resources.

He said in absence of modern fish processing facilities the farmers have to depend on natural ways for processing fishes, which take excess time in drying fishes.

The worst problem they face during the rainy season when they hardly can dry fishes.

More alarming is that the fishermen sometimes mix various pesticides, including DDT

powder and Nogos, so that the fishes cannot rot away quickly.

"It's true that dry fishes are health-promoting, but the way the fishes are dried up by our fishermen is rather injurious to health," said a doctor.

However, the government set up a fish processing plant at Daborhat in Sadar upazila of Sunamganj, but the plant could not serve interest of the fishermen because of its wrong location.

Fishermen urged the authorities concerned to take necessary steps to set up more fish processing plants so that they could make best use of their surplus fishes and thus export those abroad.

Enayetur Ashrayan Centre

Influentials threaten eviction of inmates

SIRJGANJ, Nov 18: The inhabitants of Enayetur Ashrayan Centre in Ullapara upazila are leading an inhuman life with innumerable problems, reports UNB.

The inmates alleged that they are living in insecurity and under great threat as some local influential people are threatening to evict them after ending of the Awami League rule.

Acute scarcity of drinking water is prevailing in the centre due to lack of sufficient tubewells in the centre although its population has risen to over one thousand.

There are no religious and educational institutions and medical facilities in the centre hampering prayers and education of the wards of the inmates.

In absence of boundary wall, outsiders readily enter into cen-

tre and create nuisances.

The government under its self-employment programme set up the Ashrayan centre on five acres of khas land in 1998 and rehabilitated 140 homeless families.

Upazila Co-operative office disbursed Tk 7.6 lakh as loan among the inmates in 1999 for implementing various income-generating projects. But before deriving any benefit from the money, the office recovered Tk 6.23 lakh creating pressure on the borrowers, they alleged.

It is alleged that, a number of allottees were driven out of their rooms. One of the victims was Lakhli Rani Karmaker who was driven out from her room three months back.

They sought immediate steps of the authorities concerned to mitigate their problems.

News snaps

Discussion

RAJBARI, Nov 18: Tax Department held a discussion on self-assessment of tax here on Thursday, reports UNB.

Tax officials from local and Dhaka offices answered to various questions from businessmen. They praised the government for introducing self-assessment system.

Three counterfeiters arrested

BAGERHAT, Nov 18: Police arrested three people along with huge counterfeit notes of Bangladeshi currency from Mulghar in Fakirhat upazila here on Thursday night, reports UNB.

On information, police set a trap near a shrimp depot in front of Mulghar Government School at 9 pm and arrested the three. Police recovered 50 forged notes of Tk 500 and 298 notes of Tk 100 denominations from their possession. They were going to the depot to buy shrimp. The arrested - Golam Mostafa Kazl, Mohor Ali and Gorai Mollik are believed to be the members of an organised gang engaged in forged currency notes trading. They were sent to jail.

Workshop on ORT

SHARIATPUR, Nov 18: A daylong workshop on ORT programme, arranged by UNICEF, was held at local Circuit House on Thursday, reports BSS.

Deputy Commissioner of Sharaiatpur inaugurated the workshop, which was also addressed by the Civil surgeon. Nineteen journalists of different national and local newspapers attended the workshop.

Rabi farming on 63,400 hectares

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Nov 18: Some 63,400 hectares of land are expected to be brought under Rabi crop cultivation in the current season, reports UNB.

Sources at Department of Agriculture Extension said Boro paddies would be cultivated on 41,200 hectares of land with a production target of 1.23 lakh mts. They said wheat would be cultivated on 20,000 hectares of land with 46,000 mts of output target, maize and potato would be cultivated on 1,600 hectares of land with an estimated production target of 1.950 mts of maize and 16,000 mts of potato. Meanwhile, the department has started providing the farmers necessary seeds, fertiliser and other agricultural inputs to achieve its production target.

Pest invades Aman paddy

MADARIPUR, Nov 18: Aman paddy on vast tracts of land in greater Faridpur district came under massive pest attack, dimming the hopes of farmers, reports UNB.

According to the farmers, lack of rain during the peak period prompted the pest, locally known as Tungri, to attack the paddy fields. The worst affected areas are Rambhadrapur, Panditsar, Roudrapur, Bhojeshwar in Sharaiatpur district, Khoajpur, Tekerhat, Kalklini, Pachchar in Madaripur, Pangsha and Gopalpur in Rajbari district, Kamarkhali, Sadarupur, and Madhukhali in Faridpur districts. When contacted agriculture officials said there was no pest attack in the district.

Youth to die for killing brother

HABIGANJ, Nov 18: A court here on Wednesday convicted a youth and condemned him to death for killing his brother, reports UNB.

District and Sessions Judge Abdur Rashid Mia pronounced the judgement within 20 days of submitting the chargesheet. The case history in brief: convict Gias Uddin, 20, son of Danis Ullah of Chostapur village in Sadar thana stabbed his brother Sabur Mia, 27, on July 20, this year at one stage of altercation with him. He died on way to hospital. Danis Ullah, father of the victim, later filed a murder case. After investigation, police charged against Gias. The judge after examining the records and witnesses found him guilty of murder and handed down the capital punishment to the killer.

Bridge opens

KHAGRACHHARI, Nov 18: A 20-metre bridge constructed over Belchhari canal on Belchhari-Ajoda road was opened to traffic on Thursday, reports UNB.

District council chairman Jatindra Lal Chakma opened the bridge constructed by Local Government and Engineering Department at a cost of Tk 28.64 lakh. Later, the district council chairman inaugurated Karallyachhari Community Clinic.

Jail terms for 5 students

MANIKGANJ, Nov 18: A special court here on Thursday found five students of Devendranath Government College guilty of assaulting a teacher and ransacking its offices, and sentenced them to different jail terms, reports UNB.

Three of them were identified as Masudur Rahman alias Masud, Abu Bakar Siddique alias Bachchu, Mohammad Mustafizur Rahman alias Prince. They were sentenced to five years rigorous imprisonment and fined Tk 5,000 each, in default, to suffer six months more. RI another accused of the case filed under the newly enacted PSA, Shahidul Islam alias Polash was sentenced to seven years in jail. Polash, tried in absentia, was also fined Tk 10,000 with a provision to suffer one year more RI in default. According to the prosecution, the accused ransacked the offices of the college principal and its students union, and assaulted a teacher in a pre-planned way on June 6.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Food
Strengthening of Early Warning and Food Information System Project
22, Topkhana Road
Dhaka-1000

No: MOF/EW/Purchase/4(27) BMD Equipment/98/367 Date: 09/11/2000

International

Re-Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the bona fide foreign/suppliers/manufacturers/or their authorized dealers/distributors for supply of Meteorological equipment on C&F Dhaka by Air-Freight basis under Strengthening of Early Warning & Food Information System (EWFIS) Project of Ministry of Food.

1. Tender No : MOF/EW/Purchase/4(27) BMD Equipment/98/367
2. Place of selling and dropping tender schedule : Project Director's Office, 22, Topkhana Road, Dhaka-1000
3. Last date and time for selling tender schedule : 19th December, 2000 (upto 4.00 PM)
4. Price of schedule (non-refundable) : Tk. 750.00 (seven hundred fifty) only
5. Last date and time for dropping tender : 20th December, 2000. (up to 2.30 PM)
6. Date and time for opening tender : 20th December, 2000 (at 3.00 PM)
7. Earnest money : 2% of total quoted price in the form of Account Payee/Bank Draft/Pay Order/Bank Guarantee from a schedule bank of Bangladesh in favour of Project Director, EWFIS project.

Authority reserves the right to accept or reject partially or wholly any or all the tenders, without assigning any reason whatsoever.

DFP-27515-14/11
G-2019
Project Director

Rajshahi farmers find mixed crop farming profitable

From Abdul Wadood

RAJSHAHI, Nov 18: Cultivation of 'relay crop' along with seed-cotton is gaining popularity among the cotton-farmers in Rajshahi zone.

The zone comprises of 10 upazilas in Rajshahi, Natore, Chapainawabganj and Naogaon districts. The upazilas are Poba, Bagha, Chorghat and Puthia of Rajshahi, Natore, Sadar, Lalpur, Bagatipara and Boraigram of Naogaon.

Mazharul Hannan, chief Cotton Development Officer (CDO) of Rajshahi zone of Bangladesh Cotton Development Board (BCDB) said, cultivation of relay crop in the field of seed-cotton has been proved profitable in all respects.

"It (relay crop) is bringing an additional amount of money for the farmers without causing any adverse effect on the main crop (seed-cotton)," he said.

The earning mainly depends on the market price of the produce.

In Manda, Kalmi Shak's market price was very low. That is why only about Tk 600 to Tk 1,000 has been earned from 33 decimals of land. Where as the earning was up to Tk 2,000 in Bagatipara where the market price was comparatively higher. Lal Shak is being seen to have almost the same kind of demand and market price all through the season everywhere. "So we are now advising the farmers to grow Lal Shak as the relay crop in the fields of seed-cotton," Hannan said.

While visiting some areas in Chorghat, Bagha and Bagatipara last week, Naoshad Ali of Misirpara near Dayarampur in Bagatipara upazila of Natore said that he had cultivated seed-

cotton on a total of three bighas of lands. Out of the total, one bigha was used for relay crop. He cultivated Lal Shak two times. "It has given me about Tk 3,500 in three months," he said.

Naoshad Ali invested about Tk 5,000 so far for cultivating seed-cotton on his three bighas of lands. He will have to spend about Tk 1,000 to harvest the seed-cotton in late December. "I am expecting about 20 maunds of seed cotton which will be sold at about Tk 17,000," he said. So Naoshad Ali will get profit amounting to about Tk 11,000 from a plot of 33 decimals in one and a half month. If cultivated for the second time just after the first harvest, it bring another sum of Tk 1,500-2,000.

On the other hand, Tk 1,000 to Tk 1,500 is being earned from Amaranths and Tk 600 to Tk 2,000 from Kalmi Shak.

The earning mainly depends on the market price of the produce.

Some farmers are cultivating sugarcane as the relay crop along with seed-cotton. "This is also profitable but it hampers seed-cotton production to some extent," Hannan said. "At the same time we are losing the land for cultivation of seed-cotton as sugarcane remains in the field for at least two years," he added.



Seeking help or else!

With a venomous snake around her neck, this young girl slipped into the office room of the Sirajganj Circle - A Superintendent of Police (SP) recently. Apparently deaf and dumb, she used sign language to ask for help. The presence of a snake in the office immediately triggered an alarm among the officials. It was not known if the police could eventually help her.

Star photo by Aktheruzzaman

Shoals in Padma hamper ferry movement

From Our Correspondent

SIRJGANJ, Nov 18: A number of shoals have emerged in the River Padma, hampering ferry movement in Pakshay-Bheramara route.

Disruption in ferry movement is causing serious sufferings to passengers. Besides, shoals have also emerged in the Garai, a branch of the Padma.

Floods damage 20,438 tubewells in Satkhira

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Nov 18: A total of 20,438 tubewells have gone out of order in five upazilas of the district during the unprecedented floods, causing acute scarcity of drinking water.

About 367 villages in Kalaroa, Tala, Debbata, Assasuni and Sadar upazilas were submerged by floodwaters.

Out of the total 52,506 tubewells in the five upazilas, 9,224 were damaged in Kalaroa, 764 in Tala, 345 in Assasuni and 8,736 in Sadar upazila, causing a loss of Tk 12 lakh.

An official of PHED said Taka three crore rehabilitation project has been sent to higher authority for approval. Under the project, some 245 tubewells will be installed.

Tk 1cr fish washed away in Magura

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, Nov 18: Fish resources worth over Tk one crore have been washed away in the district during the floods, official sources said.

According to district Fisheries Department officials, the unprecedented floods have washed away fishes and shrimps from several ponds, nursery ponds, water bodies and shrimp enclosures on over 66 hectares of land, causing loss of nearly Tk one crore six lakh.

Talking to this correspondent, Abu Nasir Babu, president of Magura District Fish and Shrimp Cultivators' Association, said the government should take rehabilita-

177 polio patients detected in 6 dists

BARISAL, Nov 18: Some 177 polio-affected people have been detected in six districts of Barisal division during the last 10 months from January this year, reports UNB.

They have been suffering from

acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP), a polio-related disease.

Official sources said some 55,000 children of the division could not be brought under the immunisation on the 7th National Immunisation Day last year.

This was disclosed at a press conference here on Saturday by the Health Department. Divisional Commissioner Muhammad Yahiya Mollah and Director of Health Department Dr Hafizur Rahman were present.

Of the AFP affected patients 37 were detected in Barisal, 52 in Pirojpur, 20 in Patuakhali, 14 in Bhola, 23 in Barguna and 31 in Jhalakati.

No one, however, was affected with wild poliovirus during the period this year in the division. One attacked with wild poliovirus was found in Barguna last year.

Asit Bhusan Das, Professor of Medicine Department, Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital said that poliovirus is completely responsible for AFP.

It was informed that over 14,49 lakh children in six districts of the division would be brought under immunisation programme.

Later police reached the spot and took the situation under control. The said rain left the station after four hours.

A case was registered with Jamalpur GRP station.

Agitated people halt train in Jamalpur

From Our Correspondent