

Jessore fisheries scheme takes a tumble

Bergobindapur Baor Project fails to enhance fish production

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Despite developments works in the last nine years, the Bergobindapur Baor Fisheries Development Project under Chowgachha upazila of Jessore district fails to enhance fish production.

Continued siltation and fall in water level have marred the prospect of good production of fish.

According to official sources, some 1,250 metric tons of wheat have been sanctioned for the development of the fisheries project since 1991-92 fiscal year. The development works aimed at constructing an embankment to protect the project area from flash flood of the Kabadak River and excavating reservoirs to ensure pisciculture round the year.

District Fisheries Office said 197 metric tons of wheat were sanctioned in 1991-92, 140 mt in 1992-93, 217 mt in 1993-94, 312 mt in 1994-95, 97 mt in 1997-98, 127 in 1998-99, 100 mt in 1999-2000 and 40 mt in 2000-2001

fiscal. The statistics of 1996-97 was not available.

When Contacted, District Fisheries Officer (DFO) Dr Nitya Nanda Das said since he joined this office only one and a half years ago, it was not possible for him to give detailed accounts of the works and utilisation of allocated wheat.

The Bergobindapur Baor Fisheries Development Project covers an area of 217 hectares of land with an annual fish production target of 125 metric tons.

But despite the implementation of developments works, fish production in the project fell short of target last fiscal.

Now there is no manager or responsible officer to look after the project works.

When this correspondent met Director General (DG) of Fisheries Nasiruddin in his Dhaka office recently and enquired about the present position of this baor project, the DG said problems will be addressed soon.

Kala-azar claims 6 in Pabna

81 attacked with diarrhoea in Chuadanga

UNB, Pabna

An outbreak of kala-azar in Pabna district claimed six lives and affected over a thousand people in last three months, according to unofficial sources.

The dead were identified as Shafiqui Islam, 12, Suruj Ali, 7, Moyna Khatun, 7, Jamila Khatun, 35, Saleka Khatun, 32, and Rajib, 10, of Sathia upazila.

According to district Health Office, some 150 people were affected with kala-azar in the past three months while 3,157 last year.

The outbreak of kala-azar has caused panic among local people.

Meanwhile, kala-azar patients alleged that they have to buy kala-azar injection from the market at Tk

120-150 as government hospitals can hardly provide them the injection.

Civil Surgeon of the district Dr Shamsuddin Ahmed said he heard about the outbreak of kala-azar and directed the officials concerned to look into the matter.

He, however, recognised that the government hospitals are in short supply of kala-azar injection, usually provided by World Health Organisation.

Our Chuadanga correspondent reports: At least 81 people including children at village Baragangni under Alamdanga upazila of Chuadanga district were attacked with diarrhoea from May 1 to 18.

The disease had broken out at the village in an epidemic form,

although no death was reported. However, Civil Surgeon of Chuadanga Dr Fazlul Hoque on Sunday told this correspondent the situation is now under control. At present, no new cases are reported, he added.

He also said proper treatment was given to the diarrhoea patients of the village and in the mean time most of the patients have left the hospital.

Health officials have attributed the outbreak of the disease to lack of safe drinking water and consciousness about hygiene among the villagers.

Most villagers respond to the call of nature in the open, polluting the surroundings and inviting water-borne diseases, they added.



PHOTO: DELWAR KABIR

Garbage is littered on a road in Rishipara area of Saikupa Municipality in Jhenidah district. Pedestrians pass the area covering their noses to avoid the unpleasant smell emitting from the garbage. When will the municipal authorities take up measures to clean the road?

Printing of answer guides in full go despite ban

UNB, Narail

Despite ban on publishing answer guides up to class VIII, a section of unscrupulous people in Narail are engaged in publishing those to earn windfall profit.

The government prohibited the publication of notebooks a few years back to discourage students' dependence on prepared answers.

But there is none to implement the government ban and taking the advantage a section of half-educated dishonest people are publishing the sub-standard notebooks with fictitious names.

These notebooks with numerous errors and distortion of facts are being sold at a very high price. It is fact that the standard of education in the schools has declined to a great extent and the students are forced to depend on the prepared answers.

But due to absence of standard notebooks most of the students of the affluent families have to depend on private tutors. But the poor students are deprived of the opportunity and they are to rely on these notebooks.

The guardians are of the opinion that the ban should be withdrawn to allow publication of reliable notebooks with the approval of the National Curriculum and Textbook with the approval of the National Curriculum and Textbook Board.

They said this would create healthy competition in publishing standard notebooks driving the sub-standard ones out of the market.

They also said this would also help the less fortunate guardians to be relieved of the heavy burden of engaging private tutors for their wards in these days of economic hardships.



PHOTO: HOSSAIN SERAJ

Life style of the gypsy community is quite different from others. They have no permanent homes. Boats are their homes. They move from one place to another on boats. In Magura district they also 'treat' rheumatoid-arthritis patients. Often the innocent villagers get cheated in this way. A typical gypsy woman (1) has set for earning a living from her temporary shed, while (2) a male member of the community is seen 'charming' a poisonous snake and (3) another woman is engaged in making a traditional quilt in her temporary shelter.

NEWS SNAPS

Man kills ex-wife

UNB, Rajshahi

Aman allegedly killed his ex-wife at Ullapur village in Paba upazila of Rajshahi district on Monday night.

Police said Rahim, 35, of Boroikuri village in same upazila divorced his wife Merina, 26, a few months ago. Later she lodged a complaint with the local union parishad which angered Rahim. On the fateful night Rahim secretly entered into the house of Merina and stabbed her indiscriminately. She was rushed to the Rajshahi Medical College where she succumbed.

Rickshawpuller commits suicide

UNB, Noakhali

A rickshawpuller allegedly committed suicide at a village in Companyganj upazila of Noakhali failing to pay one weekly installment of microcredit he borrowed from the local branch of BRAC.

Local people said rickshawpuller Shahjahan, 25, of village Char Parbati committee suicide by taking poison on Friday after BRAC men threatened to take away his dwelling house for non-payment of his last weekly installment of Tk 160. Family sources said Shahjahan borrowed Tk 6,000 from BRAC recently and he was paying the installments regularly. But he failed to deposit the installment last week as he spent the money for the treatment of his wife suffering from typhoid.

Road mishap claims 2

UNB, Noakhali

A soil-laden pickup tumbled into a roadside ditch on Sonaimuri-Begumganj Road in Noakhali district leaving two day-labourers dead and seven others injured on Saturday.

The deceased were identified Shamim Hissain, 25, and Belayet Hossain, 26. The injured were admitted to Noakhali General Hospital.

Father indeed!

UNB, Naogaon

Following a feud with his wife, a rickshawpuller threw his tiny daughter into a river at village Chakdaulat in sadar upazila on Thursday.

Police said rickshawpuller Babul, at one stage of quarrel with his wife on the day, stormed out of their house with their six-year-old daughter Sabrina and returned home alone. Babul could not give nay satisfactory reply when his wife Sajeda Begum asked about their daughter. He later confessed that he threw the little girl into the river.

Hotel manager chopped to death

UNB, Brahmanbaria

A hotel manager was chopped to death by assailants at old ferry ghat in Ashuganj upazila of Brahmanbaria district on Monday.

The deceased was identified as Uttam Acharya, 20, of Budhanti village in sadar upazila. He was appointed as manager of the hotel 'Al Hakkah' just a week ago. Police suspect that the miscreants killed the manager following a previous enmity. Police recovered sharp weapons from the spot and arrested hotel workers Mrinal Das, 28, and Afaj Mia, 20, in this connection. A case was filed.

Indian national with baby held

UNB, Joypurhat

An Indian national along with a baby was arrested while crossing the Hilli border illegally on Sunday.

BDR jawans caught Uttam Kumar Halder, hailing from Darjeeling district West Bengal, following his suspicious movement near the Hilli check post in Hakimpur upazila at about 11:30 pm. Uttam claimed the eight-month old girl child is his daughter. Later they were handed over to police. Uttam said that he was residing with his wife at his father-in-law's house at Baganbari in Koilash Ghosh Lane in Dhaka since their marriage a few years back.

New tech to make water arsenic free

UNB, Kurigram

A jeweler of Rajarhat Bazaar in Kurigram has devised a simple technology to make water arsenic free.

Hamidur Rahman, inventor of the new method, displayed his device at the local press club Thursday in presence of the Deputy Commissioner, engineers of Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) and health officials. DPHE Executive Engineer Abdur Rashid said his device has primarily been proved effective in quick removal of arsenic from water.

Terrorist activities on rise

UNB, Pabna

Terrorist activities are on alarming rise deteriorating the overall law and order situation in greater Pabna district.

According to police, some 42 people were killed and 500 injured in different terrorist activities including political rivalry, skirmish, clashes on toll collection and establishment for supremacy during January to April this year. When contacted the officials said they have already prepared a list of terrorists and combing operation would begin soon to bring the culprits to book.