Success in reviving indigenous fish Our lives are at stake

Patuakhali pilot project now set for mass production of local variety of magur fry, 800 more private hatcheries in the offing

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Days may not far away when Bangalees will relish again on delicious indigenous magur fish, thanks to the successful efforts by the Patuakhali-Barguna Aquaculture Extension Project

At least the projects present performance and prospects sug-

The highly nutritious and delicious sweet water fish is beyond the reach of the commonman now because of its high price and less availability. Unlike other fishes, its commercial cultivation is also very rare.

Over eight lakh fries are now ready for sale in the current season, two and a half lakh of those at the project's hatchery in Patuakhali district hadquarters and the rest in five private hatch-

A CORRESPONDENT, Bhola

The forest department here has sold

most of the timber trees along 28

kilometer roads under the Road and

High Ways Department without any

while some sources claimed that

their value was over Tk one crore.

The trees were along 22 kilometer

roads in Bhola Sadar upazila and 6 kilometer roads in Daulatkhan

Some local timber traders while

talking to this correspondent during

a recent visit to the areas claimed

that the trees were sold at prices

between Tk 50 and 75 per cubic feet

against their marker prices between

Tk 150 and 200. A vested quarter

bought all the trees in league with

bid in the sale done following "un-

They alleged that they could not

officials, they alleged.

The trees were sold at Tk 30 lakh

tender or notice in any newspaper.

eries set up and run under super- steads. The cost is also lesser than vision of project officials.

The private hatcheries are doing well and more 800 are in the offing to multiply magurfries, said the project's Fish Specialist Rafiqul Islam Khan while talking to this correspondent recently. The PBAEP was set up in 2002 under assistance from DANIDA Danish International Development Agency).

"WE are getting a good response from fishermen and youths", he said.

The project also-provides short training to interested persons.

There is tremendous scope to expand commercial cultivation of indigenous magur because this variety of fish survives and grows in water with lesser oxygen than needed for other fishes. So this can be grown even in ditches and big concrete-built tubs in home-

Legalised pilferage? Newspaper

derstanding" with some selected

Divisional Forest Officer Abdul

Hossain said the timber trees were

sold after displaying a notice on the

notice board at the forest office,

done as per a departmental deci-

sion. The trees were planted about

a large number of trees planted five

to six years back were also felled

when asked why tender trees were

also felled. "New saplings will be

common allegation by the local

people. Forest guards are seldom

have also been taken away by

thieves from shoals of Meghnariver.

seen in the areas, they said.

This correspondent also saw that

The DFO could not say anything

Pilferage of timber trees is a

A large number of Kewra trees

ten years back, he said,

indiscriminately.

planted", he said.

When contacted over phone,

for other indigenous fishes, he

"Our pilot project has become a success and we are expanding he said.

They have also developed an easy and cheap method to transport magur fries to distant areas like Dhaka, he said. The fries put in polythene bags with water and oxygen can be kept alive for over 15 hours and transported to distant areas, they said.

In the initial year, 70,000 fries were produced in the project and sold to 10 fish farmers in Patuakhali Sadar upazila. In 2003, produced and sold 1,30,000

The farmers are responding well because they are earning good profit. "We have already selected about 1000 fish farmers in Patuakhali for cultivation of magur fish and many of them also

office

for toll

ransacked

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

A newspaper office was ran-

sacked by a group of miscreants

Miscreants led by identified

criminal Rajib ransacked the

Weekly Nilsagor office for non-

payment of illegal toll, executive

editor Anjarul Islam Jewel told

this to visiting journalists. He

disclosed that property worth Tk

50,000 was damaged. He further

complained that the attackers

threatened the owner and news-

papermen not to inform the

matter to police, otherwise 'they

will have to face the dire conse-

During a visit by the executives

and members of the Reporters'

Association, Nilphamari, the

miscreants appeared there and

abused them. When the United News of Bangladesh (UNB) corre-

Being informed, the superin-

The Reporters' Association,

here on Thursday for toll.



PBAEP fish specialist Rafiqul Islam Khan examining magur fries ready for sale at the hatchery.

want to set up mini hatcheries",

its cultivation is easy, cheap and

enthusiastic Rafigul Islam said.

more profitable" 'We will develop a marketing "They are interested because chain throughout the country", an

Our Gopalganj Correspondent reports: All members of the Reporters' Club here on Thursday held a protest meeting at the club office on Chowrongi Road in the

Among others, Mozammel Hossain (Dinik Janakantha), Abdus Sattar (The Bangladesh Observer and Bangladesh Bater), Md Alimuzzaman (The Daily Star); Ahmed Ali Khan (Ajker Kagoj), SM Wahab Ali (Manabzamin), Mahabub Hossain (Dainik Dinkal), Monaj Saha (Dainik Jugantor),

A protest meeting was also held at the DC office where Gobinda Lal

Das, President of the Press Club, Abu addressed. Our Moulvibazar Correspondent

at Moulvibazar Press Club Auditorium on Thursday with the senior vice president of the club Sarwar Ahmed in the chair. Among others Abdul Hamid

east 40 per cent eminent businessmen left Khulna since 2003 after sourcessaid.

Death threat scare Khulna political leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Political leaders in Khulna are now

suffering from bomb scare. Top

leaders are hardly found at meetings

of their parties and socio-cultural

organisations, held either in open

no doubt that our lives are at stake"

city Awami League Secretary

Mizanur Rahman Mizan told this

correspondent. He said he is virtu-

ally hiding for two months after

receiving 'death threat' from

Former Whip Mostafa Rashidi

Shuja, general secretary of district

Awami League, has been staying in

Dhaka for the last few months,

keeping himself aloof from political

Khulna Al. President Shaikh

Haroon-or-Rashid did not attend

any party meeting anywhere since

Same is with Talukdar Abdul Khaleque MP, president of city AL.

He come back to Khulna recently

after 'hiding in an undisclosed

Khulna city BNP secretary Nazrul

Islam Manzu fears attempt on his

life. "I am moving staking life risk",

'No' to drugs

world

drugaddiction.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Forty-four drug addicts have

returned to normal life from the dark

They include one advocate, 25

graduates including an MA (English),

some SSC and HSC students and a

police sub-inspector suspended for

Thursday by Ashru, a drug cure cantre

function, narrating their experience.

in the town which cured them.

They were given a reception on

Some of them also spoke at the

Deputy Commissioner Md.

Yonusur Rahmana and SP ATM Tarek

were chief quest and special guest

respectively at the function, presided

over by Ashrau Managing Driector

other, Brahmanbaria Municipal

Chairman Md Hafizur Rahman

It was also addressed by, among

Hasan Mainuddin Masud

place' for two months.

"We are really scared and there is

space or in protected place.

Apart from political leaders, at receiving death threats from extremists and ruling party cadres.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Directorate of Family Planning Azimpur, Dhaka-1205 Health and Population Program Project (HPPP) IDA Credit No. 3101-BD Procurement of 80 (eighty) million cycles of Low Dose Oral

Contraceptive Pills. Contract Package No. GFP-2/04

IFB No: 518 dated: 26/6/2004

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

This invitation for bids follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in Development Business, Issue Nos. 495 of 30 September 1998 and 530 of 16 March 2000.

The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) and grants from donors toward the cost of the Health and Population Program Project (HPPP), and it intends to apply part of the credit and grant proceeds to payments under the contracts for the procurement of low dose oral contraceptive pills, contract package No. GFP-2/04. Bidding will be governed by the World Bank's eligibility rules and procedures.

The Director (Logistics and Supply) and Line Director (Procurement, Storage and Supply), Directorate of Family Planning, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, invites sealed bids for procurement of 80 (eighty) million cycles of Low Dose Oral Contraceptive Pills, through five individual contracts of 16 (sixteen) million each, from the bidders who have manufactured and/or supplied similar goods for five years and specific goods under this invitation for at least last

The delivery of the goods under each contract shall be completed within 4 weeks from the date of confirmation of the letter of credit for goods to be supplied from abroad or from the date of signing of contract for goods to be supplied from within Bangladesh.

A bidder may bid for one or more contracts. But the bidder must bid for entire quantity of low dose oral pills requested in each contract. Evaluation and comparison of bids will be carried out separately for each contract. Price reductions or cross discounts will be considered in the evaluation and comparison of bids for more than one contract. A margin of domestic preference will apply.

Bidding will be conducted through the international competitive bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD loans and IDA credits, and is open to bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the guidelines. In addition, countries not eligible under this credit also include the Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Brunei Darussalam, Cyprus, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Singapore and United Arab Emirates.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the office of the undersigned and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below during working days between 1000 and 1600 hours up to August 15, 2004.

A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Taka 6,000.00 (Taka six thousand) or US\$ 100.00 (US dollar one hundred) only. The method of payment will be by Pay Order or Bank Draft or cashier's cheque. The bidding documents will be sent by airmail or may be collected through authorised representatives of

interested bidders. Bids must be delivered to the office of Director (Logistics and Supply) and Line Director (Procurement, Storage and Supply), Directorate of Family Planning, Azimpur, Dhaka-1205, Bangladesh at or before 1415 hours on August 16, 2004. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of Taka 11,80,000 or US\$ 20,000 or the equivalent amount in the bid currency for each of the five contracts separately in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft/cashier's cheque or bank quarantee from a bank acceptable to the Purchaser in the form and manner detailed in the Instructions to Bidders. Late bids will be rejected.

Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the office of the Director (Logistics and Supply) and Line Director (Procurement, Storage and Supply), Directorate of Family Planning, Azimpur, Dhaka-1205, Bangladesh at 1430 hours on August 16, 2004.

Alamgir Hossain Ukil Director (Logistics and Supply) and

Line Director (Procurement, Storage & Supply) Directorate of Family Planning Azimpur, Dhaka-1205 Telephone: 880-2-8627557, 880-2-8612323

Fax: 880-2-8625912

E-mail: dirlsdfp@agni.com

DFP-16476-28/6/04

G-361

Balu killing protested

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Working journalists in Gopalganj, Gaibandha and Moulvibazar held separate meetings and processions to protest recent murder of Janmabhumi editor and Khulna Press Club president Humayun Kabir Balu. In Gaibandha, a memorandum was also submitted to the Prime Minister (PM) through the deputy commissioner (DC).

town with its vice president Rabindra Nath Adhikari in the chair.

Prosun Mondal (Bhore Kagoj), Chowdhury Hasan Mahamud (ATN

Bangla), and Subrata Shaha (Prothom Alo) addressed the meet-

Our Gaibandha Correspondent reports: Members of Gaibandha Press Club brought out a procession in the district town on Thursday. After the procession a memoran-

dum was submitted to the PM through the DC.

Zafar Sabu, Mosiur Rahman Khan, Mofizul Huq, Syed Nurul Alam, Siddique Alam and Abedur Rahman reports: A protest meeting was held

Mahbub, Ashok Kumar Das, Fakhrul

Islam Khasru, MA Muhit and Golam Mostafa addressed the meeting, Press Club General Secretary Rajat Kanti Goswami read out the resolutions of the meeting.



Age is no bar for Md Abdus Samad Khan. At 70 he alone looks after his poultry farm.

leader Mamtaz murder case

A CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Mamtaz Uddin on June 6 in 2003. First class magistrate Waliur

investigation.

Ainul, Sujan, Mithu, Firoz and AL leader Abdur Rashid.

the criminal investigation department (CID) had submitted charge sheets twice. But Mamtaz's brother advocate Abul Kalam Azad prayed for a judicial investigation. After hearing of the petition, judge ordered for judicial investigation

within one month. AL leader Anisur Rahman who was charge sheeted earlier by the CID twice was not included as an accused in the latest charge sheet.

Mamtaz Uddin was killed while he was on way home at a place situated between Dairpara and Badhopara field.

Before the Judicial investigation,

Marwari held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

absconding since taking Tk one crore 30 lakh loan from National arrested in Lalmonirhat.

Ezaz Ahmed appeared before a magistrate court at Lalmonirhat on Monday and prayed for bail. The court rejected the bail prayer and sent him to jail hajat. He had reportedly gone to

When contacted on Thursday, National Bank officials in Syedpur here said they had filed cases against him with the Artho Rin Adalot and a magistrate court in Lalmonirhat.

from jobs, they said. Ezaz Ahmed is among three Marwari and one Behari businessmen of Svedpur who took about Tk 10 crore loans from National Bank and Islami Bank in Syedpurin 2002 and 2003. The rest three are also absconding and

Food official suspended in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Kludna

A food official was suspended recently on charge of selling four metric tons of rice of a government food godown in black market in connivance with security guards. The suspended official is MA

Khaleque Khan, officer-in-charge (OC) of Phultala upazila government food godown.

The shortage of rice was detected following a surprise visit by the Food directorate DG Fazlur Rahman to the food godown on June 15. The godown was sealed off by order of he DG and an investigation committee was formed with food inspector Monoj Kumar as head of

The probe committee submitted its report to the DC of Food, Khunla, SM Mohsin on June 28 accusing Khaleque Khan and three security

Farming, fishery change lot

Once landless Samad is now an example for many in Brahmanbaria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Once landless, Md Abdus Samad Khan now owns a dairy farm, a poultry farm, a fishery project and lands for commercial vegetable cultivation.

All these were done only in eight years. His success now draws officials to his projects and also encourages others in the area. Samad is an example for many of

the poor in Akhaura upazila. Abdus Samad lost his parents in childhood and became helpless. He survived by doing odd jobs.

Fortune smiled on him when he came in touch with a mosque-based mass education and training center

run by Brahmanbaria Islamic

It trained him in dairy and poultry farming, pisciculture, nursery and improved methods of vegetable cultivation.

He leased one acre of land near Hawra river in Akawra upazila and started a small nursery -- Al-Modina Nursery -- with only 2300 saplings He leased another government land for 25 years and planted 2000 saplings of timber trees. He prunes the trees once a year and sells firewood worth about Tk 10,000. He hopes the trees will earn him minimum Tk 10,00,000 after 15 years.

This year, he earned Tk 25,000 from sale of cabbage, grown on a

land. The local AED (Agriculture Extension Department) official helped him in vegetable cultivation. Samad also leased 45 acres of

ponds for fishery. This year, for the first time, he earned Tk 10,000 from Samad invested Tk 200,00 last year to start a poultry farm and a

small dairy farm with seven cows. These earn him about Tk 20,000 a month now. His sons and daughters look after those.

District agriculture, fishery and veterinary officials regularly visit his projects and give necessary advice, Samad told this correspondent during a recent visit.



Concrete blocks are being dumped at Kalitola in Sariakandi in Bogra district to protect a WDB groyne from erosion by the Jamuna river. If the groyne collapses, the Bangalee river will ultimately merge with the Jamuna that may threaten Sariakandu upazila headquarters.

of Gabtoli upazila were detected to be The dead is Rawshan Begum, 32, of Bandarban hill district, confirmed Bogra Divil Surgeon office.

Eight malaria patients are Khairul

slam,8, Julekha, 17, Jharna,30, Jalal

SNAPS

Malaria claims one in

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Malaria was detected in Bogra after 32

years, according to sources in the Health

One person died and eight others

ncluding three children in Purbapara area

Bogra

Mian,36, Abu Tahir,40, Raza Mian,11, Perveen, 3, and Rabiul Islam, 6. However, Civil Surgeon (CS) Dr Mohazzman confirmed that four patients had been admitted to Gobtoli Health

Syedpur municipal budget announced OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Syedpur municipal authorities has announced a Tk 28 crore 19 lakh budget for 2004-2005 financial year.

Municipal chairman Akhtar Hossan Badal announced the budget at a press conference at the Town Hall on Thursday. Syedpur Awami league presiden Abbas Ali Sarkar, CPB (Communist Party of Bangladesh) leader Delwar Hossen ormer municipal chairman Bakhtiar Kabir were also present.

Man killed in Gaibandha OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

One person was hacked to death in a clash over a disputed tree at Taluk Srabandha village in Sunderganj upazila

najahan went to cut the tree when two ther villagers Barek Mia and Raja Mia of he same village protested. They hacked

spondent protested, Rajib threatened to 'slaughter him' in presence of the journalists. tendent of police (SP) of Nilphamari sent the additional SP, the ASP circle, the OC of Nilphamari Thana to the spot. Within half an hour of the incident police nabbed the criminal. Nilphamari in a statement condemned the incident and demanded exemplary punish-

Timber trees felled on roadsides in Bhola Sadar

ment to the culprits. 7 chargesheeted in AL

Seven persons were charge sheeted on Wednesday in connection with killing of former Awami League (AL) member of parliament (MP)

Rahman submitted the charge sheet/ to the judge court after a judicial The charge-sheeted persons are BNP leader Taiful Islam Tipu, Aslam,

for loan default

A marwari businessman who was Bank at Syedpur in 2002 has been

India and came back recently

The officials involved in sanctioning the loan were terminated

facing cases filed with the Atrha Rin Adalot, sources said.