NATIONAL



Fishermen beam while carrying hilsa from trawlers to a wholesale market in Patharghata upazila of Barguna district yesterday as recent good catches, after a few weeks of 'dull period' during the ongoing hilsa catching season, bring joy to the fishermen and traders.

Hilsa, at long last

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Two and a half months into the beginning of hilsa season, fishermen have started getting good catches of the popular fish off the coasts of Patuakhali and Barguna districts.

Fish landing stations at Mohipur and Alipur in Patuakhali and Pathorghata in Barguna district are now buzzing with activities of fishermen and traders as trawlers loaded with hilsa are returning from the Bay.

May to October is the period for hilsa catching while there is ban on netting the popular fish from November 1 to April 30, said fisheries officials.

Over 500 fishing trawlers from coastal districts Patuakhali and Barguna sailed for deep sea to catch hilsa after the end of the ban period to hilsa catching on May 1. But this season saw very poor catches till mid-July.

The situation, however, saw a change in the second half of this month when fishermen started getting plenty of hilsa fish.

During the last ten days, over 400 tonnes of hilas came from the Bay in an average daily, said fishing trawler owners and fish traders in Mohipur and Pathorghata.

But the amount of catches for two and a half months since beginning of the season was only 20-50 tonnes daily, they added.



Huge quantity of hilsa arrives at Mohipur wholesale market in Patuakhali district yesterday as fisher-

men have started getting large catches of the popular fish in the Bay. Hilsa worth Tk 2.30 lakh happy as plenty of hilsa is netting for a week," said

and Tk 2.80 lakh were sold from fishing trawlers FB Sobhan and FB Mizan on Saturday, said Fazlu Gazi, president of Fish Traders Association in Mohipur.

and labourers are passing very busy time as plenty of hilsa is being netted. Eight to 10 trawlers loaded with hilsa from the Bay are coming to Pathorghata daily since July 16. We are very

Golam Mostafa, president of Barguna fishing trawler owners association.

decreasing in the local mar-"Wholesalers, fishermen kets as plenty of hilsa is being netted. Its price in wholesale markets in Patuakhali now range between Tk 350 to 400 perkg depending on size.

When visited local fish market on Sunday, this corre-

spondent saw one maund (40 kgs) hilsa fish that over 1 kg weight per hilsa sold at Tk 11,000 to 12,000 per maund.

16,000. Less than one kg hilsa

But one month ago, those Price of hilsa is also fish sold at Tk 15,000 to Tk

sold at Tk 10,000 to 11,500 while Tk 11,500 to 12,000 sold per maund last month. Now per kg hilsa is selling at Tk 350 to 400 in the local market but in last month that price was Tk 450 to 600.

The most risky turnings on

this bypass are at Bokpara,

Dhalagachh intersection, and

Sarkarpara and near Asmatiya

sengers were injured as a

night coach turned turtle

at Dhalagachh intersec-

tion. Several of them were

taken to Rangpur Medical

College Hospital with

On May 22 last, 40 pas-

madrasa and Wapda office.

Risky road turnings in Saidpur

10 km of Dinajpur-Dhaka Highway sees frequent accidents

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Over 100 people were killed and many more injured in around 200 accidents since opening of Saidpur town bypass on Dinajpur-Dhaka highway 18 years ago as turnings at short distances make the 10-kilometre road risky.

lated Saidpur railway town in Department (RHD) con- drivers often fail to watch Nilphamari district saw seri- structed the wide bypass. It vehicles coming from the ous traffic jam as the vehicles starts from Saidpur bus termi- opposite direction at as many on Dinajpur-Dhaka highway nal point of Dinajpur-Dhaka as 11 turnings on the road, said passed through it and railway highway at the eastern part of drivers and locals.

carriages frequently came to Saidpur Railway Workshop for repair work or overhauling.

ber of schools and colleges in the northern region.

To rid the town dwellers and commuters from the speed of their vehicles on the nuisance of regular traffic jam, wide busy road but it sees In the past, densely popu- Roads and Highways frequent accidents as the

the town, takes a U-turn in the midway and leads to the same highway at Rabeya Flour Mill There are also a good num-point in the west of the town.

Everyday thousands of Saidpur town. It is also a well- vehicles to and from Dinajpur, known wholesale market in Panchagarh, Nilphamari and Dhaka ply this road.

Drivers tend to increase the

serious injuries. A companion of renowned freedom fighter and journalist Shahriar Kabir, also central convenor of Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee, was killed as their vehicle faced a serious accident at Bokpara turning when they were going to Thakurgaon to attend a meet-

criminals in 2005. RHD sources said the road is a curved one but there is no engineering defect in its construction.

ing demanding trial of war

"The traffic department does not have sufficient manpower to deploy at the risky points of the bypass. Still we are sincere to control traffic movement to avoid accidents," said Shamsul Haque, the traffic inspector of Saidpur.

"Sufficient signals have been set up on this road to make people aware about the position of the road. Reckless driving by inconsiderate bus and truck drivers is also responsible for frequent accidents on this road," Nilphamari RHD Executive Engineer Mahbubul Alam Khan said.

Trial of 24 'mutineers' on

Charges against BDR men read out in Lalmonirhat

A CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Trial of 24 mutineers of 31 Rifles Battalion under Rangpur sector began at special court- 2 of Bangladesh Rifles at the battalion headquarters in Lalmonirhat yesterday.

The plaintiff, Subedar Major Habibur Rahman read out the charges against 24 jawans while prosecutor Lt Col Aslam Hossain, also the commanding officer of 31 Rifles Battalion, placed his submission before the threemember court headed by BDR Director General Maj Gen Rafiqul Islam.

Two other members of the court are Lt Col Mahfuzur Rahaman and Major Didar Al Latif. Deputy Attorney General Goutom Kumar Roy was present in the court as a representative of the Attorney General's present as public prosecu-Two others lawyers--

Rahman and advocate from armoury at 31 Rifles



A special court at the battalion headquarters of Bangladesh Rifles at Lalmonirhat where trial of 24 mutineers of Lalmonirhat 31 Rifles Battalion under Rangpur Sector started yesterday.

Belayet Hossain--were Battalion headquarters at the rest nine arrested at the

The BDR men have been advocate Gazi Zillur accused of looting arms

firing blank shots.

were arrested earlier while 8:30am today.

Lalmonirhat, ransacking battalion headquarters rooms and creating panic by yesterday as per court order.

The court adjourned the Of the 24 accused, 15 trial proceedings until

One to die, 2 jailed for killing trader

A CORRESPONDENT, Natore

A court here yesterday sentenced a man to death and two others to 36 years' imprisonment for killing a businessman in 2001.

Sessions Judge Dilip Kumar Debnath yesterday handed down the verdict.

death penalty is Shailesh Kumar Kalu, 38, son of Dr Sudhir Kumar Roy; of Dighalkandi village under bodyon October 1. Sonatala upazila of Bogra.

are Mahbubur Rahman Natore Sadar police station Ronik, 35, and Shahidul in this connection on the Islam, 32. They will have to same day.

serve one and half years more imprisonment in case of failure to pay Tk 15,000 fine.

Another accused, Uzzal Hossain, was acquitted of the charges. According to prosecution,

Additional District and business partners killed Jumaul Rabbani Talukder alias Shadhin in Tebaria area of Natore town and dumped his The convict awarded body in a paddy field at a place at North Borogachha on September 23, 2001.

Later, police recovered the

Victim's uncle Abdus Those jailed for 36 years Salam lodged a case with

man murdered in Natore

Another Jubo League

A CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Another Jubo League man was murdered here yesterday.

Police recovered his body from a sugarcane field in Chhatna area of Sadar upazila at about 3:00 in the morning. The deceased was identi-

fied as Alamgir Hossain, 33, son of Afsar Ali of Shibpur village of the upazila. He was an activist of local Jubo League.

Police quoting family sources said Alamgir was called out by some unknown people at about 12:30am. Later, they took him to the sugarcane field and stabbed him to death.

Hearing the screams, locals rushed to the place and found his boy lying in a pool of blood. On information, police recovered the body and sent it to hospital morgue for autopsy.

The reason behind the murder could not be known immediately.

"We are trying find out the culprits," said Natore police station OC Abdullah Al Mamun.

Two days ago criminals killed Jubo League leader Atiqur Rahman Bidyut of Singra upazila headquarters.

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PHOTO: STAR Ten turnings on the 10-kilometre Saidpur town bypass of Dhaka-Dinajpur highway, like this one at Sarkarpara, make the road accident-prone as vehicles coming from the opposite direction often escape drivers' eyes.