

Hilsa catching continues defying ban

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Random hilsa catching has continued in different rivers in the coastal areas, defying a government ban on its catching during the peak breeding period from October 15 to 24.

To help mother hilsas to lay eggs in a disturb-free environment, the fisheries department earlier issued an order, asking fishermen not to catch hilsa fish during the 10 days.

On the first day of the ban period on Friday, fisheries officials with the help of police seized 12 maunds of

netted jatka (young hilsa) on a road in Patuakhali district.

Several locals, however, termed the action as 'merely eyewash'.

Visiting Buragourango River adjacent to Galachipa upazila town yesterday noon, this correspondent saw over 20 fishing trawlers engaged in hilsa catching.

"I heard about the ban on hilsa catching but I have no alternative as I have to maintain a six-member family," Chan Mia, a fisherman of Char Chandrail village under Galachipa upazila, said.

"From the beginning of hilsa season this year, we got poor amounts of the fish. We

started getting good catches in the rivers only recently and now the government has imposed a ban on hilsa catching. We have no alternative as we had to borrow from mohajans or receive loan from local NGOs for survival," said Alauddin, another fisherman.

"We don't want to lose the peak season of hilsa. We are landless people. If do not catch hilsa how will we live?" said Abul Hossain Pada of Amkhola village.

When contacted, District Fisheries Officer Iqbal Hossain said, "Hilsa catching is prohibited in all rivers in the district as it is the peak

breeding period for hilsa. We have organised meetings and boat rallies to motivate fishermen to obey the government order."

"With the help of police, coast guard and navy, we have arranged patrol in different places in spite of manpower shortage. We seized 12 maunds of hilsa at Tolgate on Patuakhali-Barisal route on Friday," he said.

Higher authorities have taken a rehabilitation programme, to be started by December this year, to arrange alternative income generating activities for the fishermen, he added.



PHOTO: STAR

Fishermen load onto their boat hilsa netted from Buragourango River in Galachipa upazila of Patuakhali district yesterday although the authorities put a ban on catching the popular fish during the peak breeding period from October 15 to 24.

4 held with explosives in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Law enforcers arrested four people and recovered explosives from their possession at zeromile check post under Sadar upazila of Khagrachhari district yesterday.

The arrestees are Sukhidan Chakma 19, son of Mongal Bikash Chakma, Barun Bikash

Chakma, 22, son of Indu Bikash Chakma, Tapon Bikash Chakma and Kolin Chakma, 25, son of Laxmi Ranjan Chakma of Babuchhara area under Dighinala upazila of the district.

Officer-in-charge of Sadar Police Station Mohammad Abul Kalam Azad told this correspondent that the joint

forces, acting on a tip-off, arrested the four from a Chittagong-bound passenger bus and recovered 150 grams of explosive from their bags at noon.

They were taken to Sadar Police Station. Filing of a case against the four under the Explosive Substances Act was under process as of filing of this report at 5:00pm yesterday.

Student drowns in Bay

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A university student from Sylhet went missing while swimming in the sea near Cox's Bazar beach yesterday.

Five BBA students of Sylhet Leading University -- Rifat, 22, Tofayel Ali, 22, Rumel Ahamed, 20, Saker Uddin, 22, and Polash, 21, were washed away by receding tides at Surfing Point at about 11:30am, police said.

The sea was rough due to the recent deep depression.

After searching for half an hour, divers of Yasir Life Guard Station rescued four of them in an unconscious state while Rifat, son of late Abu Ashraf, could not be traced as of 5:00pm.

Director of Yasir Life Guard Station Mostafa Kamal said, divers failed to trace out Rifat even after searching four kilometres area.

Tofayel Ali, one of the rescued youths, said they came to Cox's Bazar from Sylhet on Friday for a pleasure trip.

137 more food godowns to be built in N dists

BSS, Rangpur

The government is constructing 300 new food godowns at a cost of Tk 400 crore in the country to ensure food security.

Of the godowns, 137 are being constructed in 16 northern districts, sources in the office of the Directorate General of Food said here yesterday.

They said the government is giving priority to building more godowns in the northern region to cope with food production.

Food official M Sirajul Islam told the news agency that 640 food godowns out of 731 are being used to keep about 4,09750 tonnes of food.

It will be possible to store 1,10,000 tonnes more food after construction of 137 godowns in the northern districts, he added.



PHOTO: STAR

Baliakhora High School in Ghior upazila of Manikganj district faces threat of extinction by the Dhaleswari River.

Dhaleswari engulfs part of school in Manikganj

ZAHANGIR SHAH, Manikganj

Baliakhora Union High School at Pencharkanda village under Ghior upazila in Manikganj district is now under threat of erosion by Dhaleswari River.

The teachers, students, guardians and locals have urged the authorities concerned to take necessary steps to save the 40-year-old school from erosion.

Northern side of the school has already gone into the river.

The school authorities made a bamboo fence to save a six-room building but it is threatened by river waves.

During this correspondent's recent visit to the

erosion-hit school at Pencharkanda village, the students, guardians, teachers and local people expressed concern about the very existence of the school in the face of erosion.

"This is the only high school within five-kilometre area. It would be tough to continue my study if the school building is eroded," said Subarna Rahman, a student of Class-IX.

A few other students echoed the same.

The acting headmaster of the school, Md Abdur Rahman said, "Around 700 boys and girls read at the school which was established in 1969. Our school did the best SSC result in Ghior upazila this year. But

it is now under threat of erosion. We made a bamboo fence but it is also being damaged by the current of Dhaleswari River."

"We wrote to the authorities concerned including local MP, director general of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board, Dhaka, U N O and Water Development Board to take necessary steps to save the school," he added.

School managing committee Chairman Habibur Rahman, also the vice chairman of Ghior Upazila Parishad, said, "The Water Development Board can easily take a project to save the school."


A newly built Tk 3 crore

bridge, Pencharkanda Non-Government Primary School and Pencharkanda Bazar are also under threat of erosion by the river, he said.

When contacted, Ghior Upazila Nirbahi Officer Raja Mohammad Abdul Hye said he visited the area and is trying to take steps for building a permanent embankment to save the school.

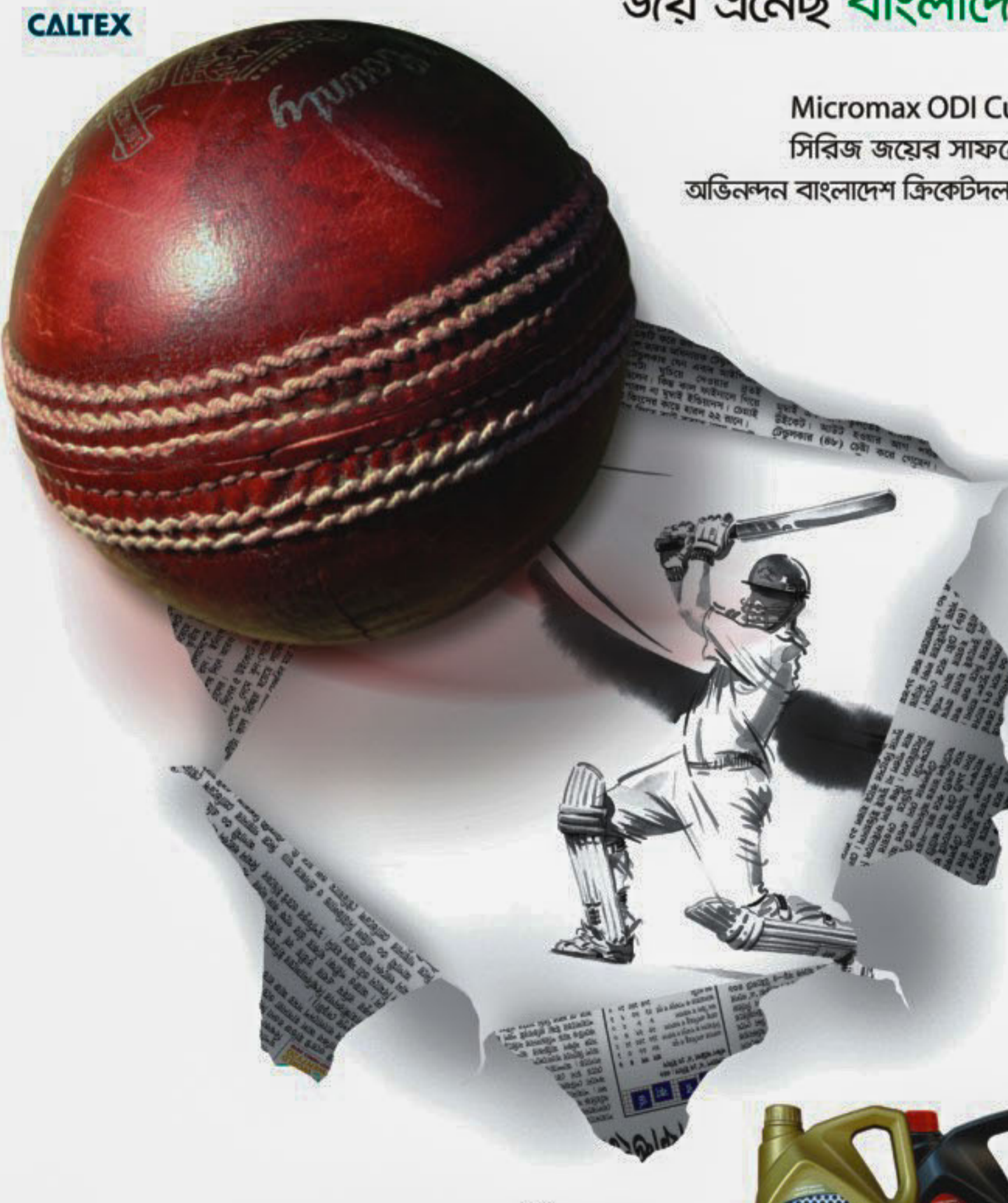
Manikganj Deputy Commissioner Munshi Sahabuddin Ahmed said he will take necessary steps after discussion with the UNO.

Local lawmaker Anwarul Haque said it will take time to build a permanent dyke or embankment.




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বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সবাই মিলে দিব কর দেশ হবে স্বনির্ভর

মূল্য সংযোজন কর (ভ্যাট) পরিশোধকারী ব্যবসায়ীগণ লক্ষ্য করুনঃ

মুসক পরিশোধকারী ব্যবসায়ীগণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, নিম্নবর্ণিত তিনটি পদ্ধতিতে ব্যবসায়ী পর্যায়ে মুসক পরিশোধের বিধান রয়েছেঃ

- (১) প্রকৃত মূল্য সংযোজনের ভিত্তিতে ব্যবসায়ী কর্তৃক মুসক প্রদানঃ
 - এই পদ্ধতিতে আমাদানিকৃত বা ক্রয়কৃত পণ্যের ওপর প্রকৃত পরিমাণ মূল্য সংযোজনের ভিত্তিতে বিভাগীয় কর্মকর্তার নিকট থেকে মূল্য অনুমোদন নিতে হবে।
 - পণ্য বিক্রয়ের সময় সর্বমোট মূল্যের ওপর ১৫% হারে মুসক পরিশোধ করতে হবে।
 - উক্ত পণ্য আমদানি বা ক্রয়ের সময় পরিশোধিত মুসক রেয়াত নেয়া যাবে।
 - এই পদ্ধতির ব্যবসায়ীকে ক্রয় হিসাব "মুসক-১৬" চালানপত্র "মুসক-১১"/ "মুসক-১১ক", বিক্রয় হিসাব "মুসক-১৭", চলতি হিসাব "মুসক-১৮" এবং দাখিলপত্র "মুসক-১৯" সহ সংশ্লিষ্ট অন্যান্য দলিল সংরক্ষণ করতে হবে।
- (২) ১৩.৩৩% মূল্য সংযোজনের ভিত্তিতে ২% মুসক প্রদানঃ
 - এই পদ্ধতির ব্যবসায়ীকে ৩১ জুলাই তারিখের মধ্যে প্রতি অর্থ বছরের জন্য বিভাগীয় কর্মকর্তার নিকট নির্দিষ্ট ফরমে ঘোষণা দাখিল করতে হবে।
 - আমাদানিকৃত বা ক্রয়কৃত পণ্যের ওপর ১৩.৩৩% মূল্য সংযোজন করে সর্বমোট মূল্যের ওপর ২% হারে মুসক প্রদান করতে হবে।
 - কোন মাসের প্রদেয় মুসক পরবর্তী মাসের ১৫ তারিখের মধ্যে ট্রেজারী চালানের মাধ্যমে জমা প্রদান করে উহা দাখিলপত্রের সাথে মুসক সার্কেল অফিসে দাখিল করতে হবে।
 - এ ধরনের ব্যবসায়ী রেয়াত নিতে পারবেন না।
 - এই পদ্ধতিতে ব্যবসায়ীকে প্রতিটি ক্রয়, বিক্রয়, সরবরাহের হিসাব, নিজস্ব বাণিজ্যিক দলিলাদি, চালানপত্র, চলতি হিসাব "মুসক-১৮" এবং দাখিলপত্র "মুসক-১৯" সংরক্ষণ করতে হবে।
- (৩) ক্ষুদ্র খুচরা ব্যবসায়ী বা দোকানদারের ক্ষেত্রে মুসক প্রদানঃ

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 - জেলা শহরের পৌর এলাকা: বার্ষিক ৩,৬০০/- টাকা।
 - দেশের অন্যান্য এলাকা: বার্ষিক ১,৮০০/- টাকা।
 - এই পরিমাণ মুসক বার্ষিক এককালীন বা মাসিক কিস্তিতে পরিশোধ করা যাবে।
 - এ ধরনের ব্যবসায়ীগণ কর্তৃক পণ্য ক্রয়ের দলিলাদিসহ কাশ্যমোমে ও বিক্রয় পুস্তক সংরক্ষণ করতে হবে।

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