

# Favourite fish now becoming a matter of fear in Rangpur

MEHEDY HASAN, Rangpur

Fish is no longer a favourite item for many families in Rangpur district, as sale of formalin-treated fish has become an out of control practice in the local markets, endangering public health. Not a single fly is seen near the fresh looking fishes, as they are treated with deadly chemical formalin but there is no monitoring system at Rangpur Municipal Market and other places to check the matter, said several consumers.

"I used to take fish everyday, but now fish is not a favourite item for my family members, even the kids. It is now well-known that most of the fresh looking fishes are treated with formalin," said Mamun-ur-Rashid, lecturer of Rangpur Government College.

"There is no acceptable limit for formalin as it is a poison. If applied in fishes, its consumption will cause slow reaction in the human body, eventually damaging kidney, lung and other organs. It can also cause cancer," said Dr Rezaul Karim, civil surgeon of Rangpur district.

"Children and elderly people are more affected by formalin-treated fish. High doses of it may even cause death," he added.

Mahbubur Rahman, sanitary inspector of Rangpur district, said, "I heard the matter. But we

have no equipment to test the formalin-treated fishes. We will conduct a drive soon."

Authorities are trying to set up permanent enforcement units in all fish markets of Rangpur town to take action against those who indulge in such illegal activities, he added.

Rangpur Deputy Commissioner BM Enamul Haque said, "I have received allegations of the sale of formalin-treated fish. But

we cannot conduct drives to take action in this regard for want of equipment to test it. We have asked the higher authorities to supply formalin testing kits as soon as possible."

Asked about the use of formalin in fishes, Muslim Uddin, president of fish wholesalers association at Rangpur Municipal Market, said, "None of us are involved with such a nasty work. If anyone is found guilty, he must be sus-

ended from our association. But we have no right to punish the formalin-treated fish sellers without proper investigation."

Talking to this correspondent, a number of fish dealers preferring anonymity admitted that formalin is used in both local and hybrid varieties of fishes.

As it takes one or two days to bring fish from different places, traders use formalin for preservation of the perishable item, they said.



Fresh looking fishes at a market in Rangpur. However, they are no longer favorite for many people in the town for fear of toxic formalin.

## Follow-up

### BSF returns body of three Bangladeshis

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) yesterday returned the bodies of two Bangladeshi cattle traders and a farmer who were killed by them the day before in Dinajpur and Meherpur borders.

In Dinajpur, two cattle traders were shot dead by BSF early Saturday on Daudpur border in Birampur upazila, reports our correspondent.

The BGB officials of Phulbari 40 Battalion said, BSF handed over the bodies to them at around 6.45pm yesterday at Lichee Gobindrapur border point of the upazila following a flag meeting between the two border forces.

Earlier, on Saturday evening, a meeting was also held at same place where Bangladesh Border Guard (BGB) protested of unprovoked firing by the BSF.

Sub inspector Belal of Birampur police station received the bodies of Motiar Rahman, 20, Tajul Islam, 26, and later handed those over to their family members in presence of UP chairman Md Shamsul Alam, OC ATM Aminul Islam said.

Our Kushtia correspondent adds: BSF yesterday returned the body of a Bangladeshi farmer in Meherpur.

The farmer was killed by the Indian border force along the Tetulbaria border point in Gangni upazila of the district.

BGB received the body of Naharul Islam, 40, son of Bisharat Ali of Shewratala village around 3:00pm.

Lt Col Hamidunnabi, battalion commander of BGB-32 rifle under Mirpur Sector in Kushtia quoting the autopsy report said, Naharul was strangled.

BSF at Bazrapur camp in Nadia district, however, claimed that they found Naharul's body on the no-man's land.

Gangni police said Naharul was accused in two cases one for firearms and another for abduction.

### Trader's body recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

Police recovered the body of a trader from a hotel room of Jessore district town yesterday morning.

The deceased, Anwar Hossain Babu, 40, son of Sultan Ahmed of Rajshahi, was a battery trader.

Ashraf Hossain, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Model police station, said Anwar came to Jessore for business purpose and booked a room at Hotel Prince on Thursday.

Hotel staffs found Sultan dead in the room and informed the police. Later, the law enforcers recovered the body from the spot and sent it to hospital morgue for autopsy.

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE FAIR AT SCHOOLS

# A different day for five schools in 4 districts

STAR NATIONAL DESK

English language fairs held under English in Schools (EIS) programme, a joint initiative of The Daily Star and mobile operator Robi, saw lively participation of young learners in five high schools of Mymensingh, Bogra, Barisal and Bandarban districts yesterday.

Students of Gafargaon Islamia Government High School and Khairullah Government Girls High School in Gafargaon upazila eagerly took part in different competitions at the English language fair held at the hall room of Islamia Government High School, reports our Mymensingh correspondent.

After watching Lion King, a globally renowned movie, the students spontaneously responded to questions in English.

Later they participated in other events including situation-based question-answer session, extempore speech, role play and vocabulary practice.

The learning techniques shown in the language fair are helpful for both the students and teachers as picking up a language is enjoyable and more effective than learning a language through arduous efforts, speakers said at a discussion.

The three-year EIS programme, initiated two years ago to promote English learning in secondary schools, covers seven lakh students in one thousand schools, including 317 government and 683 non-government ones, across the country.

Under the initiative, three complimentary copies of The Daily Star, with a special page on English lessons prepared



Two students of Santahar Government Harvey Girls' High School in Bogra take part in quiz contest during the English language fair there yesterday.

by the Centre for Languages of Brac University and coordinated by the Ministry of Education, are given to each of one thousand schools five days a week.



Our Staff correspondent reports from Bogra: Around 120 students along with teachers of Santahar Government Harvey Girls school in Adamdighi upazila in Bogra had an enjoyable day as they joined an English language fair held at the school auditorium yesterday. Family members of the students and teachers also attended the fair.

Following screening of Lion King, the students participated in spot quiz, vocabulary test, one-word question and quick questions -- all based on the movie. Several girls

took part in extempore speech on different topics and role play.

Later prizes were distributed among the winners of different events.

Our Barisal correspondent adds: Over 150 students and teachers participated in the English language fair held at AK Institution in Swarupkathi upazila of Pirojpur district yesterday.

A movie was screened at the fair and students took part in spot quiz on vocabulary, moral lesson, one-word question, extempore speech, role play, writing and competition on describing pictures.

They also entertained the audience by reciting poems, telling jokes and singing songs.

After the events prizes were awarded to the winning students and they formed an English language club.

English language fair was also held in Bandarban Government Girls High School in Bandarban town.

Adcomm Ltd is working as the creative and event partner of the English language fairs.

# Violence in dists following mayhem in capital

STAR NATIONAL DESK

A man was killed in Sylhet and several others were injured when opposition activists clashed with police in different districts apparently in reaction to violence centring a freedom fighters' reception organised by BNP in the capital yesterday.

Agitators also vandalised 23 vehicles and torched a few others as clashes erupted in Sylhet, Sirajganj, Barisal, Faridpur and Munshiganj districts, report our district correspondents.

Activists of BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami fought pitched battles with police at different places in the city and police detained more than 250 opposition activists. A man was killed and another injured as a hand-made bomb went off at Motijheel in the morning.

## SYLHET

An unidentified man was burnt alive as some unruly young men torched a passenger bus at Chandipur suburban South Surma upazila Sunday morning.

Ten others were injured in the incident.

"Some young men riding about 10 motorcycles

stopped the bus in Bodikona area. They threw stones and then set the vehicle afire," said injured Aifur Ali, 35, of Moulvibazar.

The protesters blocked the road for about an hour till 12:15pm.

At least 15 buses and pickups were also vandalised at Subhanighat, said Rezaul Karim, deputy commissioner of Sylhet Metropolitan Police.

Around 11:15am, a private car was set ablaze at Kumarpura point in the city. None was reported injured.

Police contingents have been deployed in those areas, the deputy commissioner said.

Sources in a law enforcement agency, requesting anonymity, said 20 to 30 activists of Jatiyatabadi Swechhasebak Dal and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal were involved with the incidents that followed the violence in the capital.

## MUNSHIGANJ

BNP leaders and activists yesterday formed a four-kilometre-long human chain on Dhaka-Mawa highway in Sirajdikhan upazila of the district, defying

police resistance.

The BNP men from Sirajdikhan and Srinagar upazilas started gathering beside the highway from around 6:00am to join the freedom fighters' reception organised by the party at Engineers Institute in the capital.

Police dispersed them at different points including Hansara School gate, KC intersection, Nimtali and Kuchiyamore.

Later, Sheikh Abdullah, the secretary general of Sirajdikhan upazila unit of BNP, reorganised the activists and formed the human chain.

BNP men also held a demonstration and protest rally at Mawa intersection in the afternoon protesting police action on their fellow party men.

## SIRAJGANJ

The supporters of BNP and its front organisations torched a bus 'protesting' police action on the party activists and foiling a reception for freedom fighters in the capital.

Law enforcers picked up two BNP activists including a union parishad chairman

from the spot on charge of setting fire to the bus.

A Dhaka-bound bus of Shyamoli Paribahan from Joypurhat was torched at Jhaul on the approach road on the western side of Bangabandhu Bridge, police said.

The demonstrators also vandalised a couple of vehicles in the area.

## BARISAL

After a rally around 12:30pm protesting police action on their party men in the capital, BNP and its front organisation activists marched and damaged three auto-rickshaws in Agorpur Road, Fazlul Huq Avenue and Bogura Road areas.

## FARIDPUR

Jubo Dal and Chhatra Dal activists broke glasses of a truck and a microbus and damaged three auto-rickshaws on Mujib Sarak at around 11:00am.

They became excited after hearing through cell phone that bullets were sprayed at a BNP rally in Dhaka, said Benzir Ahmed Tabriz, president of Faridpur district JCD.



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