



PHOTO: STAR

Two workers of eel cultivator ABM Shamsul Alam Badal set up enclosures in a pond to breed the fish, locally known as *kuichya*, at Bailor in Trishal upazila of Mymensingh.

Eel has excellent export potential like shrimps

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Eel, a thin snake-like, fish locally known as *kuichya*, has an excellent export potential like the shrimps, fishery officials said.

The weather, soil and water quality of Bangladesh is very much favourable for eel cultivation. There is a huge demand of the fish throughout China, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Japan, Indonesia and Korea, they said.

Inspired by some Chinese experts, ABM Shamsul Alam Badal, who had his Masters degree from Rajshahi University, started cultivating eels at a pond of Agro-3 Fish Hatchery and Culture at Bailor in Trishal of Mymensingh.

Badal has been in hatchery business for over 15 years. When a team of scientists from China visited his farm in February in 2011 and told him about the potentiality of eel fish, he made up his mind to put the idea into action.

Later Badal imported around 100 kgs of eel fries from a Chinese farm for Tk 5 lakh and put them in a tank. He also invited a three-member Chinese team to his farm, who trained Badal for three days.

Badal was also invited by China experts to join a 15-day workshop on eel fish cultivation in July 2011.

"On my return home, I became successful in breeding eel fries and it

was for the first time in the country that someone started eel breeding on commercial basis," Badal said.

Around 12 tonnes of fish worth Tk 48 lakh can be produced in a pond stretching over an acre of land, said Badal.

"I could successfully produce eels weighing around 250 grams each in my pond," Badal said. "Scientists from Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute (BFRI) in Mymensingh collected 40 fries of eel from my pond for further research," he added.

In the international market, one kg eel fish is

sold at Tk 500. The ingredients needed to make the feed for eel is also widely available here, Badal said.

A number of posh hotels in Dhaka import eels for their customers. There is also a ready market for the fish at Uttara in Dhaka. For export, a consignment between 20 and 25 tonnes of fish is required, sources said.

Dr. Durin Akhtar, senior scientific officer and principal investigator (endangered species project) at Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute (BFRI), said they started comparative studies on China variety of eel fish.

"Agro-3 does natural breeding but we are trying to go for artificial breeding of local eel fish first," said Dr. Durin adding, "we were not successful as we could not collect eggs of country eel," he added.

"Once eel was available in the open water bodies of the country but now it is almost extinct," Durin said.

Dr. Harunur Rashid, a professor of fisheries at Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), said Badal's initiative was first of its kind in Bangladesh.

"Eel has a good prospect for both production and export," he said.



PHOTO: STAR

The snake-like eel that has export potential like shrimps is now being sold in many places of the country, including capital Dhaka.

Shopkeeper strangled

UNB, Gaibandha

A shopkeeper was murdered by criminals at Sonaidanga village in Sadar upazila of the district on Tuesday.

The deceased was identified as Rezwan of the area. Officer-in-charge (OC) of Gaibandha Sadar police station Mashiur Rahman said, Rezwan was going to the house of his father-in-law at Sonaidanga after finishing his day's work at Tulshihat at night.

When he reached near Sonaidanga Beel, a gang strangled Rezwan with the help of a piece of cloth, the OC said.

On information, police recovered the body yesterday morning and sent it hospital morgue for autopsy. Victim's wife Rejeka Begum said there had been a long-standing family feud between Rezwan and his brother. He might have been killed as a sequel to the feud, she said.

SHOOTOUT WITH RAB TEAM

Two notorious leaders of forest robbers killed

UNB, Bagerhat

Two alleged forest robbers, including a ringleader, were killed in a shootout with members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in Shelarchar area (east circle of Sundarbans) in Sharankhola upazila of the district yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Shahidul Sheikh alias 'Nut' Shahidul, 40, ringleader of 'Shahidul Bahini', and Mujibar, 39, second-in-command of 'Bakibillah Bahini'.

Rab-8 commander Lt Col M Faridul Islam said that acting on a tip-off, a Rab team conducted drive in Kalam Miah Bharani Khal area of Sharankhola upazila at about 9:15 am yesterday. Sensing the presence Rab, he said that the robbers

started firing on the elite force which also returned the fire, leading to a fierce a gunfight.

After nearly one-hour gunfight, the robbers fled away into the deep forest, the Rab-8 commander said.

He added that the Rab members later recovered the bullet-hit bodies of Shahidul and Mujibar and some abandoned arms and ammunition from the spot.

The recovered arms and ammunitions included six SBBL guns, five shooter guns, two air guns, one pistol and 30 bullets. The bodies and seized ammunition were handed over to Sharankhola police station. Local sources said that the two gangs -- Shahidul Bahini

and Bakibillah Bahini -- were long been involved in robbing fishermen and honey collectors, apart from kidnapping people for ransom.

In Manikganj, locals held an alleged robber from Mitora bus-stand in Sadar upazila early yesterday. Later they handed him over to police.

The alleged robber was identified as Shamim Hossain, 26, of Bhanga upazila of Faridpur district, police said.

A gang of robbers, numbering 12/14 entered the house of Afsar Hossain of Gokulnagar village in Manikganj Sadar upazila at around 1:00 am. At gunpoint, the gang tied hands, legs and mouths of the people in the house and looted cash Tk.6,000 and mobile sets.

THEFT OF MADHYAPARA DETONATOR CORDS

2 security officials punished for 'negligence of duty'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Authorities of Madhyapara Granite Mining Company Ltd (MGMCL) temporality suspended two security officials yesterday for 'negligence of duty', the day after stealing of eight detonator cords from the explosives storehouse of MGMCL.

They are Probir Talukdar, deputy manager (Security), and Md Monwar Hossain, assistant manager (Security), of the company at Madhyapara village in Parbatipur upazila of Dinajpur.

"The probe committee has found negligence of the two officials in connection with the stealing incident,"

Follow-up

said Mohammad Moinuddin, managing director of MGMCL, a company of state run organisation Petrobangla.

The three-member probe team, formed after a few locks of the warehouse were found broken on Tuesday morning, submitted their report yesterday, saying that eight detonator cords went missing from there.

The team will file another report today on how the stealing incident took place and whether any other official of MGMCL are involved, said Mir Md Abdul Hannan, head of the probe team.

The gates of barbed wire

fence and the mud wall surrounding the storehouse, located around two kilometres from the administrative building of MGMCL, remained sealed off when the locks of two of four houses of the storehouse were found broken on Tuesday, officials said.

There are two sub police stations and an army camp for the security of Barapukuria 250MW Power Plant, Barapukuria Coal Mining Company Ltd and MGMCL belonging to a first class Key Point Area, sources said.

But the army camp set up at the compound of

Barapukuria Power Plant is around 15 km away from MGMCL.

On several occasions, the MGMCL officials urged the home ministry to set up an army camp at the complex but to no effect yet.

"On February 15 last year, I wrote a letter for setting up an army camp in this area but we are yet to get any positive response," said AM Mostafa Ferdowsee, DGM (Administration) of MGMCL.

Meanwhile, the authorities have decided to construct a boundary wall for safety of the explosives storehouse, said the MGMCL managing director.

BSF picks up two, injures another

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Border Security Force (BSF) of picked up two Bangladeshi cattle traders from a Joypurhat border India on Tuesday night and injured another on a Thakurgaon border yesterday.

The BSF abducted Mizanur Rahman, 18, son of Md. Abdul Kuddus and Nazmul Hossain, 20, son of Md Mozammel Hossain of Ramkrishnapur village under Joypurhat Sadar upazila, reports our Dinajpur correspondent.

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) officials of Joypurhat-3 Battalion said that the BSF picked up the two youths from Phutiapara border on Tuesday night. They said that BSF handed them over to Indian police when the two entered into Indian territory to bring cattle.

Lt Colonel Sabir Ali, commanding officer of Joypurhat-3 Battalion, said they asked the BSF for holding a flag meeting on the issue yesterday morning, but the BSF was yet to reply.

According to our Thakurgaon correspondent, BSF injured a Bangladeshi cattle trader near Beurjhari border under Baliadangi upazila of the district yesterday.

He was identified as Altafur Rahman, 27, of Palpara village under the same upazila.

BGB and locals said, BSF members at Sonamoti Camp chased a group of cattle traders by entering into Bangladesh territory and beat up Altafur when they were returning from India around 6:00am.

The BSF men left the place when a group of villagers came to they rescue of Altafur.

Man killed as boiler explodes

UNB, Comilla

A worker at Comilla EPZ was killed and two others were injured when a boiler exploded at a factory in the EPZ yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Moniruzzaman, 38, fireman of Comilla EPZ and hailed from Bakoi village in Laksham upazila.

Abdus Sobhan, general manager of Comilla EPZ, said a water boiler of a factory of Nasa Group in the EPZ exploded all of a sudden at noon, leaving three people seriously injured.

Of the injured, fireman Moniruzzaman, factory engineer Kabir Hossain and Faruk Mia were rushed to Comilla Medical College Hospital where Moniruzzaman succumbed to his injuries.



PHOTO: STAR

Younger sister of Shahjahan Molla, one of the 18 Bangladeshi workers killed in Monday's terrible road accident in Adu Dhabi of the United Arab Emirates, waits at their residence at Bagarkandi village in Boalmari upazila under Faridpur district yesterday.

RAPE OF COLLEGE GIRL IN LALMONIRHAT

Protesters demand capital punishment to culprits

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Teachers and students of different institutions in the district continued their agitation in the district yesterday, demanding capital punishment to the criminals responsible for rape of a college girl on Saturday and death of her mother on Monday.

People from all walks of life, including NGO workers, local elites and lawyers, took part in the two-hour long human chain in the town to realise the demand.

On Tuesday, the protesters staged a demonstration at the village of the victim. Lalmonirhat district

council will pay Tk 2,000 per month for educating the girl and her brother. It was announced by Administrator Motiur Rahman, who also took part in yesterday human chain.

The girl, an HSC first year student at a local college, was raped at a house of Durakuti village in Sadar upazila on Saturday. Police later arrested the alleged rapist, Abdus Sattar, 38, a truck driver, and his alleged abettor Nazma Begum, 28, and her husband Shah Ali, all residents of the village.

The victim's mother died of a heart attack at her home on Monday noon as she

woman, already afflicted with the brutality on her daughter, received continued threat by rapist's relatives, said Amirul Hayat Mukul, principal of the college, at the human chain yesterday.

General Secretary of district lawyer association Sofura Begum Rumi said that they would give all legal support to the victims' family until the criminals were brought to book.

Jamir Uddin, officer in-charge at Sadar police station, said that police were raiding different areas to arrest the criminals whose threat led to the alleged death of the raped girl's mother.



PHOTO: STAR

Teachers, students, NGO workers and local elite join a human chain in Lalmonirhat town yesterday demanding capital punishment to the criminals responsible for rape of a college girl at Durakuti village in Sadar upazila on Saturday and death of her mother on Monday.