Consumers at risk as dried fish processed in dirty environment

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A section of fishermen are engaged in drying fish on the sea beach and canal banks in awfully dirty environment, posing health hazard to consumers.

During the ongoing dry season, fishermen often spread large amounts of small fishes to dry on the sandy beach or canal banks, causing sand, dirty soil, and even dung to mix with the

"We are drying fish in such a way as it is costly to make platforms with wood or tree branches for the purpose. Nobody forbade us to do it," Kamrul, 14, told this correspondent during the latter's recent visit to Kawar Char area, about three km to the south of Kuakata zero point.

The boy, engaged by fishermen, was watching fishes spread on three plots to save them from being trampled by cows, goats, sheep or buffalos or other animals while fishermen went to the sea or river for fishing. Fishermen are drying

fishes in at least 20 spots in these areas including Ramnabad River site Patua, Charipara, Burajalia, Chandupara, Dhos, Chardhulasar, running dry season.



A large amount of small fishes are spread on the dirty soil at Dhulishar in Kalapara upazila under Patuakhali district for drying in the sun, exposing the consumers to serious health hazard.

"A section of fishermen are now engaged in drying fish as they are relatively free during the ban period of netting Kawsar Char, Gongamoti, jatka from November to Khajura, Khalgora, May. Locals as well as

Khajura area.

These small sized dry fishes sell for Tk 100 to Kalapara upazila health 150 per kg and poor officer, said one may have people buy it as there is food poisoning and other not adequate supply of problems by taking the fresh fish in the marker dried fish that are pro-Naioripara, Jalapur in the tourists buy it," said in the dry season, said cessed in such a dirty Shahjahan Akon of Abul Hossain of environment.

Gongamoti area.

Dr Abdur Rahim,

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Parbatya Bangalee Chhatra

Parisahd (PBCP), a student

body of Bangalee settlers,

will enforce a daylong hartal

in Rangamati, Bandarban

and Khagrachari districts,

protesting the murder of a

Bangalee girl and a brick

Rangamati

in CHT today

Hasnain Parvez, in charge of Kuakata police camp, said, "As I asked some fishermen about the matter they said these dry fish is used to make poultry feed. We will see the matter as it is related with public health."

The Bangalee settlers Mo

Imran and Md Hamid were

kidnapped by criminals

from Balaghata Bazar on

In a press release issued

by Md Sumon, publicity

secretary of PBCP, yesterday

demanded immediate

arrest and punishment of

Extortionists stab two traders in Kushtia

Protesters block road, observe hartal

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Two traders were stabbed by a gang of extortionists in Damurhuda upazila of Chuadanga district on Saturday.

Protesting the incident, the traders in the upazila observed a half-day strike yesterday.

The injured, Rabiul Haq Robi, 56, fertiliser trader, and Mosharraf Hossain Mosha, 55, raw goods seller, of the upazila, were admitted to Chuadanga Sadar Hospital. Mosha was later referred to Dhaka Medical College and

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

arrest of the attackers of one of their fellows.

the DC in favour of their demand.

Journalists formed a human chain and held a

rally in front of the deputy commissioner's office

in the town yesterday demanding immediate

They also submitted a memorandum to

The speakers at the rally said a clash took

place between two rival groups over previ-

ous enmity at Sheikhtola village in Sadar

upazila, leaving at least 15 people from both

deteriorated.

Following a case filed by Robi, police arrested three men for their alleged involvement in the attack, said Ahsan Habib, officer incharge of Damurhuda Police the attack. Station.

A gang of 10 to 12 allegedly led by AL men Abu Taleb, Kamrul Islam Kanon and Zahidul, demanded Tk 2 lakh from the two traders a few days ago.

As the duo refused to pay the money, the gang attacked at Sonali Bank Intersection in the upazila

Attack on journo protested

sides injured on Thursday.

with the attack, they said.

news of clash.

programme.

At this, Ashraful Alam, district correspon-

dent of Channel I, sustained stab injures by a

group of men when he was covering the

Station against four people in connection

of Chapainawabganj press club and its gen-

eral secretary Kamal Uddin, spoke at the

Ashraful filed a case with Sadar Police

Among others, Golam Mostofa, president

Hospital as his condition town at around 8:30pm on Saturday.

> Following the incident, local lawmaker Ali Asgor Tagor visited the area and asked police to take action against those responsible for

The protesters put up a barricade on Chuadanga-Damurhuda road yesterday morning, demanding immediate arrest of the attackers.

Later, they withdrew the barricade following an assurance by the police and upazila administration of taking step to meet the demand.

and abduction of two girl after rape and the youths in Bandarban worker. Feni Jubo Dal man

kiln worker in Khagrachhari the criminals who killed the

PBCP to enforce hartal

recently.

February 5.

shot dead by criminals at Old Muhuriganj Bazar in Chagolnaiya upazila yester-

The deceased was identified as Mizanur Rahman, 35, of Daulatpur village.

hit Mizan and his friend Nazrul with sharp weapons in the afternoon.

shot at Mizan, leaving him dead on the spot.

the upazila health complex.

Meanwhile, A worker was killed as a gas cylinder exploded at a workshop at Palerhat Bazar in Sadar upazila of Laxmipur yester-

The deceased was identified as Mohammad Raju, son of Mohammad Al Amin of Hetimpur village of the

upazila. Local sources said a gas cylinder exploded at the workshop, owned by Yusuf Mia, with a big bang at 6:00pm, leaving Raju dead on the spot.

shot dead UNB, Feni A local Jubo Dal worker was

Police said some youths

Later, the attackers fired

The injured was rushed to

son in Bogra

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A woman and her son were burned to death as a fire broke out in a house at West Shakpala near Bogra-Rajshahi road in Shajahanpur upazila early yesterday.

The Deceased were identified as Morium Begum, 35, wife of Abdur Razzak and her son Abdul Kuddus, 13, of Nandigram upazila. They lived in a rented room of the house.

The fire originated from an electric short circuit in the house of one Bablu Mia at around 12:30am and

completely destroyed five rooms, said Shohel Rana, senior station master of the fire brigade in the upazila.

On information firefighters rushed in and doused the blaze after one and a half hours hectic efforts, he said.

The deceased could not come out from the burning house as they were asleep, said Anisur Rahman, subinspector of Koigari Police Outpost.

The affected house owner Bablu claimed that the loss caused by the fire could go up to Tk 3 lakh.

THEFT AT MADHYAPARA EXPLOSIVES WAREHOUSE

None arrested but three staff quizzed for 3 days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The Detective Branch (DB) allegedly kept three officials and staff of Madhyapara Granite Mining Company Ltd (MGMCL) confined to a room of Parbatipur Model Police Station of Dinajpur for three days to interrogation in connection with the stealing of the explosives warehouse of Madhyapara Granite Mining Company

The incident sparked resentment and panic among the MGMCL officials and staff. They termed the act 'illegal'.

"Police can call any staff of MGMCL or any suspect to police station or come to the mine area for interrogation gal to interrogate the officials and staff detaining them illegally at the police station for so long time without any court order," said an official seeking not to be named.

The DB policemen of Dinajpur on Thursday called nine officials of MGMCL and let go six of them after interrogation, sources said.

But three others -- Md Monwar Hossain, deputy manager (Production) and security in charge, Belal Hossain, security in charge and Ansar platoon commander, and Latif Nasif Salafi, staff of Blasting and Setting Department, were kept confined to the room of an ASI of Parbatipur Model Police station and a DB police team led by DB OC Redwanur Rahim continued interrogating them there.

Monwar Hossain and Belal Hossain were released on Saturday night but Latif remained in police custody for a few hours. But it is ille- in the name of interrogation, sources said.

These people were neither arrested nor produced before the court while law makes it mandatory for police to produce an arrested person before a

court within 24 hours.

Redwanur Rahim, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, could not be contacted as he did not receive the cell phone.

On Tuesday, two locks of the explosives warehouse of Madhyapara Granite Mining Company Ltd were found broken and later an inquiry team found eight pieces of non-electric copper cords missing from there.

AM Mostafa Ferdowsee, DGM (Administration) of MGMCL filed a case with Parbatipur police station on Wednesday night. Later the case was handed over to DB and OC Redwanur Rahim was made the IO.

When contacted, Devdas Bhattachariya, the superintendent of police of Dinajpur, denied arrest and detention of any person in connection with the MGMCL case.

"The DB policemen are just interrogating some people," he said.

25 injured as transport workers clash

A CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

At least 25 people were injured as two rival groups of Gopalganj Motor Workers' Union clashed in the town yesterday over collecting toll from buses plying long routes.

Police and witnesses said the trouble began at around 9:45am when transport workers led by former union president Bulbul Islam protested toll collection from long route buses by their rival group led by incumbent president Saidur Rahman Basu at police Lines point.

At one stage, the two groups equipped with weapons attacked each others, leaving at least 25 workers from both sides injured. Of the injured, four were

wooden sticks and sharp

admitted to Gopalganj General Hospital while the rest given first aid at different private clinics. Police fired tear-gas canisters and rubber bullets to disperse the clashing groups. They also arrested two motor workers named Mehedi Hasan, 15, and Chhoton, 26, with sharp weapons.

Former union president Bulbul Islam alleged that Basu group are involved in illegal toll collection from long route buses in the name

of Motor Workers' Union. They collect

Tk 90 from each bus, he added. Refuting the allegation,

incumbent union president Saidur Rahman Basu said they collect money from long route buses for motor workers' welfare fund. The decision to raise the fund for workers' welfare was taken at a recently held joint meeting of the Motor Workers' Union and local administra-

Zakir Hossain Molla, officer in-charge of Gopalganj Police Station, law enforcers have been deployed in the area to avert any further incident.



Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) personnel seize 79 tortoises, kept in three baskets, from a bus at Navaron on Benapole-Jessore Road early yesterday. BGB sources said smugglers were carrying the tortoises to send them to India.

Abducted Golachipa girl Fire kills mother, rescued after 19 days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

The teenage girl, abducted by a gang from Gabua village under Galachipa upazila of Patuakhali on January 21, was rescued from Khairabad Bridge areain Barisalon Saturdaynight.

Acting on a tip-off, police set up a check post near the bridge on Patuakhali-Barisal Road where the abductors dropped the girl at around 10:30pm. Police could not arrest the gang members as they fled the scene, riding a motorbike.

On the night of January 21, a gang led by Mujibur Rahman, son of Anwar Hossain Howlader of Gabua village under Galachipa upazila, attacked the house of Monoranjan of the village as a sequel to a longstanding dispute over land.

The gang vandalised Monoranjan's house, beat up all male and female members and set the house afire. At one stage, they

abducted his teenage girl. Anil, nephew of Monoranjan filed a case yesterday.

to rebuild the house of Monoranjan in the 20 days. The district administration, however, started reconstruction of the house on February 4.

with Galachipa Police Station on January 23,

accusing eight people, including Anwar

Hossain and his son Mujibur Rahman. Police

have so far arrested one of the accused

order, asking Patuakhali district and police

administrations to rescue the girl and produce

Shamsuddin Choudhury and Justice

Mahmudul Hoque gave the order upon a

petition filed by one Md Nasim Uddin on

January 30 after a report on the incident was

The court also asked the district administration

published in a newspaper on January 28.

The bench comprising Justice AHM

her before the court within the next 48 hours.

A High Court bench on January 31 issued an

named Russel while the rest still at large.

Patuakhali Police Superintendent Rafiqul Hasan Goni told this correspondent that they produced the girl before the HC bench

PHOTO: STAR

Fire destroys this tin-roofed building at West Shakpara in Shajadpur upazila of Bogra yesterday, killing a woman and her son.