

TITAS RIVER, BIG WATER BODIES

Mindless fishing threatens B'baria fish resources

SHEIKH MD SHAHIDUL ISLAM, Brahmanbaria

Mindless fishing in the Titas River and several vast water bodies in the district poses threat to fish resources in the area.

Every year the fisheries department creates several sanctuaries at different points of the Titas to ensure safe breeding of various fishes but they have not done it this year, officials said.

However, following the official method of such sanctuary, the fishermen are setting a number of fake fish sanctuaries in the river and catching fishes there indiscriminately, said Md Shamsuzzaman, principal of Shalgaon Kalisima School and College, standing beside the river.

"Urged by the need to catch more fish to feed the family, we set fake fish sanctuary locally called daam, with branches of trees and water hyacinth in vast areas of the river. As the fishes come for shelter and food, they are netted soon. Fishing in this way will continue till dry season when we will remove the daams," said fisherman Porimol Das of Gusaipur village.

"Once we got sufficient



PHOTO: STAR

Fishermen use giant nets to trap all kinds of fishes that come for food and shelter at 'fake sanctuaries' made by callous fishermen in the Titas River in Brahmanbaria district.

amounts of big fishes with borojal (very large nets). But gone are the days. And so, we have to catch smaller fishes to earn enough to maintain the family. For this purpose the holes of the nets have been made smaller," said Hori Chandra Das of Gukarnaghata village.

With fishes, especially big ones, becoming less available, the prices are getting high.

Unplanned setting of innumerable nets and fake fish sanctuaries in the river also hampers smooth plying of launches and speed-boats.

If the fishermen continue such mindless fishing, the water bodies in the district will run out of fishes, said Md Nurul Amin, a freedom fighter.

Contacted, District Fishery Officer Md Nurul

Islam said they have taken steps to remove all fake fish sanctuaries from the water bodies and seize all illegal nets.

"We have started distributing fish fry worth Tk 20 lakh in all nine upazilas under the district to increase fishes and taken another project to release fish fry in open water bodies here," he said.

Abducted farm manager rescued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Abducted agriculture farm manager Mohammad Jabab was released on Saturday night in Osmannpoli area of Manikchhari.

Police said, sensing the preparation for drives by joint forces to rescue Jabab, criminals freed him around 9:00pm and fled the scene.

Earlier, on Friday afternoon, Mohammad Jabab, the manager of Shara Agro Farm in Mardahul area of Manikchhari upazila was abducted allegedly by the cadres of United Peoples Democratic (UPDF) as the farm authorities recently refused to pay them illegal tolls.

Durga idols vandalised

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Miscreants vandalised three idols at a Hindu temple in Pratbanagar area of Jhenagati upazila early yesterday.

Local people suspected that a gang swooped on the temple sometime at 11:00pm when the idol makers left it on Saturday and vandalised the three idols installed ahead of Durga Puja, said Chittaranjan Barman, president of Pratbanagar puja committee.

The incident came to light yesterday morning when the worshipers went to the temple. They found three idols, including one of Durga, and another of Ganesh vandalised.

Condemning the incident, Bishwajit Roy, president of Jhenagati upazila Puja Ujjapon Parishad, demanded immediate arrest and punishment of the culprits.

PABNA EDWARD COLLEGE

Clash over hall control

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

At least 10 students were injured in a clash between two rival groups over taking control of Shaheed Shamsuzzoha Muslim Hall at Pabna Edward College on Saturday.

Five rooms of the dormitory were also ransacked during the incident, said college sources.

There was a longstanding clash between the students of the dormitory over establishing supremacy at the dining hall.

On Saturday night, the clash took place when the

Tornado hits 7 villages in Jamalpur, Lalmonirhat

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Tornado ripped into seven villages of Jamalpur and Lalmonirhat district yesterday, damaging over 200 dwelling houses.

Our Jamalpur correspondent reported that at least 100 houses were damaged as a tornado lashed Lauchapra village under Kamalpur union of Bakshiganj upazila in the morning.

Local administration sources said the storm hit the village at around 7:00am and lasted one minute. At least 60 houses were razed to the ground while 40 others partially damaged, sources added.

Locals said around 800 trees were uprooted and three people injured by the violent storm. The injured are Ilias, his daughter Sathi and their neighbour Rabbani. They are undergoing treatment at a local medical centre.

Nazrul Islam, a member of Kamalpur Union Parishad (UP), said over 150 families of bordering Lauchapra village were badly

affected as their houses were completely destroyed by the tornado.

Two of the five houses of Golam Mostafa, former chairman of the union parishad, were completely damaged, the UP members said.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Ershad Hossain Khan visited the tornado-hit village. He said the local administration will give 20kg of rice, dry food and Tk 1000 to each of the affected families. "After proper assessment, the administration will give financial for the affected families to rebuild their houses," the UNO said.

In Lalmonirhat, over 100 dwelling houses were damaged and a good number of trees uprooted by a tornado that lashed six villages in Sadar upazila of the district yesterday noon, according to our correspondent.

The affected villages are Roypara, Uttar Saptana, Khoraphul, Fulgachhi, Shahitari and Shaheed Shahjahan Colonypara.

Locals said the violent storm hit the villages at around 12:00noon noon and lasted for 35 to 40 seconds.



PHOTO: STAR

Houses lie ravaged as a tornado hit Lauchapra village in Bakshiganj upazila under Jamalpur district yesterday morning. Inset, another area lashed by tornado in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila the same day.

ILLEGAL TRIP TO MALAYSIA

21 held in Cox's Bazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Police detained 21 youths from Mognama launch terminal in Pekua upazila yesterday morning while they were allegedly preparing to leave for Malaysia illegally.

The arrestees are Abdul Alim of Tangail district, Monirul Islam, Ibramib, Mohammad Jewel, Md Billal, Md Sajedul Islam, Masud Rana and Md Sona Ullah of Sirajganj, Md Al-Amin, Md Sumon of Brahmanbaria and Md Momen, Mohammad Kawser, Abu Taleb, Md Azad,

Md Kamal, Abdul Mia, Md Zaman, Hridoy Mia and Md Billal of Narsingdi district.

ASI Hafez Khan, who led the raid on the terminal, said a gang of middlemen brought the youths from different northern districts of the country to Pekua to start their illegal voyage to Malaysia by sea.

The brokers took away the money and mobiles from the youths before boarding a trawler, he said.

The arrestees will be sent to safe custody through court, said Abdur Rakib, OC of Pekua PS.

Fire damages goods, machinery at Bashundhara mill

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

A devastating fire broke out at Bashundhara Paper Mills in Gazaria upazila of the district yesterday morning.

Five Fire Service units from different fire stations rushed to the spot and doused the blaze after more than nine hours of frantic efforts.

Thirteen workers were injured in the fire that broke out at around 9:00am at the mill in Anarpura area beside Dhaka-Chittagong highway.

Deputy Assistant Director of Fire Service Mamta Uddin said that the fire men tamed the blaze but different products of the company and machinery were damaged. The fire might have originated from an electric short circuit, he added.

Officer in-charge (OC) of

Gazaria Police Station Ferdous Hossain said, the fire broke out first at the warehouse of the mill at around 9:00am.

Following the incident, the mill authorities tried to douse the blaze with their own resources but the fire finally went out of control.

Two units of fire-fighters immediately rushed to the spot and tried to bring the situation under control but they also failed.

Later two more units from Demra joined them. When another unit from Narayanganj arrived the fire began to die down.

The injured workers were taken to hospital but they are now out of danger, sources said.

Locals staged demonstration and tried to enter into the mill to rescue the workers but the law enforcers stopped them, the OC said.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

UZ by-poll held peacefully

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

By-election to the post of Ranishankoil Upazila Parishad vice-chairman (reserved for female) was held peacefully yesterday. The post fell vacant after vice-chairman Lita was elected as Member of Parliament (reserved for female). Voting started at 8:00am and ended at 4:00pm. As many as 76780 voters were expected to cast their votes through 59 polling centres in the upazila. BNP-backed candidate Munira Banu, AL-backed Mahfuza Begum and Workers' Party of Bangladesh-backed Sefali Begum contested for the post of vice-chairman.

Retired teacher murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A retired high school teacher of Panchbibi upazila of Joypurhat was murdered yesterday. The deceased was identified as Md Rois Uddin, 75, son of late Asar Uddin of Balighata village under Panchbibi upazila of Joypurhat. He was a retired school teacher of Balighata High School in the upazila. Police said, criminals murdered him at his home anytime early yesterday. Police said the gang first tied his hands and legs with ropes and then suffocated him to death.



PHOTO: STAR

Indigenous people form a human chain in Bandarban town yesterday demanding withdrawal of the government decision to allocate 33 acres of land at Krykhong and Hangsmapara on Bandarban-Rowangchhara road in the district for setting up Bandarban sector headquarters of Border Guard Bangladesh. The move will evict at least 140 indigenous families in two villages, the protesters said.

Smuggled sandalwood seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

Rapid action Battalion (Rab) members arrested two alleged smugglers along with Indian sandalwood worth Tk 21 lakh 50 thousand from Bagachara Bazar area in Sharsha upazila of Jessore district Saturday night. The arrestees were identified as Monirul Kha, 28, son of Abdul Jalil of Goyra village in Kolaroa upazila of Satkha district, and Shafiqul Islam, 29, son of Ansari Ali of the same village. Rab sources said, acting on a tip-off that huge smuggled red sandalwood were going to Jessore through Bagachara Bazar area, a patrol team of the elite force seized 71 kgs of the wood and arrested two people.

RMG worker's body found

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Police recovered the body of a readymade garment (RMG) worker from a pond in Salla area under Kalihati upazila yesterday. The deceased was identified as Hamidul Islam, 27, of Thakurgaon district who worked as sewing operator at a RMG factory at Tongi in Gazipur. Mohammad Akheruzzaman, OC of Bangabandhu Bridge East Police Station, said being informed by local people, a police team recovered the body from a pond beside the highway at 11:00am. Criminals might have looted his valuables feeding him drugs, the OC said, adding that Hamidul later fell in the roadside pond losing his balance.

Housewife 'commits suicide'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kurigram

A housewife allegedly committed suicide by jumping under a running train in Ulipur upazila yesterday. The deceased was identified as Rabeya Begum, 30, wife of Rafiqul Islam of Paikpara village and daughter of Rahmat Ali of Rasulpur village of Tabakpur union under the upazila. Police said, Rabeya jumped under the train in Battali area near Ulipur railway station while the Kurigram-bound 'Ramna mail train' from Ulipur station was crossing the area at around 11:00am.



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Tender Notice

Serial	Nomenclature & Qty	Last Date of Selling Tender Form	Date of Dropping & Opening Tender	Currency	Price of Tender Form	Tender No. & Date
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)
1.	Hosiery Cloth with 3 items	13 October 2014 1300 hrs	14 October 2014 Dropping 1200 hrs Opening 1205 hrs	Local	Tk. 500/- (Non refundable)	23.04.0000.166.68.4856.14.15 dt. 17-09-2014
2.	Varnish oil Bitumen (500 kg)	13 October 2014 1300 hrs	14 October 2014 Dropping 1200 hrs Opening 1205 hrs	Local	Tk. 300/- (Non refundable)	23.04.0000.166.58.4856.14.15 dt. 17-09-2014
3.	Forklift Truck- 06 Ton- 01 No & Forklift Truck- 01 Ton- 01 No	13 October 2014 1300 hrs	14 October 2014 Dropping 1200 hrs Opening 1205 hrs	Local	Tk. 750/- (Non refundable)	23.04.0000.166.64.6813.14.15 dt. 17-09-2014
4.	Target Paper & Card Board Neutral	13 October 2014 1300 hrs	14 October 2014 Dropping 1200 hrs Opening 1205 hrs	Local	Tk. 300/- (Non refundable)	23.04.0000.166.65.4856.14.15 dt. 17-09-2014
5.	Carbon Structural Steel, Carbon Tool Steel with 04 Items	13 October 2014 1300 hrs	14 October 2014 Dropping 1200 hrs Opening 1205 hrs	Local	Tk. 300/- (Non refundable)	23.04.0000.166.66.4856.14.15 dt. 17-09-2014
6.	Diamond Wheel Dresser with 24 items	20 October 2014 1300 hrs	21 October 2014 Dropping 1200 hrs Opening 1205 hrs	Local	Tk. 500/- (Non refundable)	23.04.0000.166.69.4856.14.15 dt. 17-09-2014
7.	Electric Bulb with 07 items	20 October 2014 1300 hrs	21 October 2014 Dropping 1200 hrs Opening 1205 hrs	Local	Tk. 300/- (Non refundable)	23.04.0000.166.67.4856.14.15 dt. 17-09-2014
8.	High Frequency Induction Furnace	27 October 2014 1300 hrs	2			