



The fisheries department in cooperation with the local administration organises a colourful boat procession in the Meghna River near Chandpur town yesterday marking Jatka Protection Week. The programme aims to create awareness among all concerned, especially fishermen, about the necessity of protecting jatka (hilsa less than ten inches long) from indiscriminate netting in order to boost production of the popular fish.

PHOTO: STAR

Young housewife sterilised without consent!

Court orders probe as Jaldhaka family planning officer, 4 others sued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Police is investigating a case against Jaldhaka upazila family planning officer (UFPO) and four others on charge of conducting tubectomy upon a young housewife without her consent as the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court in Nilphamari issued an order in this regard.

Earlier on March 18, the woman's husband filed a case with the court against UFPO Mostafizur Rahman Patwari, Dr Zahid Hasan Loskar, Dr Shakhawat Hossain and family welfare assistant (FWA) Poroshmoni and nurse Kulsum Begum of the health complex in this regard.

The court ordered the officer in charge (OC) of Jaldhaka Police Station to investigate the matter and submit report by April 15.

The victim Sumi Begum, 27, wife of restaurant employee Mizanur Rahman of Cherenji village in Jaldhaka municipality, narrated her tragic tale to this correspondent as he met her yesterday.

"I wanted to adopt a temporary birth control method as I have already a two-year-old daughter. I contacted local family welfare assistant Poroshmoni working under upazila family planning office who took me to Jaldhaka Upazila Health Complex on March 12," she said.

"There I was given an injection that made me senseless. Regaining my

sense on the hospital bed, I found that tubectomy was conducted upon me, making me permanently sterile," said Sumi in a choked voice.

The victim's mother Marufa Begum said, "Being informed, I rushed to the hospital and asked the upazila family planning officer why her daughter was hoaxed into a permanent birth control at such a young age. Then the officer

requested her not to expose the matter to anyone."

"We wanted to get another child after a few years but the dream is ruined," said Sumi's husband Mizanur.

When contacted, UFPO Mostafizur Rahman Patwari claimed that the tubectomy was done with Sumi's written consent.

The higher authorities set a target for the upazila family planning office to steri-

lise 750 people in 2014-2015 fiscal year but only 450 people have undergone the process so far, said sources at the office.

Sumi might be a victim of a desperate attempt to achieve the target, they said.

Officer in charge of Jaldhaka police station Moniruzzaman said police is investigating the matter and will submit report in time as per the court order.



PHOTO: STAR

Sumi Begum, 27, victim of sterilisation without her consent at Jaldhaka Upazila Health Complex, along with her mother give a gloomy look as the young woman, also mother of a baby girl, would fail to see the dream of having another child fulfilled.

End repression on farm employees

Workers demand in human chain at Thakurgaon

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A human chain was formed in Thakurgaon Old Bus Stand area of the district town yesterday, protesting alleged repression on local workers of different farms of Kazi Group.

Leaders and activists of different workers' organizations --- Thakurgaon Transport Workers Union, Thakurgaon District Truck, Tank Lorry and Covered Van Workers' Union and Thakurgaon Kuli Sramik Union--took part in the programme.

The participants demanded meeting their three-point demand including immediate cancellation of removal and transfer orders of local workers of the group's farms.

The other demands include immediate reappointment of local sacked workers at the farms and appointing workers from local people instead of outsiders.

They also threatened to go for tougher agitation programme if their demands were not met immediately.

The programmes include a four-day work abstention at different farms of Kazi Group from tomorrow and 48-hour long transport strike in the district from April 11.

Among others, Convener of Kazi Farms Birodhi Sangram Committee and President of Thakurgaon District Truck, Tank Lorry and Covered Van Workers'

Union Md Join Uddin, President of district unit Jatya Sramik League Khairul Islam, and General Secretary of district unit Sramik Dal Abdul Jabbar, spoke.

On March 14, the authorities concerned of Habibpur Poultry Hatchery (a sister concern of Kazi Farms Ltd) in Pirganj upazila of the district suspended 15/16 of its local workers showing cause of bio security all on a sudden.

Besides, over 10 local low-income workers and security guards of the poultry hatchery were transferred to other farms of the group in distant districts of the country.

As the local political leaders failed to make negotiation between the farm's authority and local workers, the workers stopped operation of the poultry farm from March 19 under the banner of

Sthaniya Sangram Committee and continued a sit-in programme in front of the farm's gate.

Afterwards, the movement spread to other farms of the group including Salondar Kazi Poultry Feed where the authorities sacked a good number of labourers and appointed new workers from Kurigram, Lalmonirhat and other districts.

Contacted, Manager of Habibpur Poultry Hatchery Mas-Ud-Alam said "To save birds from attacks of different deceases, the farm is to be kept under bio security coverage. Now we are using permanent workers for loading and unloading work instead of temporary workers to maintain bio-security. So we recently reduced the number of local workers."



PHOTO: STAR

Three workers' unions form a human chain in Old Bus Stand area of Thakurgaon town yesterday demanding what they said an end to repression on the workers of different farms under Kazi Group.

SNIPPETS

Lightning kills farmer

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Itehidaha

A farmer was killed by lightning at Bahirgachhi village in Kaliganj upazila yesterday. The deceased is Johurul Islam, 30, son of Momin Haque of the village. Locals said a thunderbolt struck Johurul when he was working in his cropland at around 3:00pm. He died on the spot.

Drug peddler held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested a drug peddler and seized four kilograms of hemp from his possession at Jaherpara village in Sadar upazila of Panchagarh district on Saturday. The arrestee is Ripon Mandol, 26, son of Abdus Sattar of the village. A team of Rab-13, acting on a tip-off, raided Ripon's house around 5:00pm and arrested him with the hemp, said Md Mominul Haque, officer-in-charge of Sadar Police Station. The arrestee was later handed over to the police station, said the OC.

Woman killed after rape

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

An unidentified woman, aged about 32, was killed after rape in Parbatipur upazila of the district yesterday. Locals found her body in a paddy field at around 11:30am and informed police. The law enforcers then recovered the body and sent it to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy. Criminals strangled the woman after rape and dumped the body in the field, said Md Abdur Razzak, inspector of Parbatipur Police Station.

1 killed in clash over paddy harvest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A man was killed and six others were injured in a clash between two groups of villagers over harvesting paddy from a disputed land at Phulher village in Gobindaganj upazila of the district on Saturday.

The dead was identified as Hatem Ali, 42. The injured are Hamidul Islam, 55, Morjina Begum, 45, Mahfuz Mia, 40, Lutfar Rahman, 47, Ayesha Begum, 58 and Rowshan Ara.

Police quoted locals as saying that there had been a long-standing dispute between Nurunnabi Mia and Hatem Ali over the ownership of a piece of land at the village. Hatem Ali cultivated Boro on the land.

As Nurunnabi and his men went to the land at around 2:00pm to harvest paddy from there, Hatem and his supporters interferred and the supporters of the two locked in a clash, leaving at least seven, including Hatem, injured.

Police said Hatem succumbed to his injuries on way to Gobindaganj Upazila Health Complex.

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Pre-Qualification of M&E Service Providers

The Accelerating Capacity for Monitoring and Evaluation (ACME) Activity in Bangladesh is a USAID project providing technical assistance services in monitoring and evaluation (M&E) to support USAID/Bangladesh's Economic Growth Office (EG). The EG office is responsible for implementing two US Government Presidential initiatives: Feed the Future (FTF) which is part of USAID/Bangladesh's Development Objective 2 (DO2): Food Security Improved and Global Climate Change (GCC) which is part of USAID/Bangladesh's Development Objective 4 (DO4): Responsiveness to Climate Change Improved.

- Component 1: Support USAID/Bangladesh to accurately monitor, verify, document and communicate performance results of its DO2 and DO4 portfolios;
- Component 2: Design and manage a web-based tool for tracking, verifying, displaying and analyzing data across both the DO2 and DO4 portfolios;
- Component 3: Provide USAID Bangladesh with evaluation support services (conducting both external performance and impact evaluations); and,
- Component 4: Build the M&E capacity of USAID/Bangladesh technical staff and implementing partners to develop and carry out effective and efficient M&E processes.

- To assist with implementation of activities under these components, IBTCI is inviting qualified individuals, associations and companies (for profit and non-profit entities) to submit CVs or qualification statements indicating skills in the following areas DIRECTLY and EXCLUSIVELY related to Monitoring and Evaluation:
 - Training design, curriculum development and training delivery
 - Data base management systems design and development
 - M&E Systems design and development
 - Evaluation of M&E systems
 - Field surveys
 - Qualitative surveys
 - Quantitative surveys

Individuals, associations and companies (for profit and non-profit entities) are invited to send/drop their capability statements, organizational profiles, methodology of work, proposed team members with academic qualification and experience and other related documents to:
The Information Desk
USAID's ACME Project/IBTCI
Rosedale Building, House # 2, Flat # A-3, Level # 3
Road #55, North Avenue, Gulshan-2, Dhaka-1212
E-mail: nmuni@ibtcici.com
Neither IBTCI nor USAID is under any obligation to commit funds or select any service provider as a result of this solicitation. Elaborate documentation is discouraged. Kindly submit your EOI with all required documents by April 30, 2015.

Biman's Dhaka-Cox's Bazar flight resumes today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Biman Bangladesh Airlines is set to resume its Dhaka-Cox's Bazar flight from today after three years shut-down.

The flight with 74 seats each will run six days in a week except Tuesday.

The fair will vary from Tk 5000 to Tk 6500.

On the occasion, Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Rashed Khan Menon is likely to open a programme at Cox's Bazar Station Office in the town in the morning.

Four private airlines -- US Bangla, Regent Airways, United Airways and Novo Air -- are currently running flights in the route.

Earlier, the flight was closed on June 28 in 2012, said Bangladesh Biman's Cox's Bazar Station Manager Mahfuzur Rahman.



PHOTO: STAR

Illegal occupiers have continued building structures on Kabi Nazrul Islam canal flowing through Kalapara upazila town in Patuakhali district. Gradual narrowing down of the watercourse reduces its capacity to carry water into the nearby river, making locals suffer from waterlogging especially during the rains.

Director - Programmes and Policy Advocacy @ WaterAid

please log on to bdjobs.com/wateraid and apply by 21 April 2015